



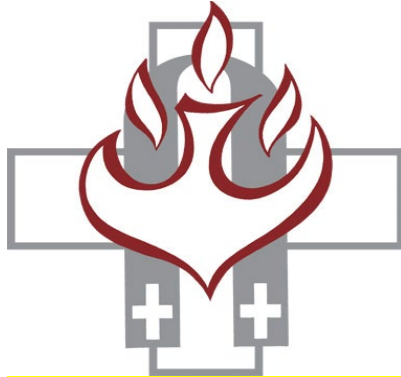
St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

8 a.m. Worship



TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ... go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/>. Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.

The Word That Bears Fruit

Today we hear Jesus' parable of the sower, reminding us that God's Word is generously scattered among all people. Though it is received in different ways, God's Word never returns empty but accomplishes His saving purpose. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit prepare us to receive God's Word with faith and perseverance, removing all that hinders our hearing and nurturing within us a harvest of hope, love, and faithful service through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preparation for Worship and Welcome

Hymn

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

LSB 893

Sing to the Lord of harvest,
Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices
Your alleluias raise.
By Him the rolling seasons
In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest
A joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds rain goodness,
The deserts bloom and spring,
The hills leap up in gladness,
The valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with His fullness,
All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with blessing,
With plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar
The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest,
The souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him
When at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him
Who gave His life for all.

Text: Public domain

Invocation and Exhortation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Confession and Absolution

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 103:15-19; antiphon: Ps. 103:8

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;**

for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

and his righteousness to children's children,

to those who keep his covenant

and remember to do his commandments.

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,

and his kingdom rules over all.

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Gloria Patri



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie



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



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.




O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



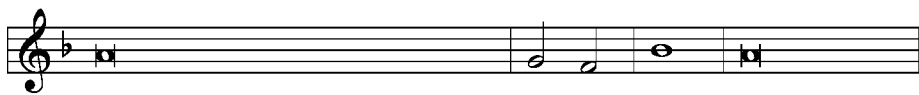
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



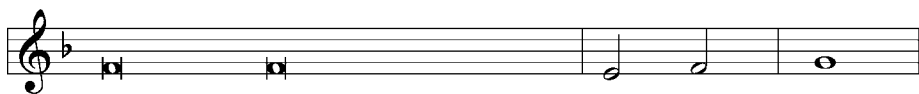
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



■ And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray:

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear...

Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Children's Message

Pastor Kempin

Hymn

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

LSB 577

Almighty God, Your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory

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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offering

Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

Children of the heav'nly Father
 Safely in His bosom gather;
 Nestling bird nor star in heaven
 Such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish;
 In His holy courts they flourish.
 From all evil things He spares them;
 In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
 From the Lord His children sever;
 Unto them His grace He showeth,
 And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh,
 God His children ne'er forsaketh;

His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

The 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.

Salutation and Benedicamus

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

LSB 921

On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow’r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow’rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav’n, our home.
E’en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Text: Public domain

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the God who has planted His life-giving Word within you strengthen your faith, guide your steps, and bring forth in you a rich harvest of love, joy, and faithful service.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

As we conclude, please feel free to stay for a few minutes if you would like to connect or chat with people Jesus has brought together today. Remember that we are all in this together!

Announcements

SJL Men's Softball! Come cheer on the St. John's men's softball team **this Monday at 7:45 at RC 4**. You can find the season schedule along with directions to the fields on the bulletin board and the church website. See you there!

Family Fun Meetups Join us this summer at St. John's playground for Family Fun Meetups! Drop in anytime between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM for a morning of play, connection, and community. This open-house style event invites caregivers and children to enjoy time together, build relationships, and end the morning with a short devotional. We'll meet again on July 15, 29, and August 12.

4th - 6th Grade Game Night Join us this summer for Game Nights in the St. John's gym! These evenings are open to students entering 4th through 6th grade for the 2026–2027 school year. Come enjoy a night of games, fun, fellowship, and pizza. Our next Game Night will take place August 5 from 6:00–7:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Kitchen Cleanup - A huge thank you to Joyce Battjes, Steve and Brigitte Glaser, Marilyn Lefler and Janet Thompson for helping to clean out the kitchen and then doing a complete cleaning during the last couple of weeks. We have everything inside the kitchen washed and ready to be refilled. Ian McDonald has been amazing in helping us get the majority of the equipment out and now putting it back in. We will have a working dishwasher so we can wash dishes and put them away. If you have a few hours to help, we will be in the kitchen on **Tuesday and Wednesday (July 14 & 15)** beginning at 9am. We are planning to move a few things for better space use, so a few extra hands will be much appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Benner (989.600.9463).

Acknowledgments

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School Secretary:

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School Principal:

Brad Massey (ext. 1300)

Business Executive:

Kris Zastrow

Facilities Manager:

Ian McDonald

Dir. of Worship Music:

Karen Kempin (ext. 1205)

Our Mission Statement

"We are here to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 28:18-20) and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This mission begins with our St. John's family and extends to the Midland Community and the world."