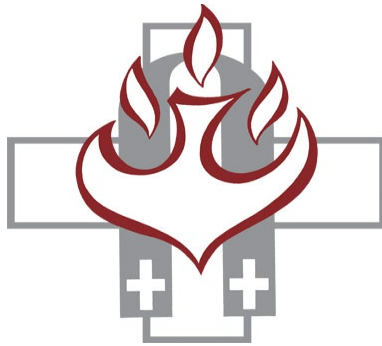




St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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.

Grace That Is More Than Fair

Jesus reminds us that God's grace does not operate according to our human ideas of fairness or deserving. In the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, those who worked only briefly receive the same generous gift as those who labored all day—a picture of the extravagant grace of God. As we gather in worship today, may the Lord free us from comparison and entitlement, open our hearts to rejoice in the blessings given to others, and lead us to rest in the undeserved grace that is ours through Jesus Christ.

Hymn

“Salvation unto Us Has Come” (vv. 1-5)

LSB 555

- 1 Salvation unto us has come
 By God's free grace and favor;
 Good works cannot avert our doom,
 They help and save us never.
 Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
 Who did for all the world atone;
 He is our one Redeemer.
- 2 What God did in His Law demand
 And none to Him could render
 Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
 For man, the vile offender.
 Our flesh has not those pure desires
 The spirit of the Law requires,
 And lost is our condition.
- 3 It was a false, misleading dream
 That God His Law had given
 That sinners could themselves redeem
 And by their works gain heaven.
 The Law is but a mirror bright
 To bring the inbred sin to light
 That lurks within our nature.
- 4 From sin our flesh could not abstain,
 Sin held its sway unceasing;
 The task was useless and in vain,
 Our guilt was e'er increasing.
 None can remove sin's poisoned dart
 Or purify our guileful heart—
 So deep is our corruption.

- 5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled
Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.

Invocation and Exhortation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Confession and Absolution

- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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. 116:12-13, 15-16; antiphon: Ps. 116:17

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.

**What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?**

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.

Precious in the sight of the LORD

is the death of his saints.

O LORD, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and call on the name of the LORD.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear...

for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith

of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his

foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand
of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Message

Stephanie Davis

Hymn

“Salvation unto Us Has Come” (vv. 6-10)

LSB 555

- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
 And brought to us salvation,
 Each Christian therefore may be glad
 And build on this foundation.
 Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
 Your death is now my life indeed,
 For You have paid my ransom.
- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
 Your Word cannot be broken;
 Your call rings out, “Come unto Me!”
 No falsehood have You spoken.
 Baptized into Your precious name,
 My faith cannot be put to shame,
 And I shall never perish.
- 8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin
 And makes us conscience-stricken;
 But then the Gospel enters in
 The sinful soul to quicken.
 Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
 The Law no peace can ever give,
 No comfort and no blessing.
- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
 And rests in Him unceasing;
 And by its fruits true faith is known,
 With love and hope increasing.

For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

- D 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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.

The Words of Institution

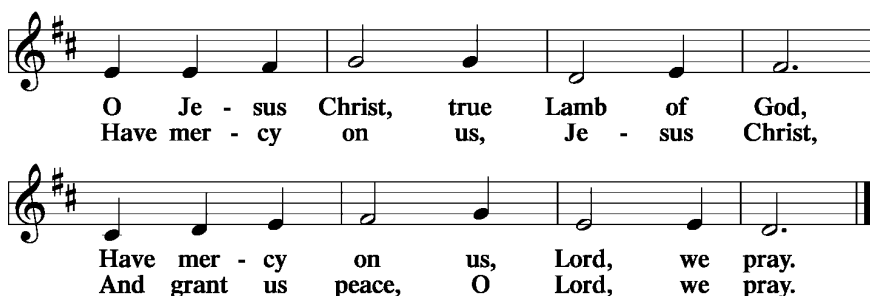
Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;



Distribution Hymns

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB 620

- 1 Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off’ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
“Come and taste the blessèd feast.”
- 2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.
- 3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv’n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursèd tree.
- 4 God descends with heav’nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

LSB 851

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the _unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.
- 3 Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
“You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
“Give as I have giv'n to you”?

- 4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
 With Your lifeblood as the price,
 Never grudging for the lost ones
 That tremendous sacrifice.
 Give us faith to trust You boldly,
 Hope, to stay our souls on You;
 But, oh, best of all Your graces,
 With Your love our love renew.

Nunc Dimittis



C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

- P Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us
 through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You

would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord I Go”

LSB 854

- 1 Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know
In all I think or speak or do.
- 2 The task Thy wisdom has assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works Thy presence find,
And prove Thy good and perfect will.
- 3 Thee may I set at my right hand,
Whose eyes my inmost substance see,
And labor on at Thy command,
And offer all my works to Thee.
- 4 Give me to bear Thine easy yoke,
And ev’ry moment watch and pray,
And still to things eternal look,
And hasten to Thy glorious day.
- 5 For Thee delightfully employ
Whate’er Thy bounteous grace has giv’n,
And run my course with even joy,
And closely walk with Thee to heav’n.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the Lord strengthen you in faith, fill you with gratitude for His grace, and lead you to walk each day in the joy and freedom of His forgiveness.

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!

Harvest Dinner Please make all checks, for donations or tickets, payable to
Women of St John's

Preschool Bible Time: On September 22 at 8:15am, parents/caregivers and preschoolers (ages 5 and under) are invited to join us for a fun Bible time filled with a Bible lesson, games, and activities designed especially for preschoolers and their caregivers. Please register by scanning the QR code below.



SJL Kids (Sunday School) is officially starting! We cannot wait to begin sharing the gospel with our students. This year our curriculum in The Gospel Project. Students will learn how to see Jesus from Genesis to Revelation. We hope to see you there! ALSO, we are looking for individuals who would be interested in helping lead a small group for SJL Kids. If interested, please contact Stephanie.



*Altar flowers are given in loving memory of
Joyce Glawe by her husband, Glen.*