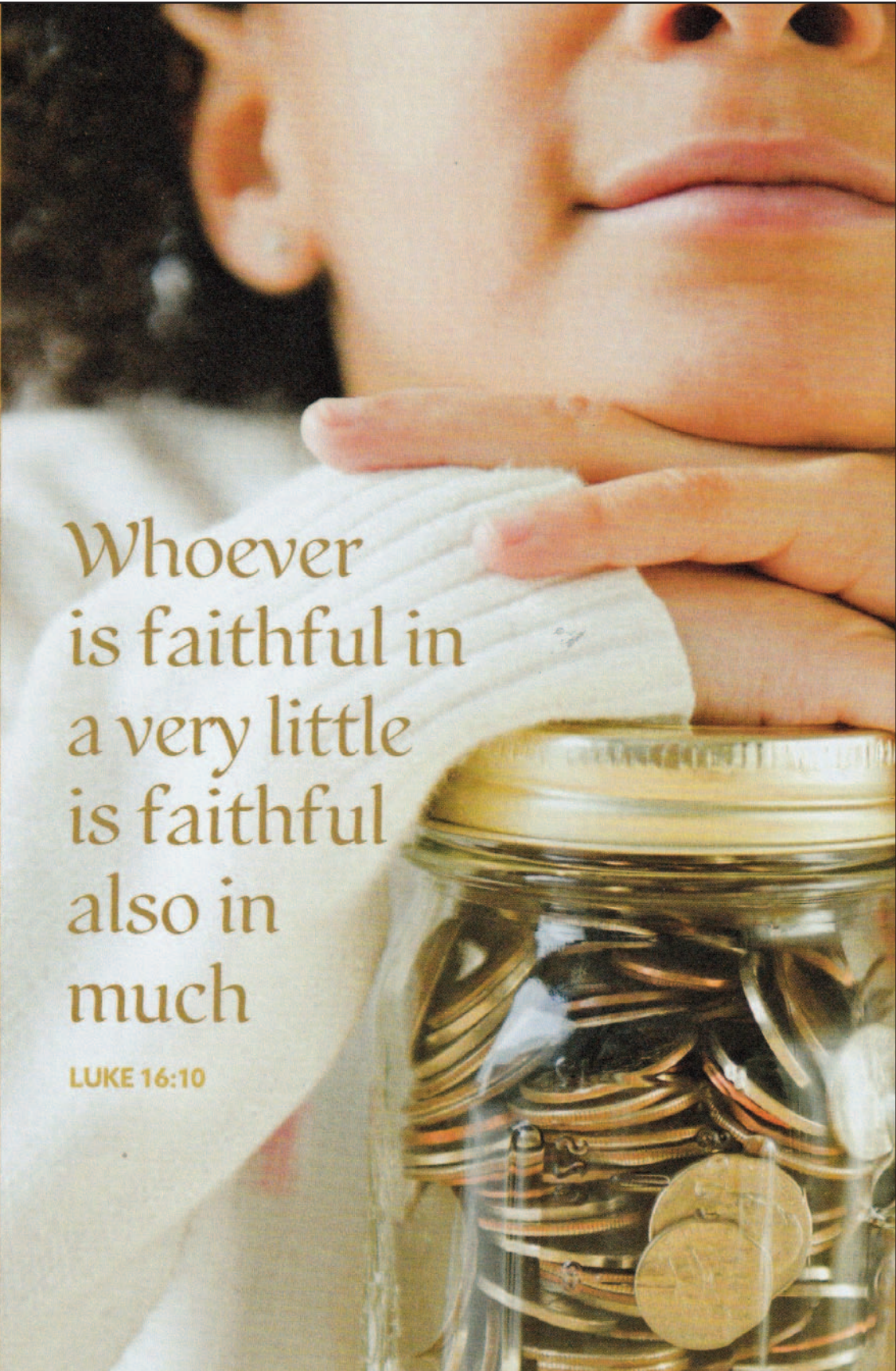


# St. John Lutheran Church



Whoever  
is faithful in  
a very little  
is faithful  
also in  
much

LUKE 16:10

Cover: Young child with jar of coins. Photo by JGI/Jamie Grill. Copyright © 2024 JGI/Jamie Grill/Blend Images/SuperStock. Used by permission.

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20250921-LEC25 ITEM013511 ELCA-K

# ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

## 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:** It Is Well With My Soul (#785)

## 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:

*God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths.*

*Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

## **Word**

### **First Reading: Amos 8:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

<sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,

<sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup>The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 113**

**Response: "The Lord lifts up the poor from the ashes."**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the Lord be praised.

<sup>4</sup>**The Lord is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens. R**

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup>**but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup>The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup>**enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah! **R**

## **Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, |  
<sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,  
<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all — this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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: Luke 16:1-13**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.'  
<sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'  
<sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'  
<sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'  
<sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.  
<sup>10</sup> "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?  
<sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The gospel of the Lord.

**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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones (especially). May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints (especially Matthew and all) who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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:** Here Is Bread (#483)  
Break Now The Bread of Life (#515)  
Let Us Break Bread Together (#471)

## Prayer after Communion

## Blessing

**Sending Hymn:** For The Fruit Of All Creation (#679)

## Dismissal

## Postlude

### PRAYER LIST

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


Jen Bailey	Marie Lentine Douglas	Naveen Kumar	Erica Polito	Janice Stronski
Michael Botti	Tracey Drew	Donna Leek	Tracey Reagle	Bill Todt
Brian Byrnes	Indie Fisher	Rebecca Livingston	Samantha Reed	George Vaneman, Sr.
Randy Cantoral	Rhea Fryor	Tim McCarthy	Kimberly Rickert	Beverly Warming
Janet Cappuccio	Bob Garner	Donald McClure	Ashley Rosser	Helen Yezusko
Sandra DeRitis	Angela Guedes	Joanne McVelli	George Ruppert	Bob Zielsdorf
Barbara Doelling	Stan Harmer	Melanie Miles	Dorcas Schellhas	
Helen Dominic	Valerie Hoffmann	Kent Montford	Finn Schureman	
Frank Donovan	Tracey Kelly	Sue Murphy	Frank Siderio III	
Rosemarie Doucette	Eunice Knopp	Renate Murray	Eric Sprengel	

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service
	10:30 am	Band Rehearsal
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA
	11:15 am	Youth Chime/Vocal Choir
	11:30 am	Bell Choir ( <i>every other Sunday</i> )
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection
Ending Nov. 1st		Diaper Collection for Baby Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
		Collection of Hygiene Items for First Night Kits
Saturday, September 27th	1:00 pm	St. John's 24th Annual Golf Outing
Tuesday, October 7th	7:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parish House
Wednesday, October 8th	2:00 pm	Afternoon Tea in the Parish House Tea Room
Saturday, October 11th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building
Sunday, October 12th	1:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals
Monday, October 13th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Wednesday, October 15th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room

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



**St. John's Social Ministry Initiative in Partnership with Jersey Cares**  
**will collect hygiene items for First Night Kit Program**  
**until November 1<sup>st</sup>.**  
***Flyers in the Narthex for more details.***

**We are accepting donations of**  
**Shelf Stable Milk for Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.**  
**Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.**



## HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BERLIN BABY PANTRY NEED



**BABY DIAPERS**  
**(especially larger sizes)**

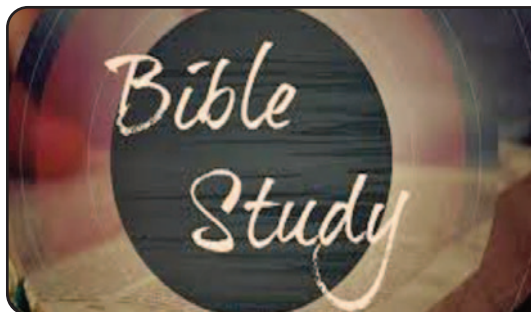
**Collection will take place**  
**in the Narthex.**



## ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please see Pat Reed to make payment.





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



**St. John's Church Halloween Tea**  
**Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm**  
**in the Parish House Tea Room**  
*All are welcome!*

**THE  
COMMUNITY  
LUNCHEON**

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm**

**Paper towel donations for Animal Shelters  
will be accepted through the month of October.**



**Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm in the Parish House**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

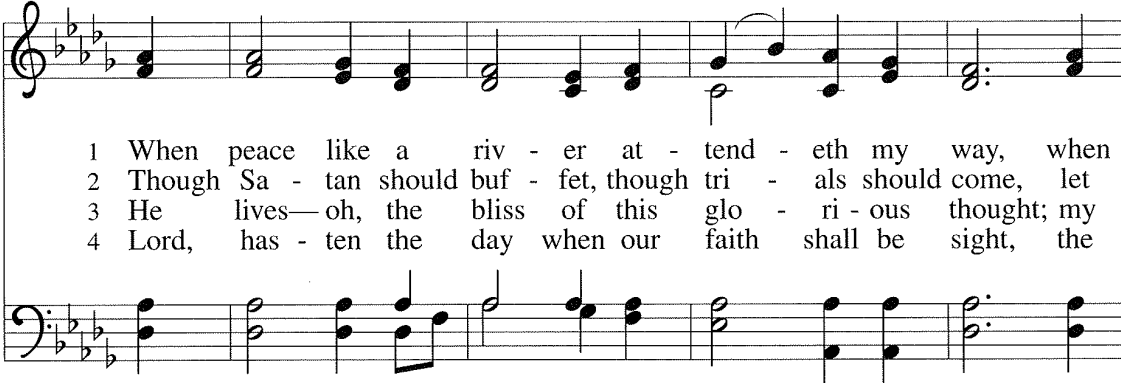


**GRIEF GATHERING**  
**Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00 pm in the Parish House Tea Room**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

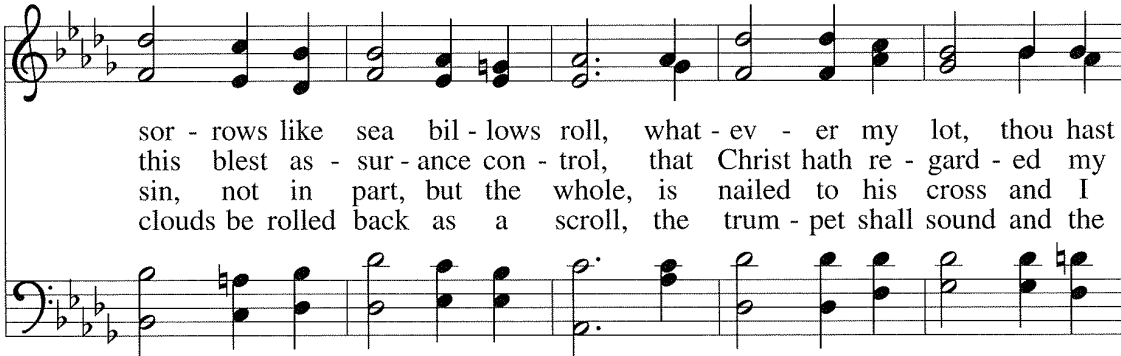


# When Peace like a River

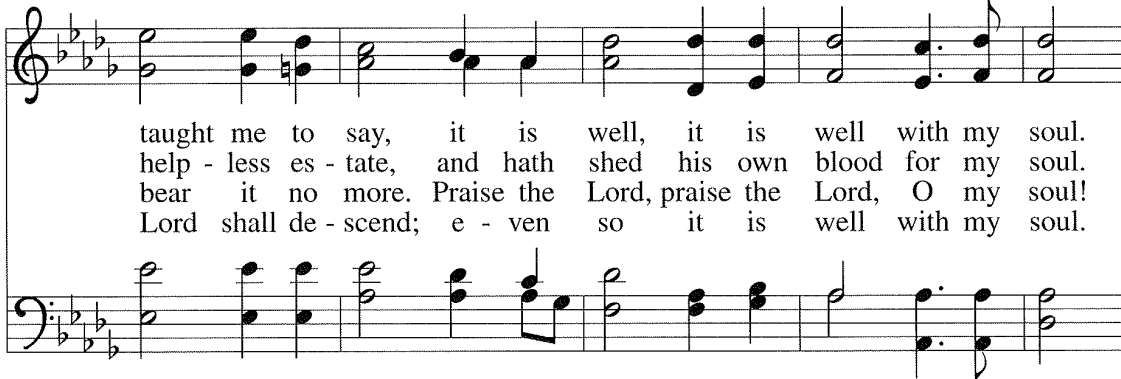
*It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 It is well with my soul,



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.  
 Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.  
 We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

HERE IS BREAD

3 3 4 4 3 3 5 and refrain

1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you  
 2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you  
 3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly

broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page  
 blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,  
 word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live

I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.  
 all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!  
 with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.  
 Music: William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

BREAD OF LIFE  
 64 64 D



# 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;

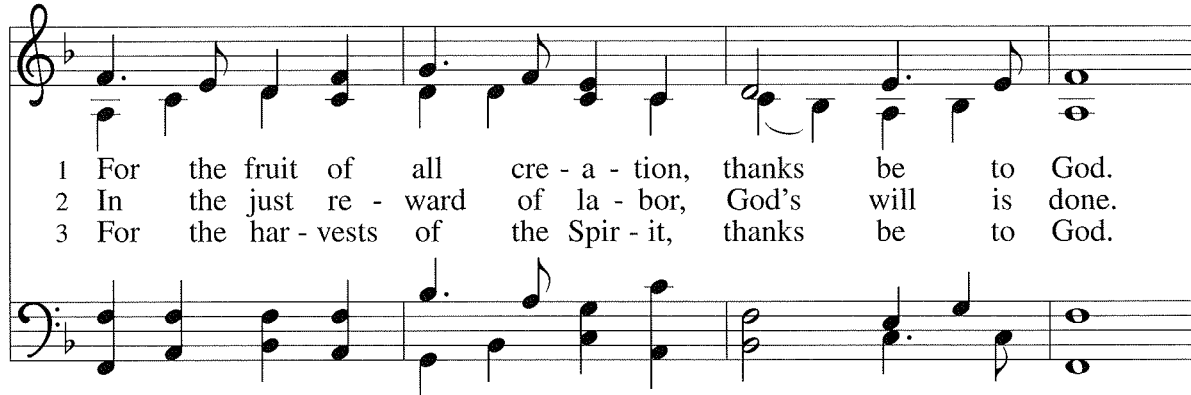
let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

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

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

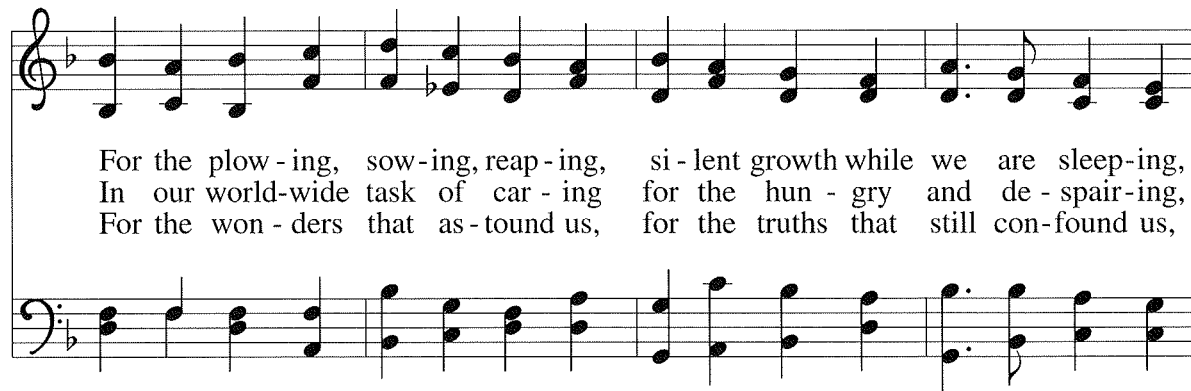
## For the Fruit of All Creation



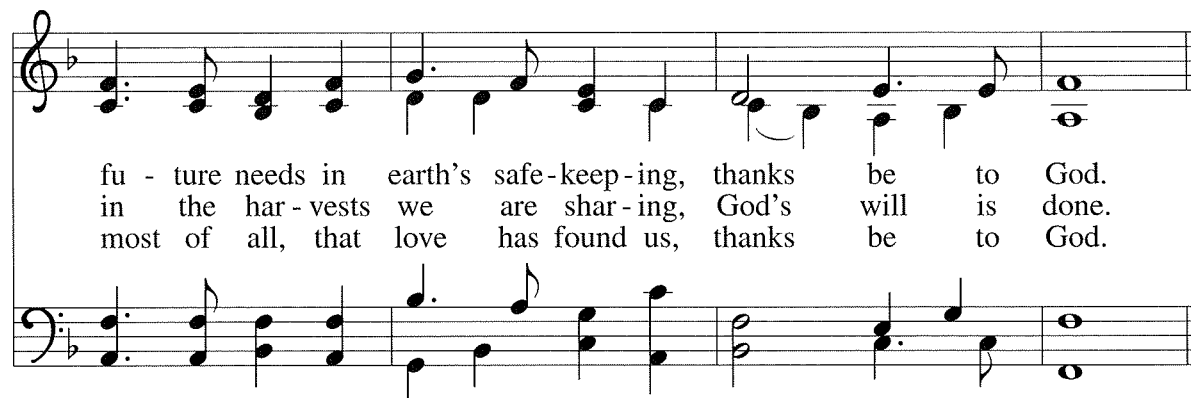
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.



## ST. JOHN'S 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> • White Oaks Country Club**

*Proceeds to Benefit St. John's Monthly Community Outreach Luncheons*

For more information, please contact Joe Antonelli at  
609-579-4207 or email to [33miracle@comcast.net](mailto:33miracle@comcast.net)

### **Save Time . . . no need for checks or envelopes**

ELCA-Endorsed Tithe.ly giving platform enables you to tithe online or using the app.

- From your checking account or using your debit/credit card
- One-time donation or set up for recurring giving
- Designate specific ministry for your donation
- Scan the QR code to get started
- For assistance or questions, contact Tom Schofield or Henry Fickenscher



## **ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094**

**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**

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer  
Deacons: Betsey Eley/Ken Weaver  
Administrative Coordinator: Pat Reed  
Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher  
Head Usher: Ted Adams

Music Director: Janice Smith  
Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver  
Sexton: Betsey Eley  
Webmaster: Tom Schofield  
Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher

