



# *St. John's Lutheran Church*

1000 Bluff St., Beloit, WI 53511  
[www.stjohnsbeloit.com](http://www.stjohnsbeloit.com)

**“Sharing the good news of forgiveness and eternal life  
through Jesus Christ.”**

*July 25, 2021*

*Please take the bulletin with you  
or dispose of it in our recycling bin.  
Thank you.*

## **EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Jeremiah 23:16–29**

**Romans 8:12–17**

**Matthew 7:15–23**

### ***Beware of False Prophets***

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matt. 7:15). Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord (Jer. 23:16–29). They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. “You will recognize them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:20). The “fruits” of a true prophet are not outward righteousness or success but faithfulness in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. This is the will of the Father in heaven, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father’s adopted ones (Rom. 8:12–17), warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:27–38). For indeed, the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit—namely, the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

### **Silent Preservice Meditation and Prayer**

*Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

### **Music for Reflection**

#### **Announcements**

### **Gathering Hymn**

#### **576 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim  
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name. Refrain
  - ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.
  - 2 When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev’ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain
  - 3 His oath, His covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain
  - 4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain
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### **Confession and Forgiveness**

#### ***Stand***

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*Kneel/Stand*

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

### **Service of the Word**

**Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie)** *LSB 204*

**C** **Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

**Gloria in Excelsis** *LSB 204*

**C** **1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

**Jeremiah 23:16-29**

<sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD of Armies says:

“Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.  
They are deluding you.

They speak visions from their own hearts  
and not from the mouth of the LORD.

<sup>17</sup>They keep saying to those who despise me,

‘The LORD has said that you will have peace.’

And to everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart,  
they say, ‘No harm will come to you.’

<sup>18</sup>Yet who has stood in the council of the LORD,  
to see and hear his word?

Who has listened to his word and heard it?

<sup>19</sup>Look, a storm of the LORD!

His wrath has gone out,  
a whirlwind twisting down,  
whirling on the heads of the wicked.

<sup>20</sup>The LORD’s anger will not turn back  
until he has completely fulfilled the purposes of his heart.  
In later days you will understand it perfectly.

<sup>21</sup>I did not send these prophets,  
yet they ran.

I did not speak to them,  
yet they prophesied.

<sup>22</sup>But if they had stood in my council,  
they would have caused my people to hear my words,  
and they would have turned them from their evil ways  
and from their evil deeds.

<sup>23</sup>Am I a God who is only nearby,” declares the LORD,  
“and not a God far away?

<sup>24</sup>Can anyone hide in secret places  
so that I cannot see him?” declares the LORD.

“Do I not fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.

<sup>25</sup>“I have heard what the prophets who prophesy lies in my name have said. They say, ‘I’ve had a dream! I’ve had a dream!’” <sup>25</sup>How long will this be in the hearts of these lying prophets? These prophets proclaim the deceitfulness of their own minds. <sup>27</sup>They think they can make my people forget my name with the dreams each one tells his neighbor, the way their fathers forgot my name because of Baal. <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream. But let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has chaff to do with grain?” declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup>“Is not my word like a fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that shatters rock?”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## New Testament/Epistle

**Romans 8:12–17**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in harmony with it. <sup>13</sup>For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “Abba, Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children.

<sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**C** These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

**Matthew 7:15–23**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>15</sup>“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>By their fruit you will recognize them. You do not gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, do you? <sup>17</sup>So then, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>So then, by their fruit you will recognize them. <sup>21</sup>Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and drive out demons in your name and perform many miracles in your name?’ <sup>23</sup>Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

**He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Message Hymn**

#### **725 Children of the Heavenly Father**

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

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### **Children's Message**

#### **Message "God's Children"**

*Stand*

#### **Prayers of the Church**

**P.** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

(Pastor will end each petition with "Lord, in Your mercy."  
We will invite the congregation to respond "hear our prayer.")

## **Blessing (Benediction)**

**LSB 234**

- P** The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C** Amen.

*(Internet livestreaming ends here)*

*Sit*

## **Offering**

### **Service of the Sacrament**

*Stand*

## **Preface**

**LSB 208**

- 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 Him thanks and praise.
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)**

**LSB 208**

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## **Lord's Prayer**

- C** 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.**

### **The Words of Our Lord**

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\nabla$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\nabla$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### **Peace of the Lord (Pax Domini)**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

### **Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)      LSB 210**

**C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

### **Receiving the Lord's Supper**

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**Amen.**

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\nabla$  in peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*



**Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)****LSB 211**

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.

**Post-Communion Prayer**

**P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Blessing (Benedicamus)****LSB 212**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**Blessing (Benediction)**

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

**Closing Hymn****643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing**

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The Supper is ended.  
O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching,  
Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving  
To God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing,  
In love ever caring,

Embracing His children of each tribe and race.

With Your feast You feed us,

With Your light now lead us;

Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living

With praise and thanksgiving

Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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## Music for Reflection

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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### Staff and Contact Information

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### **Communion Practices of this Congregation**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John's every Sunday in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. In addition to the members of this congregation, visitors from our sister LCMS congregations and other Lutheran denominations with whom we enjoy altar fellowship are invited to join us at the Lord's Table. For further study, please see Matthew 5:23; 10:32; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

**1000 Bluff Street**

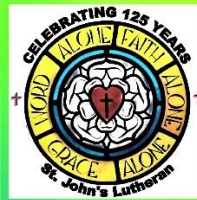
**Youth Service**

**Every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 pm**

**in the Fellowship Hall**

**Non-members are welcome!**

**(yes, there are snacks!)**



**Community Fun-Day**

**Saturday, August 14, 2021**

**1:00 until 4:00 pm.**

(rain date is Saturday, August 21, 2021)

**The Beloit Community  
is invited!**

Tour the St. John's Worship space

Have a snack

Enjoy some music

There will be a professional face-painter, a bouncy house, and games for our members and guests to enjoy. We'll also have some giveaways provided by local merchants.

**Have you marked  
Saturday August 14th on your calendar?  
That's the date of our Community Celebration  
of St. John's 125th anniversary.**

**And that celebration will be the ONLY place  
to purchase one of these special  
commemorative Christmas ornaments!  
There are NO advance orders or purchases!**



**(dimensions: 3.5 inches wide, 3/16" thick)**