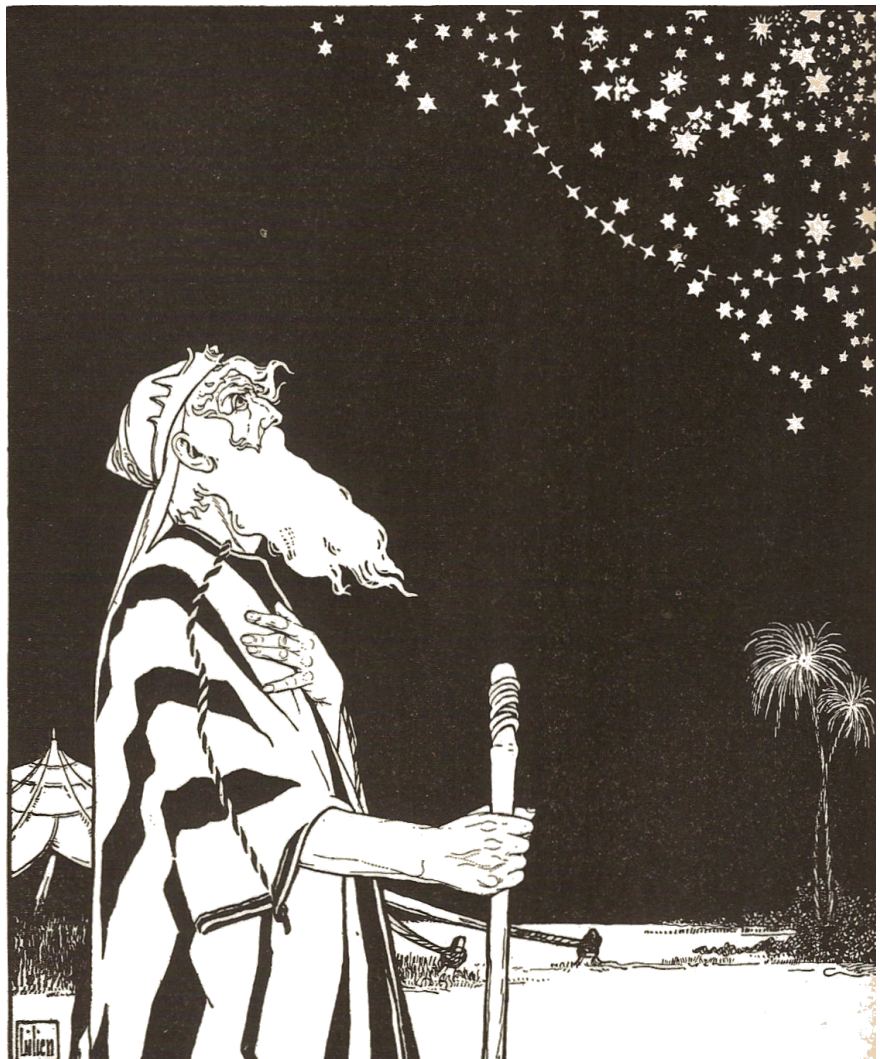


Time After Pentecost Welcome to Worship Today!



*Many and great, O God are your works, maker of earth & sky.
Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
Your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at your word the waters were formed;
deep seas obey your voice.
Grant unto us communion with you, O Star-abiding One.
Come unto us and dwell with us;
With you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with you.*

Hymn #837 Many and Great, O God, Text: Joseph R. Renville

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship
With Holy Communion
8:00 & 9:30 am September 20, 2020*

Time after Pentecost

Evangelical Lutheran Worship with Holy Communion

September 20, 2020 8:00 & 9:30 am

Preaching: Pastor Lisa Lewton & **Presiding:** Pastor Joe Natwick

Organist: Cheryl Hewson

*Call to Worship
based on words by:
Beth Merrill Neel*

Confession and words of assurance are based on Genesis scripture and on the United Church of Christ's **Worship Ways Archive**. <http://www.ucc.org/>

- Gathering -

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

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: A love that never ceases,

A: A creativity that designed the universe,

L: A hope that lights up the sky day and night,

A: A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:

L: These are the things that are of God,

A: Then let us worship God.

WELCOME

L: In the name of the Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God the creator,

A: we hear the call to trust in you always, but some days our questions, stresses and doubts are more real to us than you.

L: We are so like Adam and Eve, easily deceived and ready for a quick fix.

A: We remember how Abram dared to believe in your promises, but belief like that is hard to come by.

L: Like Joseph's brothers, we become jealous of those who seem to have it all.

A: We are inclined to think we know best, instead of daring to rely on the word of our Creator. When the world seems filled with dangers and unknowns, we can be quick to protect ourselves. We confess there are traces of evil both outside and inside ourselves.

L: With your help, we confront our fears and struggles.

A: Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings. Amen.

Silent prayers of confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Though we often want to hide from God; though fear causes us to close up our doors and hearts; though troubles assail and lead us away from the ways of grace; we remember God's promise of mercy and goodness. God is reaching out with loving arms to each of us, so let us rest and be held. Don't be afraid. Forgiveness is ours and we are free to begin again. Our Savior, + Jesus Christ has settled the debt. May Almighty God strengthen our faith and resistance to evil through the power of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #733 Great is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE #208 Praise To You, O God of Mercy



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

⌘ Coda



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **A: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. God of the covenant, as you promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, you have also promised us that we might live under those stars as your people, faithful and loved. Show us how to live as your people, and how to nurture all your children with whom we share the same canopy of sky night after night.

A: Amen.

Stepping Into the Story

ACCLAMATION OF THE WORD SONG **A Story for All People** (vs 1 & 2)

* 1 As peo - ple wait in dark - ness, in
 * 2 We come in - to your pres - ence, in
 3 A time of prep - a - ra - tion: the
 4 You call us to re - pen - tance, to
 5 Re - newed by this en - coun - ter, we'll

fear of end - less night, send forth your word of
 hope and joy re - stored. With ea - ger hearts we
 guest is draw - ing near, as moun - tain plac - es
 turn and start a - gain. You send your Ho - ly
 go out and pro - claim. We'll tell of your sal -

com - fort, a mes - sage of great light. The
 lis - ten, and gath - er 'round your word. We
 crum - ble and straight - ened paths ap - pear. Pre -
 Spir - it to drown the pow'r of sin. We
 va - tion, and mag - ni - fy your name. The

world stands proud be - fore you, con - flict - ed, hun - gry,
 watch and wait your com - ing, and pray for great - er
 pare a hum - ble wel - come in ev - 'ry heart and
 won - der in your mer - cy, your sing - ing fes - tal
 ser - vant words of Mar - y will swell the faith - ful

poor. Come, scat - ter pride and fool - ish - ness, and
 trust, to know that while we wait for you, Em -
 home, and cel - e - brate the prom - ise of our
 voice; and in your meal of bread and wine we
 soul, and you will bring your chil - dren home that

mend all souls with Sav - ior love once more.
 man - u - el, you watch and wait with us.
 God who is, and was, and is to come.
 join the in - vi - ta - tion to re - joice!
 day when all cre - a - tion will be whole.

Refrain

A sto - ry for all peo - ple, old sto - ry new to -
 day. A song of love and heal - ing, a
 light to show the way.

Text: Dori Erwin Collins
 Music: OLD STORY NEW TODAY, Dori Erwin Collins
 Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

– Word –

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

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 15: 1-6

God's Covenant with Abram

15 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”^[a] ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD ^[b] reckoned it to him as righteousness.

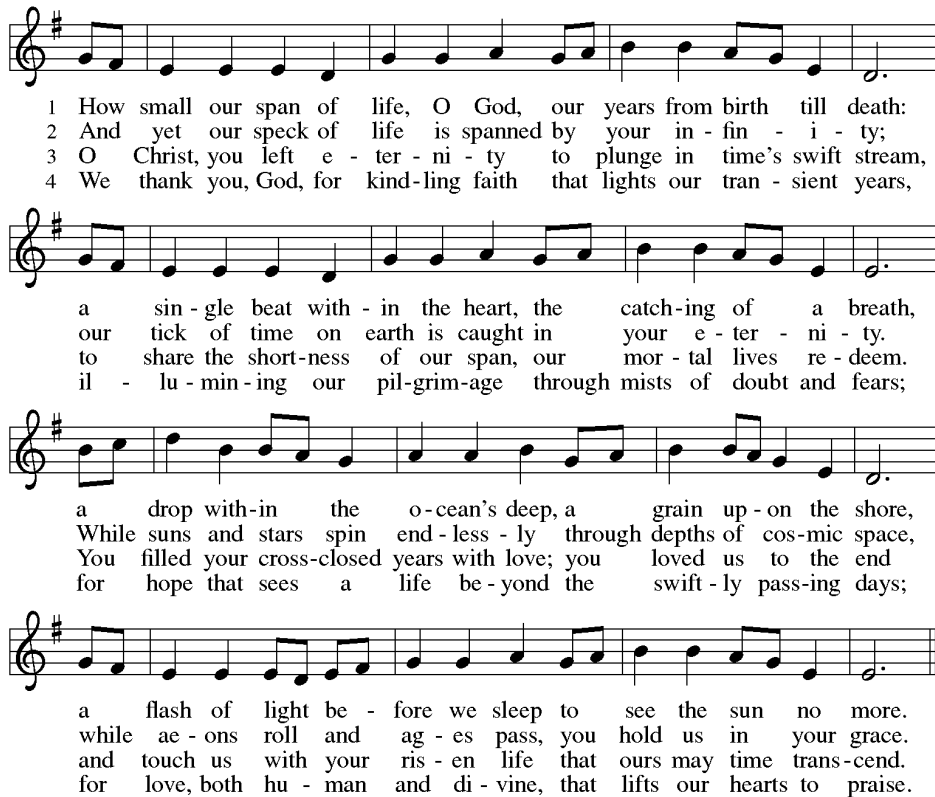
L: The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

SERMON Pastor Lisa Lewton



HYMN OF THE DAY #636 How Small Our Span of Life



1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:
 2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;
 3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,
 4 We thank you, God, for kind-ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,

a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch-ing of a breath,
 our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.
 to share the short-ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.
 il - lu - min - ing our pil-grim-age through mists of doubt and fears;

a drop with-in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,
 While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos-mic space,
 You filled your cross-closed years with love; you loved us to the end
 for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass-ing days;

a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.
 while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.
 and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans-cend.
 for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English traditional
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Today at 9:30 we celebrate the Baptism of:

Maddux Kade Watson
 Son of Jason & Brittney Watson
 Sponsors: Brant Haase, Briana Jung

HYMN #677 This Little Light of Mine vs 1

This little light of mine,
 I'm gonna let it shine;
 This little light of mine,
 I'm gonna let it shine;
 This little light of mine,
 I'm gonna let it shine,
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Baptized at St. John
 This week:

September 13

Tenney Ivan Elis

Son of
 Jesse & Mickallyn Elis
 Sponsor: Keana Kudma

September 20

Olivia Mae Mehlhof

Daughter of
 Cody & Hope Mehlhof
 Sponsor: Trevor Wilson

APOSTLES CREED (8:00 am)

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

Prayer response: L: Lord, in your mercy

A: hear our prayer

SHARING THE PEACE— *(Music by the Handbell Choir)*

Give a wave of love to those worshipping online today.
(The camera is located on the front, center of the balcony.)

Offering:

*Thank you to those of
you contributing to
the mission of St
John by giving
electronically, leaving
a gift in one of the
sanctuary baskets or
mailing gifts in.*

*Please also consider
what you have to
offer to those in your
immediate
surroundings today
and this week.*

- Meal -

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING— *(Music by the Handbell choir)*

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving provisions and willing to pay it forward with these gifts, our time and possessions. We want to be faithful stewards of all You have blessed us with. We trust that You can use our offering today to do extraordinary things in our communities, world and church.

A: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: 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:

L: Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might,

A: heaven and earth are full of Your glory,

L: Hosanna in the highest

A: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

L: Hosanna in the highest

A: Hosanna in the highest!

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**A: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**



*All are invited
to the table today.*

- Distribution of Bread & Wine -

Thank you to the Handbell Choir for special Music today!!

Hymn for Reflection during distribution #790 Day by Day



1 Day by day, your mer-cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be-yond all
o'er the paths I strug-gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur-dens of my quest; Sav-ior,
of the mor-row, I will trust in your en - dur-ing grace. Sav-ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav-ior,



lead me to the home I trea-sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor-row till in glo - ry I be-hold your face.
with your pres-ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom-ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005

Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

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Digging Deeper:

What could God's dreams be for you?

If you've already been on an amazing ride of greatness with God,
would you be willing to share that adventure?
Who could be blessed with hearing your story?

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK:

Pray for a deeper faith and trust that God can do all things.
Watch and record what happens.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sending -

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

BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
A: Amen.

SENDING HYMN # 771 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
 2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
 3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
 known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
 chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
 May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
 fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
 great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the good news! **A: Thanks be to God.**

THANK YOU TO THE WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:

Pastor Lisa Lewton & Pastor Joe Natwick

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 am Dave Gabbert

9:30 am Michael Stevenson

Tech: 8:00 am Greg Jung

9:30 am Sage Lecoe

Ushers: 8:00 am Connor Hinkle

9:30 am Damon Glasser

Matthew Schmitt

Ellie Papineau

Jerry Schwartz

Sandi Ribb

Camera:

Grant Bittner

