

St. John's Order of Worship

August 19/22/23, 2020

12th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome

Looking back through your life, who has had the most influence on your Christian faith? Has it been family members, friends, or a church staff member (pastors, teachers, youth directors, etc.)? In this weekend's New Testament reading we hear, "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12) This weekend, God gives us the special opportunity to dedicate our work and workers before the Lord. As we begin worship today we pause as His people to recognize His hand at work through staff, leaders, and the people of St. John's to "Connect, Care, and Share in Christ." It is good to be together in the Lord, and it is good to serve His mission together as well.

Opening Song

***Take My Life And Let It Be* [LSB 783]**

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

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.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

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.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasures store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and I sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son† and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day

P: Father, we thank You for loving us, forgiving us, calling us, and sending us out to be Your hands, Your feet, Your mouthpiece wherever Your Will leads us. We thank You for using each of us within our different vocations and callings to be Your lights in this world. Father, we know that the time is coming when Your Son will return in all His glory to judge the living and the dead, the time when You will gather Your faithful ones to Yourself. Create in each of us a sense of urgency to share the Gospel, to point others to Your Son who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and to do all of this in love. Guard our hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus as Your Spirit emboldens us to share the hope You've given us. Keep us steadfast, and find us faithful when You return. We ask this all in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and the people of God declare:

C: Amen.

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

ALL: 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 thence 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.

Sermon Song

Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way (vs 1,2,4,5) [LSB 857]

Lord, help us walk Your servant way Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self, Each serve the other's need.

You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But pow'r You laid aside.
You lived Your years in servant-hood; In lowliness You died.

You bid us bend our human pride Nor count ourselves above
The lowest place, the meanest task That waits the gift of love.

Lord, help us walk Your servant way Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self, Each serve the other's need.

Message: Pastor Stephen Reynolds

SATURDAY & SUNDAY ONLY

Dedication, Recognition, and Installation of Staff and Leaders

... (Congregational Response)

P: People of St. John's, you have heard the confession and commitment of these your servants. Will you join with them in this work of Discipleship, serve alongside them with honor and respect in the Lord's work, and by the grace of God uphold God's Word through the mission and vision of this body? If so, respond with "I will with the help of God."

C: **I will with the help of God!**

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

ALL: 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.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Song

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (vs 1&4) [LSB 848]

Lord, whose love through humble service

Bore the weight of human need,

Who upon the cross, forsaken,

Offered mercy's perfect deed,

We, Your servants, bring the worship

Not of voice alone, but heart,

Consecrating to Your purpose

Every gift that You impart.

Called by worship to Your service,

Forth in Your dear name we go,

To the child, the youth, the aged,

Love in living deeds to show;

Hope and health, good will and comfort,

Counsel, aid and peace we give,

That Your servants, Lord, in freedom

May Your mercy know and live.