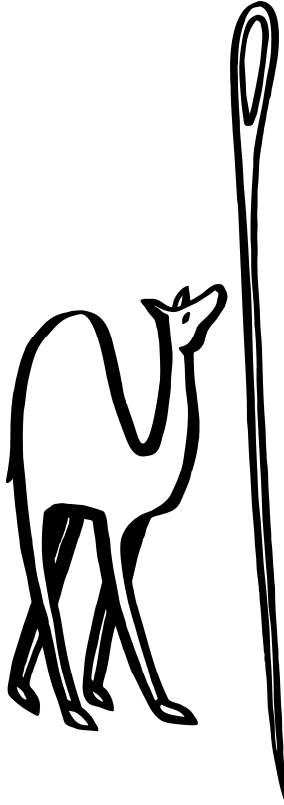


**TWENTIETH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
& HARVEST HOME**

**OCTOBER 10, 2021**



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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The Reverend Jason Northridge  
Ted Furman  
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Pastor  
Organist  
Choir Director

*Companions in Christ with the Mbambo Congregation in the  
Konde Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania*

**\* Please stand as you are able.**

*Gathering*

Announcements & Prelude

\*Confession & Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen**

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: 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.**

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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 Song

# “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home;  
 4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi-nal har-vest home.

All be safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.  
 wheat and tares to-geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown.  
 from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way;  
 Gath-er then thy peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,

God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear.  
 give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, in thy gar-ner to a-bide.

Come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.  
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.  
 Come, with all thine an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home!

\*Greeting

L: 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.**

\*Call to Worship

L: Eternal God of every season,

**C: You remind us that we too live in the rhythm of the Earth.**

L: Patient God of Winter,

**C: You remain, offering an embrace of hope and warmth to our long nights and chilled spirits.**

L: Lifegiving God of Springtime,

**C: You open your hand, restoring our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth.**

L: Nourishing God of Summer,

**C: All that we have is a sign of your love; all that we are is a gift from your grace.**

L: Glorious God of Autumn,

**C: With people of every language and nation we bring the fruits and pains of our own labors. Let the sharing of these gifts proclaim our joyful hope even in the midst of uncertainty and change. Amen.**

\*Prayer of the Day

L: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Word*

First Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live,

or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90

- <sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- <sup>13</sup>**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?  
Be gracious to your servants.**
- <sup>14</sup>Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.
- <sup>15</sup>**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us  
and as many years as we suffered adversity.**
- <sup>16</sup>Show your servants your works,  
and your splendor to their children.
- <sup>17</sup>**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;  
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

*We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

<sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Acclamation

L: Let us welcome the Gospel.

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## \*Holy Gospel

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon



Hymn of the Day

“God, Whose Farm Is All Creation”



1 God, whose farm is all cre - a - tion, take the grat - i -  
2 Take our plow - ing, seed - ing, reap - ing, hopes and fears of  
3 All our la - bor, all our watch - ing, all our cal - en -



tude we give; take the fin - est of our har - vest,  
sun and rain, all our think - ing, plan - ning, wait - ing,  
dar of care in these crops of your cre - a - tion,



crops we grow that we may live.  
rip - ened in this fruit and grain.  
take, O God: they are our prayer.

\*Apostles' Creed

**C: 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

L: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

R: Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Deliver your care to your children who feel unworthy of care. Bend down low to lift up people who struggle to find others who will embrace them in time of need. We pray especially for those we name aloud or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*Peace

L: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Thanksgiving*

Offering

*St. John Lutheran Church is able to receive offering electronically.*

*Please use the church website to make one time or reoccurring donations.*

[www.stjohnmtwolf.com](http://www.stjohnmtwolf.com)

\*Offertory Prayer

L: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to you. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

\*Thanksgiving for the Word

L: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things; you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**C: We give you thanks and praise.**

L: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**C: We give you thanks and praise.**

L: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**C: We give you thanks and praise.**

L: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Lord's Prayer

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to boldly pray:

**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.**

*Sending*

\*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. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

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.

\*Dismissal

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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