



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

10:45 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.

Seventy Times Seven

Today we are reminded of the boundless mercy we have received from God and the call to extend that same mercy to others. Forgiveness is not always easy, but as people who have been forgiven an immeasurable debt through Christ, we are invited to release resentment and reflect His grace in our relationships. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit soften our hearts, free us from bitterness, and teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven—fully, freely, and from the heart.

♪ “10,000 Reasons”

Words and Music by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

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Chorus: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes. (*Chorus*)

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (*Chorus*)

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore! (*Chorus 2x*)

Ending: Worship Your holy name,
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name,
Worship Your holy name, worship Your holy name.

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C **Merciful Father, we confess that we have not always reflected Your mercy and forgiveness. We have held on to anger and resentment, remembered the wrongs of others, and been slow to offer grace. At times, we have forgotten the great debt of sin from which You have forgiven and redeemed us. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who has paid our debt in full through His death and resurrection. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may receive Your forgiveness with grateful hearts and extend that same mercy to those who have wronged us.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to make full payment for your sins. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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. 143:1-2; antiphon: Ps. 143:9

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

**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.**

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge!

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, 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

Stephanie Davis

♪ “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

Chorus: O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ? (*Chorus*)

Unto the grave, what will we sing? “Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!”
And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
Then sin and death will be destroyed,
And we will feast in endless joy,
When Christ is ours forevermore. (*Chorus 2x*)

(*Last time*): Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death.

Sermon

Offering

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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.
C Amen.

“Great Things”

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Jonas Myrin

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Come let us worship our King. Come let us bow at His feet.
He has done great things.
See what our Savior has done. See how His love overcomes.
He has done great things. He has done great things.

Chorus: O Hero of Heaven, You conquered the grave.
You free every captive and break every chain.
O God, You have done great things.
We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive.
O Jesus our Savior, Your name lifted high.
O God, You have done great things.

You've been faithful through every storm.
You'll be faithful forevermore. You have done great things.
And I know You will do it again for Your promise is Yes and Amen.
You will do great things. God You do great things. (*Chorus*)

Hallelujah, God above it all. Hallelujah, God unshakable.
Hallelujah, You have done great things (REPEAT)
You've done great things (*Chorus*)

Ending: You have done great things
O God You do great things

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the peace of Christ fill your hearts, free you from the burden of guilt and resentment, and strengthen you to forgive others as you have been forgiven.

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

JOIN US TODAY, Sunday, Sept. 13, for the SJL “Ministry Fair” between services from 9:15 to 10:30 am. All members are encouraged to visit centers in the lounge, alcoves, and meeting rooms. Learn about the many opportunities at SJL for **Spiritual Growth, Christian Fellowship, and Service!** Coffee, juice, & pastries will be available in the lounge and the new kitchen floor will be accessible for viewing.

PART IV: PURPOSE *In Ephesians 2:15*, Paul assures us that “we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”. This adds another dimension to our understanding of purpose. We’re not just random products of chance, but masterpieces of divine craftsmanship, created with specific good works in mind. Our purpose isn’t something we need to invent, but something to discover and fulfill.

SJL Athletics The fall athletics season has begun! We have a soccer team for a combined 2nd/3rd grade team. All games will be played at Zion Auburn on Monday and Wednesday evenings. We are also partnering with Zion

Auburn to have an “A” and “B” volleyball team! Our combined team, the Beagles, have games throughout the month of September and beginning of October. Our Home games will be announced via the website, our Facebook page, and entrance monitors. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. If you are interested in being a part of our volunteer team, please email Kate – office@sjlmidland.org

Harvest Dinner Please make all checks, for donations or tickets, payable to

Women of St John's

4th - 6th Grade Glow Party Game Night: Join us on September 13 from 3:00pm - 4:30pm, for 4th - 6th Grade Glow Party Game Night in the St. John's gym! Come wearing neon or white and light up under the backlights. These evenings are open to students in 4th through 6th grade for the 2026–2027 school year. Come enjoy a night of games, fun, and fellowship.

Preschool Bible Time: On September 22 from 8:15am - 9:45 am, Parents/caregivers and preschoolers are invited to join us for this new ministry! Once a month, we'll gather for a fun Bible time filled with a Bible lesson, games, and activities designed especially for preschoolers and their caregivers.



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!



***Altar flowers are given in celebration of
Matt and Martha Currie's 16th Wedding
Anniversary! (9/11/10)***

Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church & School
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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."