

# **St. John's Lutheran Church, Erie, PA**

**Sunday, August 25, 2024**

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**Holy God, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son to be our Savior. As we rejoice in your redeeming grace, teach us to love you with all our hearts, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **First Reading: Proverbs 4:20-27**

<sup>20</sup>My child, be attentive to my words;  
incline your ear to my sayings.

<sup>21</sup>Do not let them escape from your sight;  
keep them within your heart.

<sup>22</sup>For they are life to those who find them,  
and healing to all their flesh.

<sup>23</sup>Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
for from it flow the springs of life.

<sup>24</sup>Put away from you crooked speech,  
and put devious talk far from you.

<sup>25</sup>Let your eyes look directly forward,  
and your gaze be straight before you.

<sup>26</sup>Keep straight the path of your feet,  
and all your ways will be sure.

<sup>27</sup>Do not swerve to the right or to the left;  
turn your foot away from evil.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1, 4-13**

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## **Gospel: John 15:9-17**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Gathered together as God’s people, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

### *A brief silence.*

Holy God, as members of the same human family, your family, we pray for your help that we would live in peace with others, that we would be compassionate and forgiving, that we would strive for harmony and the well-being of all people.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for children and young people around the world, that they may receive the loving care and support they need for their health and well-being, as well as good food, clean water, safe shelter and education. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the whole church on earth, that all believers be aware of your loving presence in daily living. Inspire and teach us to follow your Son and his ways of kindness and love. Help us to respond to your call to love one another. Merciful God,

God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for an end to violence in the world. Turn the hearts of all world leaders to embrace your ways of peace, justice, and love for all people. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this community of believers, that our life together will bear witness to your love for us and for all people. Continue to teach us to pray, to serve, and to love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray that your healing and strength rest upon those laid low by every kind of sickness, pain, and hardship. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Comfort to those who grieve. Bless your people with peace and the joy of the resurrection. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray. Trusting in your love for all your children, we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**