



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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 Kingdom Above All

Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is the greatest treasure we could ever receive. In the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price, we are invited to see the incomparable worth of life in Christ and the joy of belonging to His kingdom. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit deepen our faith, turn our hearts toward the treasures that endure, and strengthen us to live each day with confidence in the eternal promises of God.

Preparation for Worship and Welcome

Hymn

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”

LSB 554

O Jesus, King most wonderful!
O Conqueror renowned!
O Source of peace ineffable,
In whom all joys are found:

When once You visit darkened hearts,
Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs,
Then kindles love divine.

O Jesus, light of all below,
The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know,
All that we can desire:

May ev’ry heart confess Your name,
Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame
To seek You more and more!

Oh, may our tongues forever bless,
May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express
The image of Your own!

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. 105:2-6; antiphon: Ps. 105:1

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

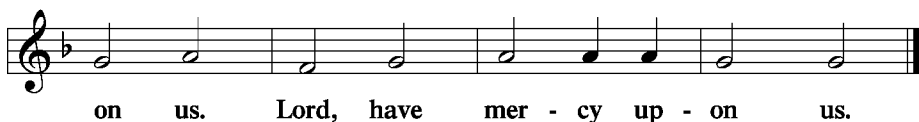
O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

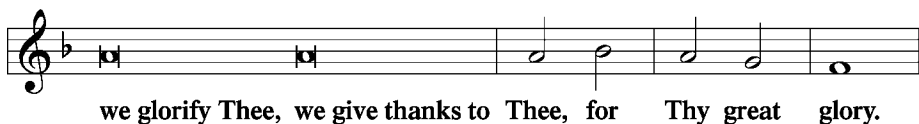
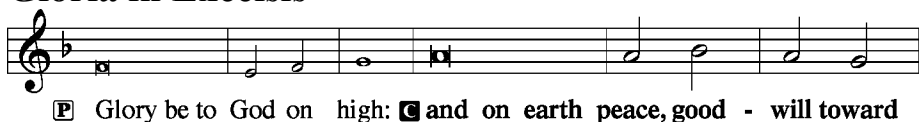
Gloria Patri



Kyrie



Gloria in Excelsis



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:

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



☐ A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 8:28-39

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

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



[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.

So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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.

Hymn

“From God Can Nothing Move Me”

LSB 713

From God can nothing move me;
He will not step aside
But gently will reprove me
And be my constant guide.
He stretches out His hand
In evening and in morning,
My life with grace adorning
Wherever I may stand.

When those whom I regarded
As trustworthy and sure
Have long from me departed,
God’s grace shall still endure.
He rescues me from sin
And breaks the chains that bind me.
I leave death’s fear behind me;
His peace I have within.

The Lord my life arranges;
Who can His work destroy?
In His good time He changes
All sorrow into joy.
So let me then be still:
My body, soul, and spirit
His tender care inherit
According to His will.

Each day at His good pleasure
God’s gracious will is done.
He sent His greatest treasure

In Jesus Christ, His Son.
He ev'ry gift imparts.
The bread of earth and heaven
Are by His kindness given.
Praise Him with thankful hearts!

Praise God with acclamation
And in His gifts rejoice.
Each day finds its vocation
Responding to His voice.
Soon years on earth are past;
But time we spend expressing
The love of God brings blessing
That will forever last!

Yet even though I suffer
The world's unpleasantness,
And though the days grow rougher
And bring me great distress,
That day of bliss divine,
Which knows no end or measure,
And Christ, who is my pleasure,
Forever shall be mine.

D For thus the Father willed it,
Who fashioned us from clay;
And His own Son fulfilled it
And brought eternal day.
The Spirit now has come,
To us true faith has given;
He leads us home to heaven.
O praise the Three in One!

Text (sts. 1-2, 6); © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; (sts. 3-5, 7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: 1367966 no. 1367966

Sermon

Offertory



 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

Vocal Solo

“Father, We Thank Thee”

Andrew Zerull

Hymn

“In Thee Is Gladness”

LSB 818

In Thee is gladness

Amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.

By Thee are given
The gifts of heaven,
Thou the true Redeemer art.

Our souls Thou wakest,
Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trusts Thee surely
Has built securely;

He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining

To see Thy shining,
Dying or living
To Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours,
We fear no powers,
Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses
In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story
Tell of His glory
With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices
In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness,
Triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

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

“I Leave All Things to God’s Direction”

LSB 719

I leave all things to God’s direction;
He loves me both in joy and woe.
His will is good, sure His affection;
His tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is He:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

God knows what must be done to save me;
His love for me will never cease.
Upon His hands He did engrave me
With purest gold of loving grace.
His will supreme must ever be:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

My God desires the soul’s salvation;
My soul He, too, desires to save.
Therefore with Christian resignation
All earthly troubles I will brave.
His will be done eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

My God has all things in His keeping;
He is the ever faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping,
And all His ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

Text: Public domain

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the God of all grace fill your hearts with the joy of His kingdom, strengthen your faith in Christ, and keep you steadfast in His everlasting promises.

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

The Signup Genius list is being updated. Many of the emails used are being blocked. This could be a bad email or the email provider is blocking the invite. You can contact your email service provider to request that emails from info@signupgenius.com are delivered. The other option is to watch for the QR code and/or URL link and click on it. We will begin signups for Harvest Dinner in August. Please contact Cynthia Benner if you have any questions.

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 29 and August 12.

SJL Men's Softball! It's tournament time - but as of printing time, Midland Softball Association had not yet released the schedule. It will be posted outside the office once it has been made available, so we hope it will be there by Saturday and Sunday! If you have questions on when the game will be, please text Robin Steinke at 989.859.7148.

***Pulpit flowers are given in celebration of
Byron and Karen Huber's 30th wedding anniversary!***

***Altar flowers are given in celebration of
Mike and Deb Stark's 28th wedding anniversary!***

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Daniel Kempin (ext. 1201)

Associate Pastor:

Joshua Parsons (ext. 1202)

Dir. of Family Life Ministry:

Anna Kruger (ext. 1204)

Dir. of Young Families Ministry:

Stephanie Davis (ext. 1204)

School Secretary:

Sarah Graham (ext. 1301)

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."