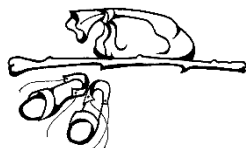


13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [Pr. 18]

9:00 A.M., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 ELW Holy Communion Setting 4, p. 147

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.



Welcome to guests and visitors! *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by ☒ and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church: "It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X)• "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI)• "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50)•

Following the introductory verses, a brief welcome is made.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

☒ Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

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Merciful God,

☞ **we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

Save us from ourselves

and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

☞ **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG ♪ *Lift High the Cross* (# 660)

Refrain **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***

**2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain***

**3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain***

**4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain***

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☞ **And also with you.**

KYRIE ♪ (p. 147)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

☞ Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

☞ Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☞ Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

☞ Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

☞ Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

☞ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☞ Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses said: ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against

you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**☞ Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**☞ It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**☞ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister,
to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God
⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

☩ From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

**☩ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands.**

Alleluia. Let your face shine upon your servant,

☩ and teach me your statutes. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to ____.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ♪ *Take My Life, That I May Be* (# 685)

- 1 Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, if all for thee.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**☩ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: God of grace,

☩ hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude: Gathered together in the sweet communion of
the Holy Spirit . . . through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

☩ Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ And also with you.

Remaining in place, the assembly may gesture peace to one another.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.

OFFERING SONG ♪ *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (# 184)

**☞ Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

The table is set.

GREAT THANKSGIVING — DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

☞ And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

☞ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☞ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right . . . *The minister continues, concluding:*
. . . and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ♪ *Holy, Holy, Holy* (p. 153)

**☞ Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We praise and thank you, O God . . . shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

☞ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy Father, as we remember our Lord's life and passion . . . all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**☞ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI ♪ *Lamb of God* (p. 154)

**☞ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When directed by an usher, please come forward by the center aisle. The host is received in your open hand. The wine is received by individual glass, taken by you from the offered tray. Carefully place your empty glass in the pickup tray.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PSALM (76)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☞ Amen.

In Judah is God known;

☞ his name is great in Israel.

At Salem is his tabernacle,

☞ and his dwelling is in Zion.

There he broke the flashing arrows,

☞ the shield, the sword, and the weapons of battle.

How glorious you are!

☞ More splendid than the everlasting mountains!

The strong of heart have been despoiled; they sink into sleep;

☞ none of the warriors can lift a hand.

From heaven you pronounced judgment;

☞ the earth was afraid and was still,

when God rose up to judgment

☞ and to save all the oppressed of the earth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

☞ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☞ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check printed materials and the web-site.

MISSION LITANY

What is the mission of Saint John Lutheran Church? Who are we to be?

☞ Jesus' witnesses proclaiming God's grace.

The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. (Acts 22:14-15)

☞ Jesus' witnesses proclaiming God's grace.

Proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. (Mt. 10:7-8)

☞ Jesus' witnesses proclaiming God's grace.

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. We are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works. (Eph. 2:8-10)

☞ Jesus' witnesses proclaiming God's grace.

What is the mission of Saint John Lutheran Church? Who are we to be?

☞ Jesus' witnesses proclaiming God's grace.

SENDING SONG ♪ *O Jesus, I Have Promised* (# 810)

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.

**3 Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.**

**4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

☞ Thanks be to God.

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The Fine Print of Discipleship

A lot can go wrong in our lives. If you ever have any doubts, just read the fine print in a contract, where every worst-case scenario is spelled out. Sometimes we appreciate having those challenges hidden away. When we are jumping into something new, it may be easier to take the leap if we don't dwell too much on what can go wrong.

But that's not the approach Jesus takes when describing the commitment of discipleship. Instead, he uses big, bold terms to emphasize the struggles and conflicts ahead. Discipleship with him will mean taking up a cross. It will mean confronting our most deeply held commitments—our possessions, relationships, and identities. In fact, the cross at the center of discipleship will be so burdensome that it will seem impossible to shoulder.

Jesus' words might scare us off if we miss the other half of the agreement. He doesn't ask us to carry our cross alone. He will be with us as a partner who has already taken the journey from death to resurrected life. In discipleship, Christ leads us and brings the power of God to meet our challenges. Yes, Christ will call us to share the pain of his cross. He will call us to die to old habits, stuck ways of thinking, and broken relationships. But he will also share with us the victory of his cross and the power to rise to new life.

At baptism, we were marked with the cross of Christ forever. That cross marks all of the deaths we will face, but it also marks the beginning of an eternal life with God. Every time we gather in Christian worship, we participate once more in Christ's journey from death to life. Around the table, we gather as Christ's disciples, sharing the overwhelming burden of his cross but also its even more abundant victory. Here, our crosses are transformed by the community in which they are held and by Christ, who leads our way.