

Sermon followed by Service

August 14, 2022

2 Samuel 6 (selected)

Imagine your biggest, best day ever. Your hopes and dreams are about to come true. People have come from miles around to be part of this day. Think bigger and better than celebrating your graduation. Think bigger and better than celebrating your new job. Think bigger and better than your wedding day. Imagine your biggest, best day ever. Your hopes and dreams are about to come true. People have come from miles around to be part of this day. This day has all the makings to be one of your biggest, best days ever.

David was having one of those days on a grand scale. Invitations had gone out, and 30,000 people from all over the country had come in. A special limo was newly crafted for the guest of honor. People were cheering and music was playing for the guest of honor.

And who was the guest of honor? The ark of the covenant. The throne of God. That special box, made of wood, covered with gold inside and out, with two angel cherubim standing up spreading their wings over the cover. This was God's throne with his people. Inside were the two stone tablets with the 10 Commandments, symbols of God's covenant with his people. Inside was Aaron's staff, symbol of God leading his people, delivering his people. Inside was a jar of manna, symbol of God providing for his people. With the ark, God wanted to show his people: "I'm here with you; I'm here for you."

Back in the time of the judges, the Israelites had lost the ark, using it as a good luck charm in battle - "If we have the ark with us, we can't lose." But God wasn't about to be toyed with, treated like a

talisman, a good luck charm. So Israel lost the battle and they lost the ark to the Philistines. The Philistines thought it would mean good luck for them; instead, God judged them for their idol worship; and the Philistines couldn't wait to be rid of it. After some of this and that, for years, the ark was tucked away out in the country, largely forgotten and ignored.

Now David was setting up his new capital. With his heart for God, he wanted God to have a central place, close with him in Jerusalem. He confers; he plans; he sends out the invitations. Now it's the big day. David and 30,000 from all over the country are escorting the ark home. The ark is riding in style on a newly crafted cart. The procession is parading, singing, cheering; cymbals and tambourines are ringing. This is David's biggest, best day yet. But then the cart with the ark hits a bump. Uzzah reaches out his hand to steady the ark, and with a touch of the ark he is struck down dead.

Why? Who would just let the ark fall over? Who wouldn't reach out to steady it? Why would God strike Uzzah down dead? David figured it out. God had said, "Do not touch." God had said: "Only the Levites can move the ark, not by hand, not by cart, but only by carrying pole." And God wasn't just making a suggestion; he had warned: "Or you will die."

On that biggest, best day ever; on that day of death, God sent a message - "Don't mess with me or my word. Don't you dare take my word lightly as no big deal. Don't you dare to ignore me or ignore what I have to say."

But what if David just forgot? What if David didn't know? What if David really thought things through and decided a new cart was better choice than carrying the ark? What if David sincerely felt

in his heart that he was doing the right thing? Let's start here: It was David's job to know. It was David's job to remember. And it wasn't David's job to change God's plan or God's Word no matter how good, no matter how sensible and reasonable his way seemed. It wasn't David's place to ignore or change God's way no matter how sincere and loving he felt, no matter how right he felt.

That same thing is true for us as teachers, and as dads and moms, as children of God. That same thing is true for all of us as priests of God entrusted with the holy things of God. It's our job to know; it's our job to remember; it's not our job or our place to ignore or to change what God has said. It's not our place to think we have come up with a better way than what God has said.

Our God is deadly serious about his holiness. If not now, the day is coming when God will show just how serious, how deadly serious he is. Join me in praying: "God, preserve us from laziness with your Word, content with a taste now and then; God, preserve us from pride that thinks it ok to ignore and change your Word. Lord, move our hearts and minds to be filled with your word, to be humble under your Word."

David got it. And God showed him grace; God showed his ark, his presence to be a blessing. With a heart in tune with God, David wanted God's grace, God's blessing; he wanted God's presence to be front and center, to take center stage in his kingdom and in his life. So David tried again. He sent out invitations. He arranged special music and song. He ordered special clothes. David set his people up for their biggest, best day ever. But this time, no cart for the ark. Instead, as God said, the Levites carried the ark with the transport poles. And this time, God smiled. The people cheered and sang as

the Levites brought the ark, the presence of the LORD front and center for the kingdom.

David and his people danced; they cheered, and danced, and sang, and celebrated. David danced and celebrated with all his might - God was coming home! David danced and celebrated so much, David's wife thought he made a foolish spectacle of himself. Makes me wonder what kind of dance David danced. A country line dance? An Oklahoma square dance? A hip-hop break dance? Maybe a polka? Whatever dance David danced, he threw his whole self into it.

I'm glad I don't have to dance. You're glad too; with my feet and my elbows I'd be a danger to all of you. Even if we don't dance before God, David shows us something about how to live before God - all out. With all our heart and all our strength. Not holding back in fear of what people might think. Not holding back because of what it might cost us. Not holding back because we're still holding on to the world. No, living all out - with hearts and hands and voices - for God. As Paul said: "offering ourselves as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God."

Why? With the ark, David saw God with him and for him. With Jesus, we see, we have God with us and for us. What makes Jesus so special? He's God, the Son of God himself, born into our world, born into the family of King David to deliver us, born as one of us to take our place and set us right with God. To set us right with God, he took our place and made it his job to know and to remember and to live God's Word. To deliver us, not just from the evil out there, but to deliver us from our sin and guilt, to deliver us from the death we deserve, Jesus made it his life to give himself completely, all the way to the cross, to live God's love for us, to die our death for us, to die the death of a damned sinner in our place.

If you think it unfair for God to strike Uzzah down, remember how God struck Jesus down, how God crushed and cursed his own Son for something he didn't do, but for what we have done. And remember how God raised Jesus back to life to rule as his forever King with his forever promise - "whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Now with Jesus .... With Jesus' death and his life, God sees you right by him. With Jesus as God's forever King, you have God with you and for you today and forever.

Just a taste of that promise had David dancing before God with all his might. Just a taste of that promise had David living for God with most everything he had. We have more than what David had. We have more promises. We have more than an ark. We have Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise keeping God's promises for us. We have Jesus as the embodiment of God here with us and for us. We have Jesus to give us life the way that it's supposed to be. So, how will we (you) dance before the Lord? How will we (you) live with Jesus? Will all our might, right? Amen.

August 13 & 14, 2022

### NEW MORNING PRAISE

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** Christians worship with sway, swing, and dance as they feel and show their joy in Jesus.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** We'll celebrate as we sit and sing, then stand and sing, then sit and sing .... Perhaps not as much sway and swing, but we will celebrate - today we 1) install two teachers given to us by Jesus, and 2) welcome new members to our St. John family.

### OPENING HYMN

*"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"*

Hymn 601

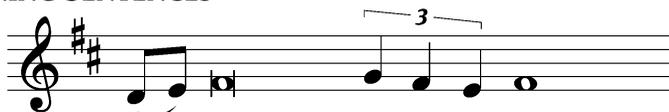
All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Serve him with joy, his praises tell, come now before him and rejoice!

Know that the Lord is God indeed; he formed us all without our aid.  
We are the flock he comes to feed, the sheep who by his hand were made.

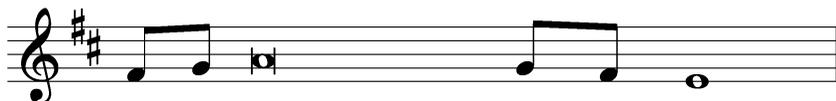
O enter then his gates with joy, within his courts his praise proclaim.  
Let thankful songs your tongues employ, O bless and magnify his name.

Trust that the Lord our God is good, his mercy is forever sure.  
His faithfulness at all times stood and shall from age to age endure.

### OPENING SENTENCES



O Lord, o-pen my lips.



**And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.**



Hasten to save me, O God.



**O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**



Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**Come, O come, let us wor - ship.**

## COME, O COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,  
let us shout with joy to our saving Rock;  
come, enter in with our songs of praise,  
come, enter in with thanksgiving.

You are a great and a wondrous God,  
cupping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
You made the hills and the mountains high,  
you made the seas and the dry land.

Come, let us worship and, bowing low,  
kneel before the One who has made us all.  
You are the God whom we call our own,  
we are the flock that you shepherd.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*2 Samuel 6:1-15, 17, 18*

David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand. He and all his men went to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. David

and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals.

When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God.

Then David was angry because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, "How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?" He was not willing to take the ark of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household.

Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD.

After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 30A*

*Refrain*

I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out / of the depths  
and did not let my enemies gloat / over me.

LORD my God, I called to / you for help,  
and you / healed me.

You, LORD, brought me up from the realm / of the dead;  
you spared me from going down / to the pit. *Refrain*

Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful / people;  
praise his / holy name.

For his anger lasts only a / moment,  
but his favor lasts a / lifetime;  
weeping may stay / for the night,  
but rejoicing comes in the / morning.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Mark 10:45*

Alleluia! For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,  
but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

*Mark 10:35-45*

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

"What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN**

*"Church of God, Elect and Glorious"*

**Hymn 854**

Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race,  
called as God's own special people, royal priests and heirs of grace;  
know the purpose of your calling, show to all his mighty deeds,  
tell of love that knows no limits, grace that meets all human needs.

God has called you out of darkness into his most marv'lous light,  
brought his truth to life within you, turned your blindness into sight.  
Let your light so shine around you that God's name is glorified  
and all find fresh hope and purpose in Christ Jesus crucified.

Once you were an alien people, strangers to God's heart of love,  
but he brought you home in mercy, citizens of heav'n above.  
Let his love flow out to others, let them feel a Father's care,  
that they too may know his welcome and his countless blessings share.

Church of God, elect and holy, be the people he intends,  
strong in faith and swift to answer each command your master sends.  
Royal priests, fulfill your calling through your sacrifice and prayer;  
give your lives in joyful service, sing his praise, his love declare.

## SERMON

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

## INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW TEACHERS

**Mrs. Alicia Thies** – Preschool 3 Teacher  
**Mr. Keith Kopczynski** – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

M: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to his Church: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

A Christian school is one way we carry out our Lord's command as we let children come to him and do not hinder them, but rather nurture them with the life-giving word of God. We do this trusting God's promise: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

## **Exhortation to the Teachers-Elect**

M: Dear sister and brother in Christ, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church has called you to serve as teachers. You have been prepared for this ministry by careful instruction in the Word of God so that you carry out your duties in conformity with that Word.

As ambassadors of Christ you are to teach the pure doctrine of God's Word, to instruct the young in the way of salvation, and always to have in your heart the spiritual welfare of every soul under your care.

You are to devote yourself to the meditation and study of the Scriptures. You are to be examples to others in godliness and Christian living, putting no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that the ministry will not be discredited.

You are to speak the truth in love, as the apostle Peter reminds us: "Love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever."

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your heart to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

The ability to carry out this calling is not in us, but comes alone from God, as St. Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians: "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God."

The Holy Spirit, who himself has called you to this ministry, will be with you.

## **Promises by the Teachers-Elect**

M: In keeping with the word and will of the Lord, you are about to be installed as teachers at St. John Lutheran School. I ask you, in the presence of God and this congregation:

Are you fully determined to carry out this work according to the grace which God will give?

R: I am.

M: Do you believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

R: I do.

M: Do you accept the three Ecumenical Creeds—the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian—as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

R: I do.

M: Do you solemnly promise that all your teaching will conform to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions?

R: I do.

M: Will you give faithful witness to Christ in the world that God's love may be known in all that you do and say?

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

M: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

### **Exhortation to the Congregation**

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have heard the solemn promise given by the teachers you have called. I urge you, therefore, to receive them with joy and to keep in mind always what the Word of God expects of you as members of this congregation:

Work together with them for our Lord's kingdom so that by your works of service the Body of Christ might be built up.

Help them by your word and example in teaching the young, remembering how the Scriptures urge you to bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Pray for them continually, that their ministry among you may be greatly blessed and that they may have a cheerful spirit in all their duties.

Provide also for their physical needs, for the Lord says, "The worker deserves his wages."

Honor and love them, as the apostle Peter urges, "Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble."

### **Promises by the Congregation**

M: I now ask you, in the presence of God:

Are you willing to receive them as servants of Christ? Will you show them love and honor, and support them with your gifts and prayer? If so, answer: we will, and we ask God to help us.

**C: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

M: The almighty and merciful God strengthen and assist you always.

M: Students of St. John School, Jesus our Savior has promised eternal life to those who trust in him. Show your love to Jesus by cheerfully obeying your teachers, so that you benefit from their instruction, especially as they teach you God's saving Word. Give them honor and respect, so that their work will be a joy for them and an eternal blessing to you.

### **Installation**

Alicia Thies, I install you as teacher at St. John Lutheran School in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Keith Kopczynski, I install you as teacher at St. John Lutheran School in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

### **Prayer**

M: Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom, we praise and thank you for your goodness in giving us a Lutheran elementary school. Continue to bless our

labors here, so that your Word may dwell richly in us and in our children and that your name may be glorified. Give the Holy Spirit to Alicia and Keith, and equip them with heavenly wisdom and strength, that they may lead our children to you, and despite any discouragements faithfully carry out the duties of their calling. Move our students to godliness and obedience and cause them to grow through their instruction in your Word, so that they may serve you throughout their life and finally inherit eternal life.

Help us at all times to regard our teachers as those whom you have sent, so that we support them in their ministry and pray and work for the welfare of our school. Hear us for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

M: Go, then, take up the work to which you have been called.

The Lord bless you and make you a blessing to many, that you may bear fruit, and that your fruit may remain to eternal life.

**HYMN**

*"Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give"*

**Hymn 896**

Dear Lord, to your true servants give the grace to you alone to live.  
Set free from sin to serve you, Lord, they go to share your living Word,  
the gospel message to proclaim that all may know your saving name.

They gladly go at your command to spread your Word o'er sea and land.  
Be with them, Lord, and make them strong  
to heal sin's ills, to right the wrong.  
Your rule is over wind and wave, and mighty is your arm to save.

When all their labor seems in vain, revive their sinking hopes again;  
and when success crowns what they do,  
O keep them humble, Lord, and true  
until before your judgment seat they lay their trophies at your feet.

**PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless and keep you. **Amen.**

The Lord's face ever shine upon you. **Amen.**

The Lord grant you peace for all your days. **Amen.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

*"Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"*

**Hymn 748**

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly give to God our all, our best:  
service hearty, thorough, honest, with a living love impressed.  
All our duty, all our striving, all our time to him belong;  
praise him, then, with true devotion, come before him with a song.

By his mercy, by his bounty, by the gift of Christ, his Son,  
what great goodness he has shown us, what high marvels he has done!  
Let us to him promptly, freely, yield our bodies and our souls,  
thankful that his love protects us, that his wisdom all controls.

Gracious Lord, accept our service for the sake of Christ, your Son;  
lo, our hope abides now only in the righteousness he won.

Bless and save us, help and guide us, watch to comfort and restore,  
till in heav'n we rest rejoicing, praising you forevermore.

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