

The Biblical Practice of Close Communion

October 15, 2017

Through the apostle Paul, God speaks of his desire for all of us to reach perfect unity (Ephesians 4:12,13). We members of St. John Congregation certainly share his desire. We seek to express that unity – with our current members, with those who desire membership, and also with Christians around the world.

Scripture speaks of two different types of unity. First, Christ has reconciled every single one of us to God through his perfect life and death on our behalf. Even now, God considers us saints and heirs of heaven, clothed with Christ’s righteousness. You might think of this as a “vertical” unity – purely between the individual and his or her God. Through Christ, peace with God has been restored. Then, there’s also an outward and public unity – a “horizontal” unity – as fellow saints worship side-by-side. The celebration of Holy Communion is guided by both types.

For communion to be celebrated in a beneficial way, those attending will come united with their God and also with their fellow-communicants. The former is established by repentance – a sorrow over sin and a trust in God’s forgiveness – that he himself produces. It’s a matter of the heart. The latter is established by the outward confession of what each of us believes. It’s a matter of the mouth.

We do not presume to look into the heart, for only God is able to do that. We do, however, seek to establish outward unity by studying God’s Word together so that we share a common confession. Our congregation offers a Bible study course that’s designed for just that purpose.

And so, out of love for God and his Word, we kindly ask that all visitors speak with the pastor about how we can establish that outward unity prior to your attending Holy Communion here at St. John. We desire to make that goal a priority, so that you may receive the Sacrament as soon as possible.

May God bless your hearing of the Word today as he reminds you of his full and free forgiveness in Christ!



First and Proportional

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School

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Welcome!

We extend a very warm and friendly welcome to all who've joined us for worship today. We pray that the God of grace, who sent his Son to save you and who proved his love for you by raising him from the dead, will fill your heart with joy in knowing that your salvation has been made sure through Jesus. May God bless your worship!

If you're a guest with us this morning, please sign the Friendship Register in your row, checking any applicable boxes. If you need assistance of any kind, don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers. If you'd like to learn more about St. John congregation or the Bible's teachings, please speak with Pastor Mike Gehl. And if you don't already have a church-home, feel free to return and worship with us again at your earliest convenience.

Our restrooms are located downstairs (through the entryway). Activity bags to help keep children occupied are on a hanger in the entryway. We love having your children sit with you during the service, but if you feel that your infant or toddler is getting a little too fussy, you may briefly step out of the sanctuary until they're ready to come back in.

Today's order of service is displayed on the screen and printed out in the worship folder (with music notes) for your convenience. Hymns are found in the red book in front of you.

St. John also operates an all-day preschool and a full-day kindergarten through eighth grade Lutheran Elementary School. We're a member of the Fox Valley Lutheran High School federation. If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities for Christian education, please speak with Pastor Gehl or Principal Tim Raddatz.

At Your Service Today:

	<u>7:45</u>	<u>10:15</u>
Greeters:	Lois Baumgartener Aura Lee Gehl Janet Wierschke Tammy Olp	Tina DeMerritt Diane Laabs Joan Zahn
Ushers:	Eric Olp Elliot Olp William Olp Carl Uitenbroek Randy Kluess	Dale Laabs Zaine Gehl Jeremy Uecker Doug Otten
PowerPoint:	Phil Roberts	Lou Ann Beard
Altar Guild:	Lou Ann B, Mary F, & Aura Lee G	

Mission and Purpose

St. John Lutheran Church exists as part of the Holy Christian Church on earth. We engage in the continuing development of disciples of Jesus Christ by **GATHERING** for worship, education, and fellowship in order to **GROW** in faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. By God's **GRACE** we **GO** to proclaim Christ and his Word with our lips and lives. We realize that it's only through the **GOSPEL** in Word and Sacraments that one can be equipped for discipleship and bringing **GLORY** to God.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and [✚] give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Closing Hymn *"Praise to God, Immortal Praise"* (CW 612)

O Christ, Lamb of God.....(Agnus Dei)

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.

Distribution

Thanksgiving

Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
 to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
 pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
 Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

The Common Service

Opening Hymn....."Take My Life and Let It Be" (CW 469)

In the name of the Father and of the Son [†] and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

Confession of Sins

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, Have Mercy.....(Kyrie)

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son [†] and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

Prayer and Praise

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory Be to God..... (Gloria in Excelsis)

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy; you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Holy, Holy, Holy..... (Sanctus)

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

Verse of the Day Proverbs 3:9, 10

Alleluia. Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest; then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Lesson Luke 21:1-4 (EHV)

Today's Gospel reading is recorded in the 21st chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the 1st verse.



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

¹ Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the offering box. ² He saw a poor widow there putting in two small coins. ³ He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow put in more than everyone, ⁴ for all these put in some of their leftovers as gifts to God, but she, out of her poverty, put in all that she had to live on."

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day..... "What Is the World to Me" (CW 477)

Sermon 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2

Create in Me



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.