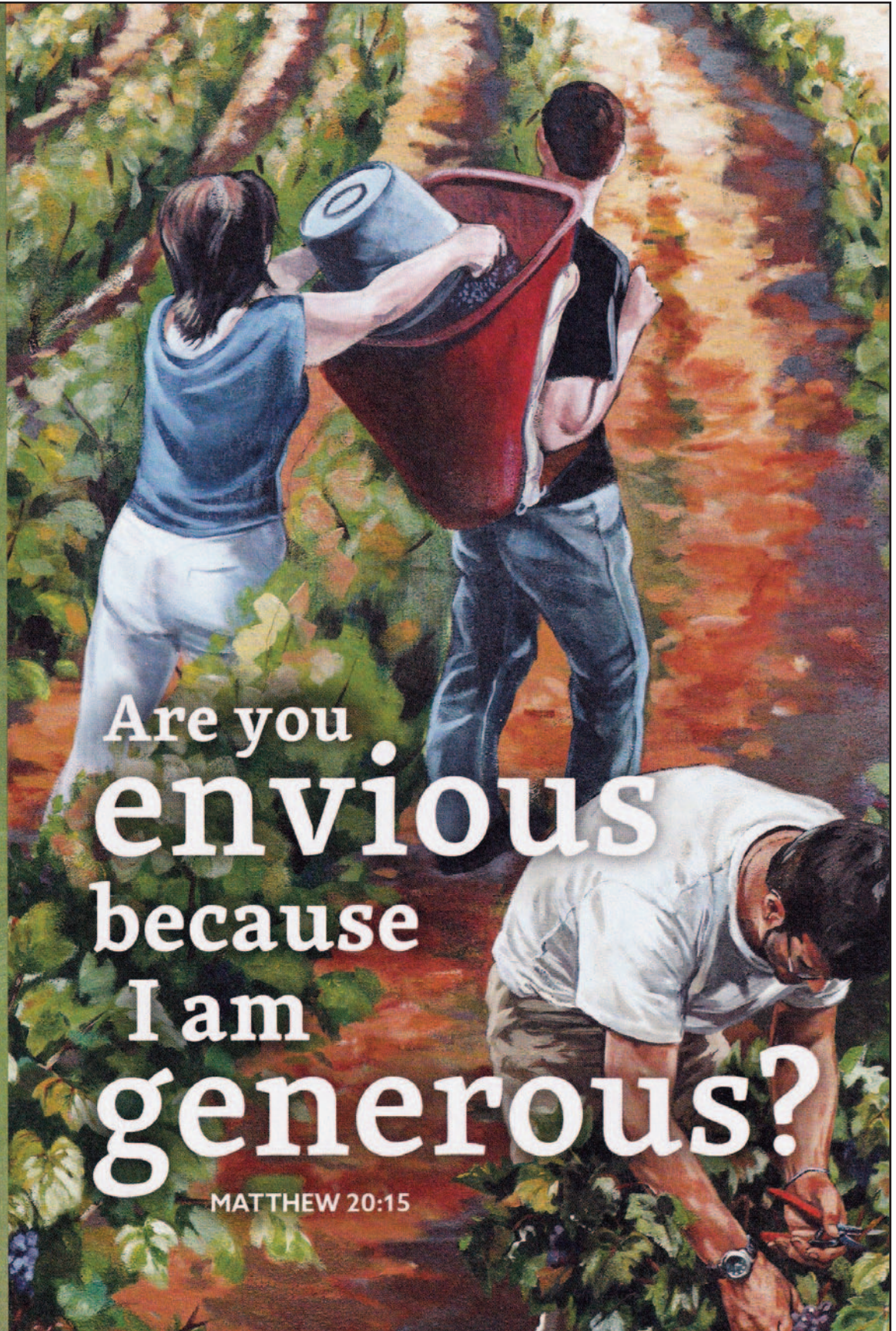


# St. John Lutheran Church



Are you  
**envious**  
because  
I am  
**generous?**

MATTHEW 20:15

Cover: Mural depicting grape harvest. Beaujolais, France. Photo by Eric D rrochet69. Copyright © 2025 Alamy Stock Photo. Used by permission.

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# ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

## Reverent Reflection

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Church Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

- P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. Most merciful God,
- C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
- Amen.**
- P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: As Saints of Old (#695)

## Apostolic Greeting

- P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C. **And also with you.**

## Kyrie p. 147

- P. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- P. 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.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

## **Canticle p. 149**

- P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
- C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**  
**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:**  
**Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**  
**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**
- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

*Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

## **Word**

### **First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11**

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

4:<sup>1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

<sup>3</sup> And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>4</sup> And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"<sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."<sup>10</sup> Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 145:1-8

**Response: "The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."**

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup> Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup> **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power. R**

<sup>5</sup> I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup> **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup> They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. R**

## Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation p. 151

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I

give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.s

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Children's Sermon**

## **Anthem**

## **Apostles' Creed**

*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**

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

*A brief silence.*

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (especially).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (especially). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

### **Offering**

#### **Great Thanksgiving p. 152**

P. The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. **We lift them to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### **Preface p. 153**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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.**

### **Words of Institution**

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

#### **Communion 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.**

### **Distribution of Holy Communion**

**Communion Hymns:** Be Thou My Vision (#793)  
Come, Let Us Eat (#491)  
Let Us Break Bread Together (#471)

### **Prayer after Communion**

### **Blessing**

**Sending Hymn:** Rise Up O Saints of God (#669)

### **Dismissal**

### **Postlude**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                           |                       |                                                      |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday                    | 9:30 am               | Sunday Morning Worship Service                       |
|                           | After Worship Service | Coffee Hour                                          |
|                           | 10:45 am              | Sunday School/CIA)                                   |
|                           | After Worship Service | Band Rehearsal                                       |
| Wednesday                 | 7:00 pm               | Band Rehearsal                                       |
| Thursday                  | 7:00 pm               | Chancel Choir Rehearsal                              |
| Ongoing                   |                       | Shelf Stable Milk Collection                         |
|                           |                       | Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin |
| Sunday, September 20th    | After Worship         | God's Work, Our Hands                                |
| Monday, September 21st    | 7:00 pm               | Council Meeting in the Parish House                  |
| Wednesday, September 23rd | 7:00 pm               | Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room         |
| Sunday, October 4th       | 1:00 pm               | Blessing of the Animals                              |
| Tuesday, October 6th      | 7:00 pm               | Bible Study in the Parish House                      |
| Saturday, October 10th    | 11:30 am              | Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building               |
| Monday, October 12th      | 7:00 pm               | Council Meeting in the Parish House                  |
| Wednesday, October 14th   | 2:00 pm               | Halloween Tea in the Parish House Tea Room           |
| Wednesday, October 21st   | 7:00 pm               | Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room         |
| Saturday, October 24th    | 4:30 pm-6 30 pm       | St. John's Annual October Fest in the Ed. Building   |

*Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.*

## PRAYER LIST

*Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:*

|                 |                       |                  |                  |                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Jen Bailey      | Frank Donovan         | Valerie Hoffmann | Melanie Miles    | Meilani Showell     |
| Krystal Booras  | Marie Lentine Douglas | Makenzie Jack    | Sue Murphy       | Frank Siderio III   |
| Michael Botti   | Tracey Drew           | Quincy Jones     | Bill Murray      | Bill Steel          |
| Brian Byrnes    | Indie Fisher          | Ed Kagen         | Renate Murray    | Carol Taylor        |
| Meadow Cantoral | Kayla Friant          | Tracey Kelly     | Erica Polito     | Henry Tesone        |
| Randy Cantoral  | Stephanie Friant      | Carl Knopp       | Samantha Reed    | George Vaneman, Sr. |
| Debbie Capasso  | Rhea Fryor            | Deb Kuhn         | Ashley Rosser    | George Van Wagner   |
| Janet Cappuccio | Ashley Fuhrman        | Donna Leek       | Dorcas Schellhas | Beverly Warming     |
| Joe Condoli     | Angela Guedes         | Doug Levandowski | Jean Schlotz     | Mary White          |
| Sandra DeRitis  | Stan Harmer           | Tim McCarthy     | Finn Schureman   |                     |
| Helen Dominic   | Michelle Walk Hewitt  | Joanne McVelli   | Gladys Sheppard  |                     |

*Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.*



## GOOD NEWS!

## COFFEE HOUR

Sunday after the Worship Service  
(unless otherwise announced)

Join us for food, beverages and fellowship!

church council  
**MEETING**

Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 pm in the Parish House

## GRIEF GATHERING



**Wednesday,  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**7:00 pm  
Parish House Tea Room**

*All Are Welcome!*



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm**

Paper towel donations for Animal Shelters will be greatly appreciated.



*Bible  
Study*

**Tuesday,  
October 6<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 pm  
in the Parish House**

## COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

**Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 in the Ed. Building**



**ALL  
ARE  
WELCOME!**



**Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm in the Parish House**

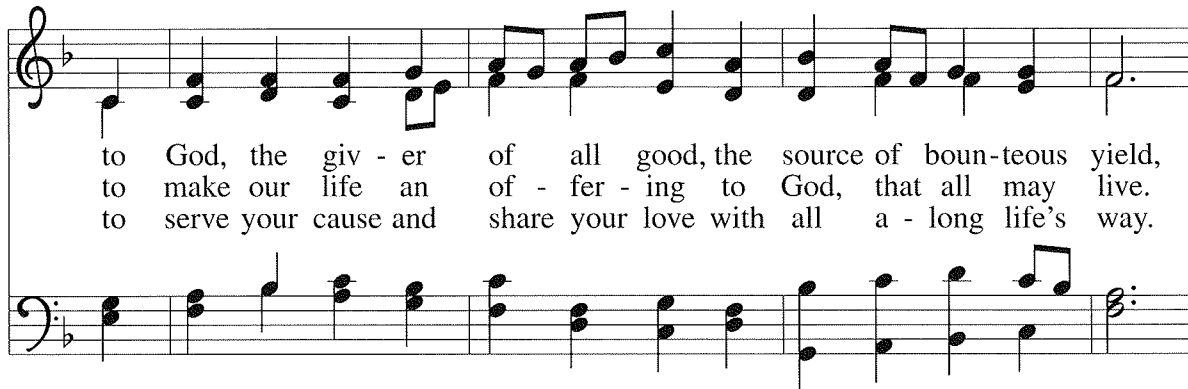
## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**St. John's Church  
Halloween Tea**  
**Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm**  
**in the Parish House Tea Room**  
**All are welcome!**





1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;  
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.  
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:  
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Leader or All



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,  
 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
 come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
 in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.  
 rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,  
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,  
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,  
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.  
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.  
 in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.  
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.  
 Music: Billema Kwillia, adapt.

10 10 10 10

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

# Let Us Break Bread Together

471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

# Rise Up, O Saints of God!

669

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in two systems, with five numbered lines of text corresponding to the first system and a continuation of the text in the second system. The music concludes with a final cadence in the Soprano and Alto parts.

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;  
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;  
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936  
Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893  
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

FESTAL SONG  
SM



## GRIEF GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

7:00 PM IN THE PARISH HOUSE TEA ROOM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL

Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

4:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Ed Bldg.

Join Us for Fun, Food, Fellowship & Music

Please reserve tickets in advance.

Call or Text Gail at 609-313-0800.



### Holy Communion Lutheran Church of Berlin Baby Pantry need:



**BABY DIAPERS**  
(especially larger sizes)

Collection is in the Narthex.



Please help us . . .

**Donate Shelf Stable Milk for  
Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.**

Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.

## ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer

Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: [stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.stjohnselc1002.org](http://www.stjohnselc1002.org)

### ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Deacons: Betsey Eley/Ken Weaver

Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher

Music Director/Choirmaster: Janice Smith

Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver

Head Usher: Ted Adams

Sexton: Betsey Eley

Webmaster: Tom Schofield

Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher