



Welcome to St. John's

Fall Sermon Series: *Great Tyrants of the Old Testament*
Part 2, Pharaoh



The Season after Pentecost

September 23, 2018 | 8:30 am

St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury NC

Welcome to St. John's!

For more information about today's worship, please refer to the pew card found in the hymnal.



Gathering

Prelude

Soli Deo Gloria
To God Alone Be the Glory

Marty Haugen

Welcome *Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.*

Prayers of Confession. *As we gather for worship, we make the sign of the cross as a reminder of our baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Eternal God, **in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

From The Book of Common Worship (Presbyterian, 1993)

God's Promise of Forgiveness

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.**

Entrance Hymn 864

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

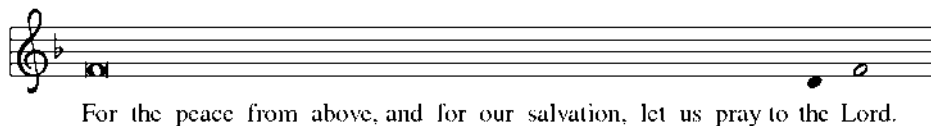
PRAISE, MY SOUL

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. *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace.*



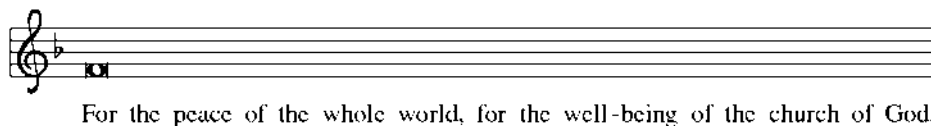
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



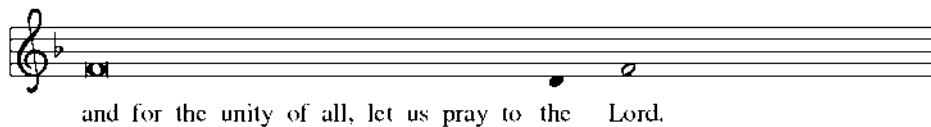
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



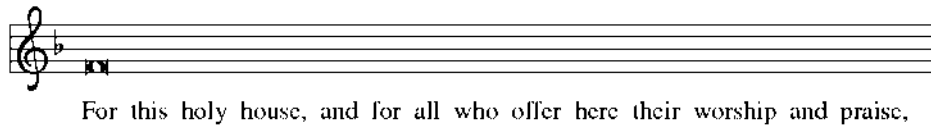
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



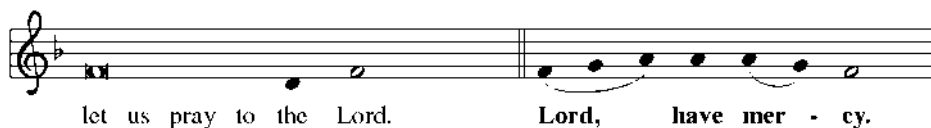
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



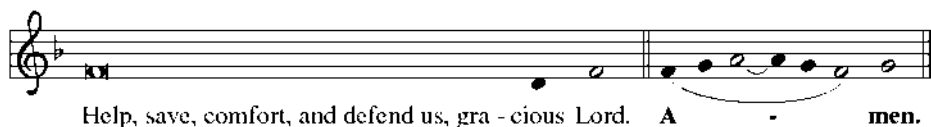
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Let us pray. O God, at the beginning of this new week, we commit and commend ourselves to you. Be the goal of our pilgrimage, and our rest by the way. Give us refuge from the turmoil of worldly distractions, that our hearts might find rest in you. Accept our praise, O God, and fill us with your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Faith Life Moment

Jonathan Williams, Consecration Sunday



Word

First Reading

Exodus 1:8-14,22

The Israelites are oppressed

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

²²Pharaoh then commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading

Exodus 14:5-7,9-10,13-14,21-29

Crossing the Red Sea

Our second reading follows the first by several decades. Moses is now the established leader of the Israelites who, after 400 years of slavery in Egypt, have been granted freedom ... until the Pharaoh changes his mind.

⁵When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?" ⁶So he had his chariot made ready, and took his army with him; ⁷he took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.

⁹The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his

army; they overtook them camped by the sea, by Pi- hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD.

¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel. "Alleluia" is an ancient Jewish acclamation that means "God be praised." In the Christian tradition, Alleluia means "He is risen!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

In the months following Jesus' birth, magi bearing gifts visited Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. It was a time of great anxiety because of King Herod's brutality. Today's reading picks up after the magi return to their homes.

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Rhodes Woolly

Hymn 878

Soli Deo Gloria

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Apostles' Creed

Gathered as the people of God across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Vocal Offering

Lamb of God
Mitch Siegel

Twila Paris
arr. Lloyd Larson

Offertory Hymn *As the gifts are presented, the congregation stands and sings the Doxology:*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayers of Intercession. *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Sharing the Peace of Christ The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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, forever and ever. Amen.**



Sending

Benediction

Sending Hymn 756

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

MELITA

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Exultate

J. G. Zangl

*Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship
and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license #26999.*



St. John's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.