

**SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANKT JOHANNES GEMEINDE
ÉGLISE LUTHÉRIENNE ST-JEAN**

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 12, 2023



PASTOR: Katherine Gohm
INTERIM ORGANIST: Esther-Ruth Teel

We acknowledge that St. John's Lutheran Church is situated on unceded Indigenous land that was never surrendered by treaty or agreement. We recognize that the Kanien'keha:ka (commonly known as the Mohawk), a nation of of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (commonly known as Iroquois), are the custodians of Tiohtia:ke (the Island of Montreal), which is a traditional meeting place between peoples including the Anishinaabe (commonly known as Algonquin), Abenaki and the Huron-Wendat. As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and in agreement with its official policies, our church is committed to participating in an ongoing process of finding truth and reconciliation.

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Esther-Ruth Teel

Please stand.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.
Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Please stand.*

Come, We That Love the Lord We're Marching to Zion ELW 625



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets
 4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
 heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
 heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
 man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

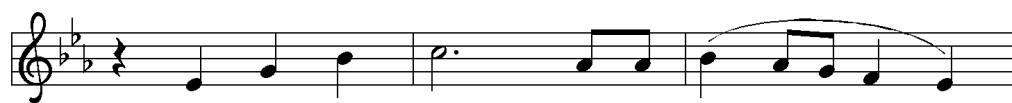
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
 Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

GREETING

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



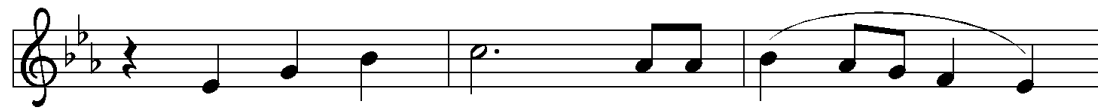
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

A reading from Amos.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;

O LORD, make | haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced. R

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat | over me

turn back because | of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**

let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great | is the LORD!”

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

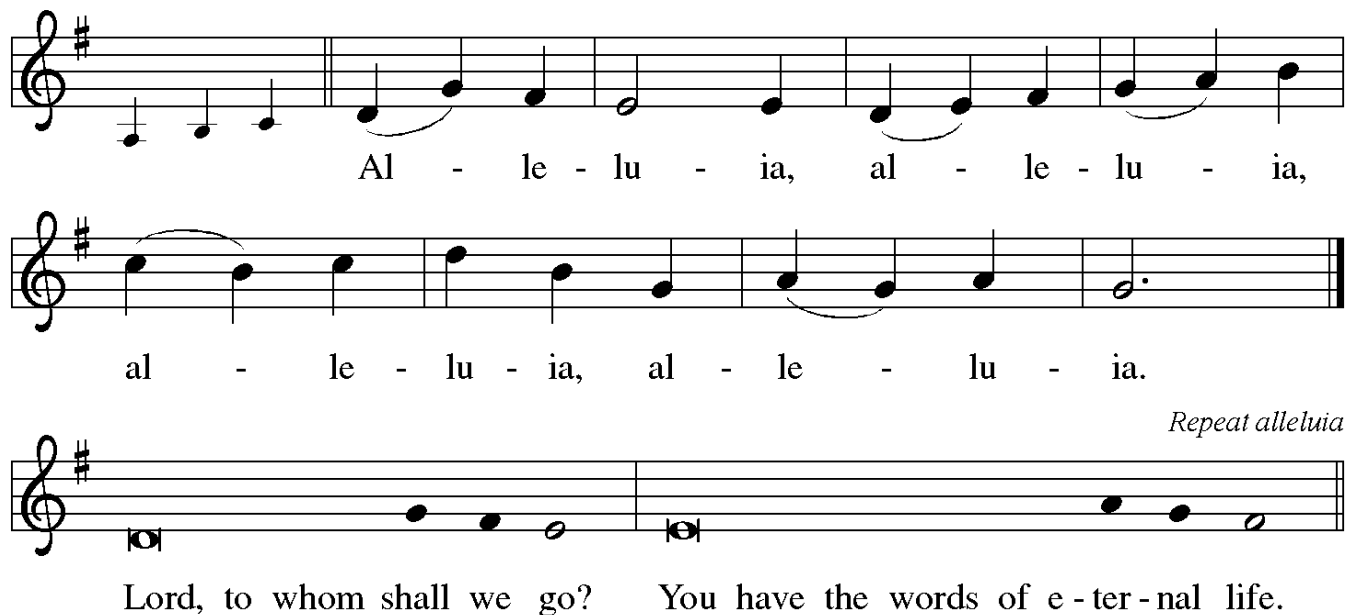
¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON *Katherine Gohm*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand.

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers ELW 244



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Please remain standing.

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

Let us pray, ending each petition with “Hear us, O God”. Please respond with “Your mercy is great.”

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day *especially those who participate in our weekly Food Bank*. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you *especially those who we now name silently*. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a gesture of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Ways to give an offering are at the end of this worship guide.

OFFERTORY

Improvisation

Esther-Ruth Teel

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

Amen.

Please turn to page 107 for the Great Thanksgiving. This morning we will sing the Great Thanksgiving. We will use musical responses you already know.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.
We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.

We bless you, O God.

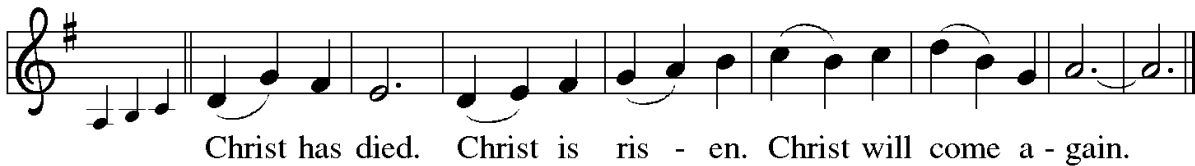
We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup
is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

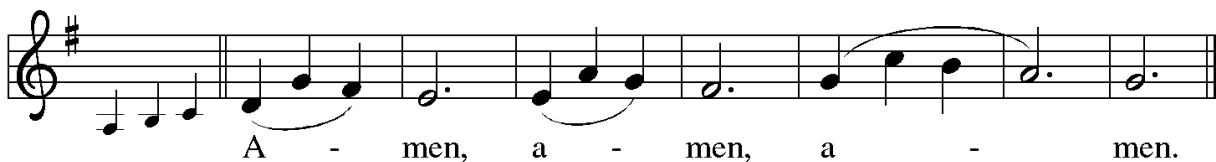
Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:



We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;

among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Please be seated.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

ANGUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

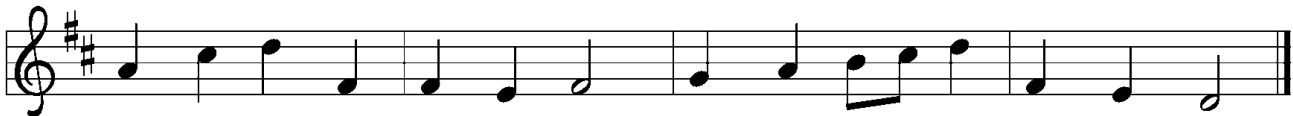
May the God of all creation,
 in whose image we are made,
 who claims us and calls us beloved,
 who strengthens us for service,
 give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
 The blessing of God,
 Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
 be with you today and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 685



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 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.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
 Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,
 go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Esther-Ruth Teel

Thank you for worshipping with us!

Next week: Pastor Katherine's Installation Service at 2pm. Note that we will not have morning worship—only the afternoon service. Pastor Geert-Jan preaching and Pastor Jim Slack presiding over the installation.

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. *We solemnly remember our loved ones who have gone before us in the faith and name those whom St John's has laid to rest in the past year. The Book of the Dead will be opened and ready for you to enter the names of those who should not be forgotten. In naming them and recording their names we acknowledge our thanks for having been given to know and to love them. Entries can be made Sunday or by appointment during the week. You are welcome to take time in the church on your own to give thanks and to remember those whom you hold in your hearts. The book will be closed on Christ the King Sunday, this year November 26, 2023. While not required, registering in advance is helpful for planning purposes. Email or call. Registration at the door is also possible.*

If you have not yet had a chance to connect personally with Pastor Katherine, please don't be shy! She heartily invites you to be in touch, either just to get to know her or for pastoral care, including prayer.
pastor@saintjohnslutheranmontreal.org

Upcoming Events:

- November 26: Christ the King Sunday.** *Join us for a brunch with our Food Bank friends after the service!*
- November 26: Passion Consort's Christmas Concert**
- December 2 & 3: Weihnachtsmarkt**
- December 3: First Sunday in Advent**

We are thankful for your donations! Donations in person are welcome as well as:

- Cheque, payable to St John's Lutheran
- [CanadaHelps](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119180826RR0001-st-johns-lutheran-church/) www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119180826RR0001-st-johns-lutheran-church/
- Interac transfer: secretary@saintjohnslutheranmontreal.org

3594, rue Jeanne-Mance Montréal QC H2X 2K3

514-844-6297

secretary@saintjohnslutheranmontreal.org

www.saintjohnslutheranmontreal.org

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