

WELCOME

To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 28

THOSE WHO SERVE US

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Mike Burdick	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker	Preschool Director
Mrs. Dana Keller	Organist
Mrs. Meghan Wahl (along with Pastor Burdick and Ammon Probst)	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band	10:30AM
Mr. Dave Wall	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jake Wendling	8AM Elder on Duty
Sophia Jansen	8AM Acolyte
Mr. Todd Ziegler	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Evan Pryor	10:30AM Acolyte
Mr. Dave Wall 217-343-6482	Elder on Duty for Nov. 18, - Nov 22, 2019
Sister Congregation	in Blidene, Latvia
Adopted Chatelain School	Haiti
Mrs. Julie Scott	(343-3047) Prayer Chain Coordinator
State, National & International Missions	through our District and Synod

CHRIST is important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

YOU are important to us

- in our worship
- in our study
- in our fellowship
- in our lives.

HIS VISION FOR US:

St. John's will be known for being involved in our changing community, for providing leadership in our changing world, and for serving others in Christian love.

We will welcome our diverse guests with open arms. Our friendly, loving and accepting people will engage our guests, mentor them in the faith, and inspire many to become members.

Our members will be motivated by the cross to be actively engaged in ministry, showing love and care to others. We will encourage one another, nurture one another, and enthusiastically serve our God together!

AS WE GATHER

When God promised to send Elijah before the Day of the Lord, He was talking about John the Baptist and his preparing for Jesus' entry into history, saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God." But there is another day of the Lord to prepare for, the one coming at the end of time. While some people will experience it as stubble being burned up, for those who fear the Lord, it will be like the dawning of a new day. Our Lord will be a sun of righteousness rising with healing in its wings. And we "shall go out leaping like calves from the stall." That's because our new day dawned already when we were baptized and were united to Jesus' death and resurrection. Before then, we are called to rely on God, pay attention to our work, and not be a burden to anyone. We need not even worry what to say amid persecution, for Jesus promises, "I will give you a mouth and wisdom." As the day finally begins to dawn, He directs, "straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Even now it is a day to "sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!"

(Psalm 98:1).

BELLS

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN....."The Day Is Surely Drawing Near" **LSB #508, [Sts. 1-2, 5-6]**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit,

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: When many say, "The time is at hand,"

People: **do not go after them.**

Pastor: When you hear of wars and tumults,

People: **do not be terrified.**

Pastor: When you are brought before kings and governors for My name's sake,

People: **I will give you a mouth and wisdom.**

Pastor: When these things begin to take place,

People: **straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Looking toward Christ's return in judgment and the gracious gift of His own righteousness let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. We are bound to sin without your forgiveness and help. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will this day and walk in your ways until the dawning of the day of your return. Amen.**

Pastor: Before we were born, almighty God gave His Son to die for you; He is the “sun of righteousness.” Because of your Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, each day He declares you righteous for Jesus’ sake. When our Lord returns, we “shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN RESPONSE “The Day is Surely Drawing Near” LSB #508 Stanza 7

**O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev’ry evil.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING.....Malachi 4:1–6

(Malachi foretells the Day of the Lord and Elijah’s coming.)

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

EPISTLE..... 2 Thessalonians 3:1–13

(Paul urges keeping busy each day and not being burdensome.)

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,² and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.³ But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command.⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.¹³ As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR SELECTION (all services)..... "IF GOD BE FOR US"

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

*He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? **Romans 8:31-32***

HOLY GOSPEL..... Luke 21:5–28

(Jesus foretells both the destruction of Jerusalem and the events of the Last Day.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵ And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, He said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." ⁷ And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them." ⁹ And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the

synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. ¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰ "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²² for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³ Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵ "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" **LSB #348**

SERMON "Your Redemption Is Drawing Near!"

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

HYMN..... "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" [**LSB #782, St. 1**]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church around the world, all people in their various circumstances, and ourselves as we all await our Lord's return.

People: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

Pastor: Lord of the Church, strengthen the resolve and increase the joy of clergy and lay leaders as they bear the news of all the marvelous things You have done.

Through their efforts and the blessing of the Holy Spirit, grant that many come to faith and rejoice on Your return.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: In all the nations of the world, heavenly Father, guide those who are in seats of authority. Give them wisdom to rule in compassion and justice and provide for the common good of all their citizens.

People: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of those in ill health, sorrow, or stress, [*including . . .*]; bring Your wholeness to them that they return thanks and praise to You.

People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, giver of all good gifts, move musicians and poets, artists and actors to use their talents to praise Your name, confront the ills of society, and inspire those who hear and see them to acts of love and good works.

People: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, accompany all who travel on the sea or land, in air or space; give insight to those who must deal with changing weather; and provide for all who farm, transport, and distribute the bounty of Your good creation.

People: He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Additional petitions are offered, concluding withLord, in Your mercy.

People: HEAR OUR PRAYER

Pastor: Confident of Your ordering all things, we commend to Your care all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

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.

Pastor: The Lord has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness.

People: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.

People: Amen. Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

HYMN..... *"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"* **LSB #813**

We take the peace of Christ to our communities