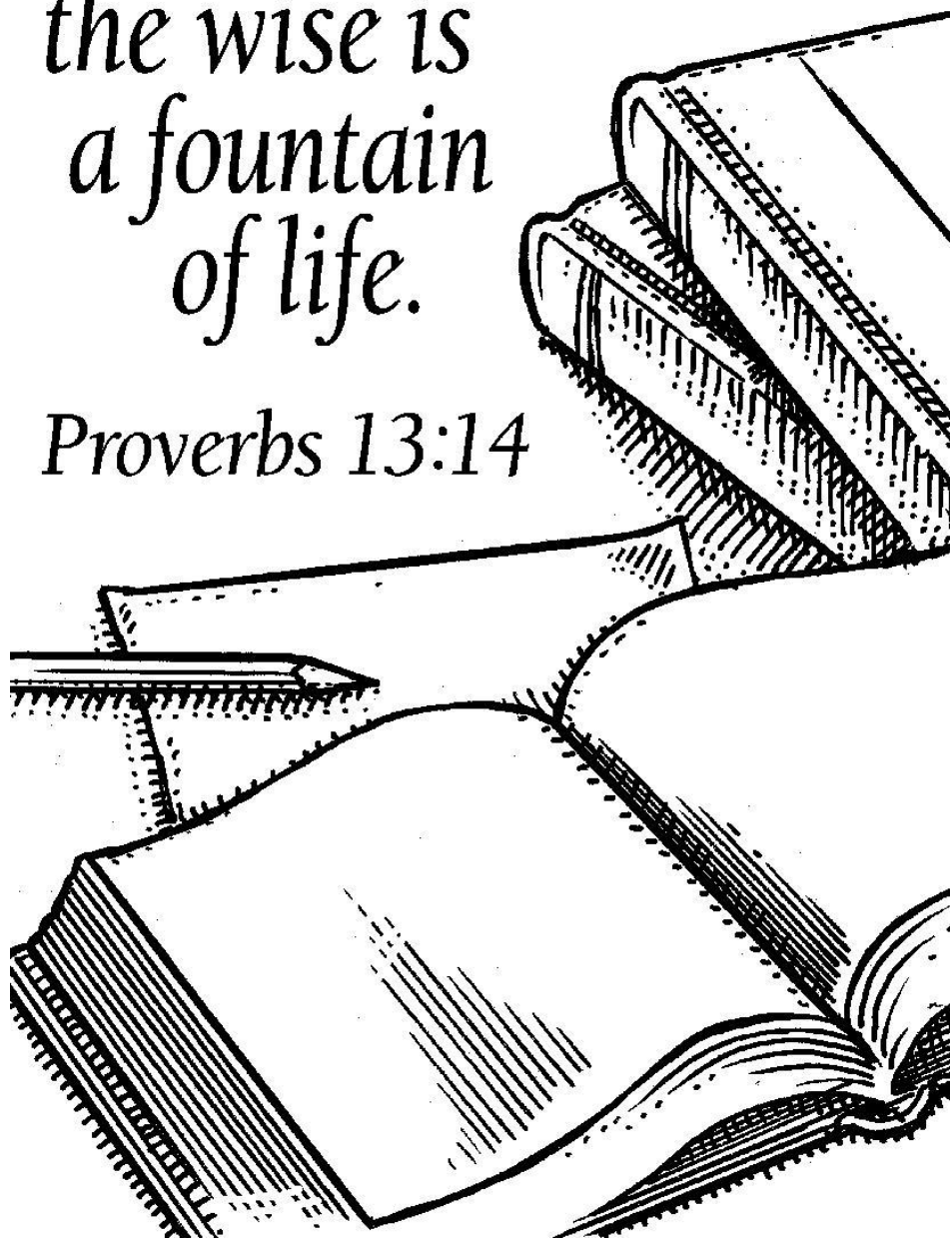


The teaching of
the wise is
a fountain
of life.

Proverbs 13:14





St John's

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'End of School Year' Service and Graduation

23 May 2024 6:30 P.M.

Welcome! Jesus died on the cross for everyone. So all sinners are welcome at St. John's. May the Lord bless our teachers and our students and their parents today and always.

Video of Graduates plays on the screen while pre-service music is being played.

Pre-Worship Prayer:

—Nikolaus Selnecker

*Let me be Yours forever, my faithful God and Lord;
Let me forsake You never nor wander from Your Word.
Lord, do not let me waiver but give me steadfastness,
And for such grace and favor Your holy name I'll bless.*

*Lord Jesus, my Salvation, my Light my Life divine,
My only Consolation, to You I all resign,
For You have dearly bought me with blood and bitter pain.
Let me, since You have sought me, eternal life obtain.*

*O gracious Holy Spirit, my Comforter and Guide,
Grant that in Jesus' merit I always may confide,
Him to the end confessing whom I have known by faith
Give me Your constant blessing and grant a Christian death.*

The Lord Serves His People

Welcome

Hymn

#512

1. Let children hear the mighty deeds
which God performed of old,
which in our younger years we saw,
and which our parents told.
4. Oh, teach them with all diligence
the truths of God's own Word,
to place in Him their confidence,
to fear and trust their Lord, ...
5. ... to learn that in our God alone
their hope securely stands,
that they may ne'er forget His works,
but walk in His commands.

Worship Dialog

from various Bible verses

Pastor: Oh, give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good!

Congregation: His mercy endures forever.

[Psalm 118:1]

P: Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.

[Proverbs 4:7]

C: Though it cost you all you have, get understanding.

P: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,

[Proverbs 9:10]

C: and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

*P: Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of,
because you know those from whom you learned it.*

[2 Timothy 3:14]

C: We have no greater joy than to hear that our children are
walking in the truth.

[see 3 John 4]

P: You are all God's children by believing in Christ Jesus.

[see Gal 3:26]

C: If we hold to His teaching, we are really His disciples.

Then we will know the truth, and the truth will set us free.

P: From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
My heart is set on keeping Your decrees to the very end.

[John 8:31, 2 Timothy 3:15, Psalm 119:105,112]

Hymn

#446

1. I am trusting You, Lord Jesus, trusting only You,
trusting You for full salvation, free and true.
3. I am trusting You for cleansing in the crimson flood,
trusting You who made me holy by Your blood.

Gospel

Matthew 7:15-25

¹⁵“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. ²¹Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only they who do the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not proclaim a message in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ ²⁴Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

P: You have heard the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Christ!

4. I am trusting You to guide me; You alone shall lead,
ev'ry day and hour supplying all my need.
6. I am trusting You, Lord Jesus; never let me fall.
I am trusting You forever and for all.

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 3:12-21 [New Century Version, *alt.*]

¹²I do not mean that I am already as God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal, but I continue trying to reach it and to make it mine. Christ wants me to do that, which is the reason he made me his. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above. ¹⁵All of us who are spiritually mature should think this way too. And if there are things you do not agree with, God will make them clear to you. ¹⁶But let's continue following the truth we already have. ¹⁷All of you, try to follow my example and to copy those who live the way we showed you. ¹⁸Many people live like enemies of the cross of Christ. I have often told you about them, and I feel like crying when I tell you about them now. ¹⁹In the end, they will be destroyed. They do whatever their bodies want, they are proud of their shameful acts, and they think only about earthly things. ²⁰But our homeland is in heaven, and we are waiting for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come again from heaven. ²¹By his power, in order to rule all things, he will change our humble bodies and make them like his own glorious body.

P: You have heard the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

1. Go, My children, with My blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are My own.
 In My love's baptismal river
 I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—you are My own.
2. Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Here you heard My dear Son's story.
 Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
3. Go, My children, fed and nourished, closer to Me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
 Here My Spirit's power filled you.
 Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.
4. I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace.
 I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace.
 I the Lord will be your Father,
 Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you and give you peace.

Graduates' Class Bible Verse

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.

Message**Prayers****Lord's Prayer**

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.

Diplomas

Blessing

P: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The LORD look upon you with His favor and grant you His peace. ✠

C: Amen. May the Lord help us stay connected to Jesus by hearing His Word, today, tomorrow, and always.

Song

Children sing. **His Mercy Is More**

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum;
 thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
 our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
 What Father, so tender, is calling us home!
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

 Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
 Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more! (repeat)

 What riches of kindness He lavished on us!
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.
 We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more,
stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more,
stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more!

Video of Graduates

—music in background

Offering is designated for our sister school in Peridot, AZ, Peridot Evangelical Lutheran School. You may give your gift on the way out of the worship area.

Class Color: blue, pink, white

Class Flowers: white carnation

LES Students' Song – "*His Mercy is More*" from CW21#579. Text, Tune, and Setting by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa © 2015 Messenger Hymns BMI/ Getty Music Publishing BMI/Getty Music Hymns and Songs/Love Your Enemies Publishing, admin. by Music Services. Reprinted under CCLI #11373088.