



A Bigger Table

November Sermon Series

No one likes to eat alone, and yet far too often we hear the world — and sometimes even the church — say, “You’re not welcome here. Find somewhere else to sit.” This November, join us for a sermon series that explores Jesus’ challenge to build bigger tables and to engage in radical hospitality for all.

Part 2—The Unexpected Guest



The Season after Pentecost

November 11, 2018 | 11 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.
The congregation's responses are in **bold**.*



Gathering

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

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision
Marguerite Keller, violin

arr. Rebecca Bonam

Prayers of Confession, *turning to face the cross of Christ.*

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

God, who is gracious and merciful and slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, loves you as you are.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins.

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

Amen.

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

Entrance Hymn

God of Our Fathers

NATIONAL HYMN

Today marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. To commemorate this significant date in history, St. John's and other churches throughout the country will ring their tower bells at 11 am.

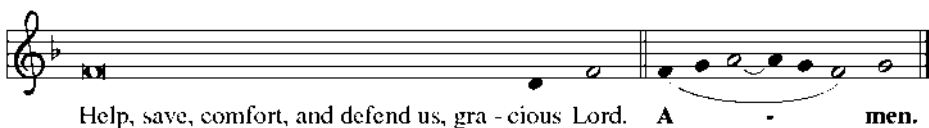
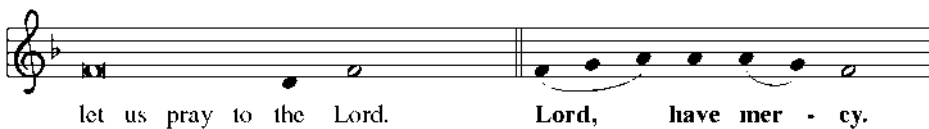
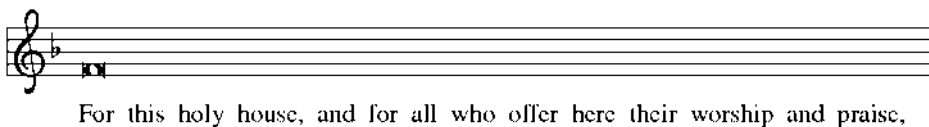
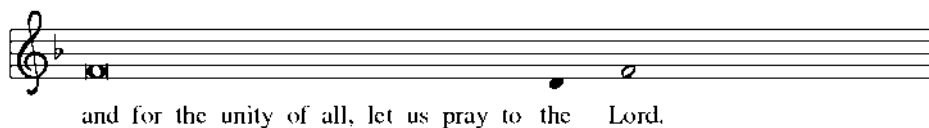
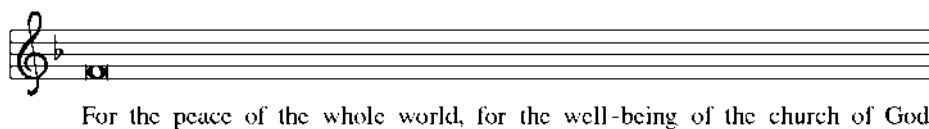
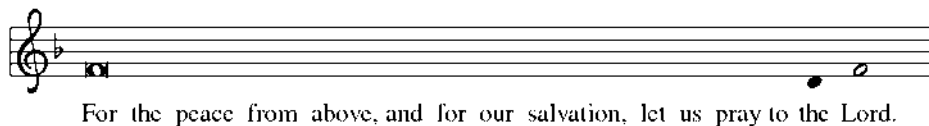
God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your love divine has led us in the past;
In this free land by you our lot is cast;
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

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.*



**Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him; praise him, angels, in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him; praise him, gleaming stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
laws, which never shall be broken for their guidance he has made.**

Let us pray. O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Faith Life Moment

Sherry Mason Brown



Word

Reading

Psalm 84

The joy of worship in the temple

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸O Lord GOD of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹For the Lord GOD is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹²O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

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

This is my father's world, and to my listening ears,
all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world, he shines in all that's fair;
In rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks everywhere.

This is my father's world, O let me n'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world, the battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one!
Allelu, alleluia. This is my Father's world.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus and Zacchaeus, unexpected guest

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

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

Children are invited to leave for Children's Worship, returning after the sermon.

Sermon

Pastor Rhodes Woolly

Please stand

Please be seated

Collection of our tithes and offerings

Piano and Organ Duet

Come, Thou Fount

arr. Mary McDonald

Rob Durocher, organ; Rosemary Kinard, piano

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 heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Litany for Veterans Day

On this Veterans Day, we remember those who have served in our armed forces and the families who have supported them.

Pause for silent reflection

Prince of Peace, even as we pray for an end to war,

We give thanks for our soldiers' courage, for their love of country, and for their work to bring peace to our world.

Healer of All, bind up the wounds of all who have served.

Show us how to comfort those who are hurting.

Merciful God, all suffer the cost of war.

We remember widows and widowers, orphans, and all those separated from those they love.

We pray, Gracious God, that swords will be turned into plowshares and that peace will reign.

We give thanks for all who have served. Shield from danger those who bravely protect us. With them, may we glory not in war, but in your love and righteousness. Strengthen us to be your peacemakers in the world.

Prayers of Intercession. *Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.***
The congregation is invited to offer up the names of those they want added to the prayers.

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 796

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America