



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 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 Cornerstone of Our Faith

Jesus reminds us that He is the cornerstone upon which God's kingdom is built. Though the world may reject Him, Christ remains the sure foundation of our faith, our salvation, and our hope. As we gather in worship today, may God turn our hearts away from self-reliance and toward the One who has chosen and redeemed us. May we build our lives upon Christ, trusting His grace and bearing fruit that reflects His love to the world.

Hymn

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

LSB 909

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever
And our confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call You,
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all Your loving-kindness,
Hear Your people as they pray;
And Your fullest benediction
Shed within these walls today.
- 3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful
All the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from You, forever
With the blessed to retain;
And hereafter in Your glory
Evermore with You to reign.
- D 4 Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one:
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run!

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. 118:22-24; antiphon: Ps. 118:1

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

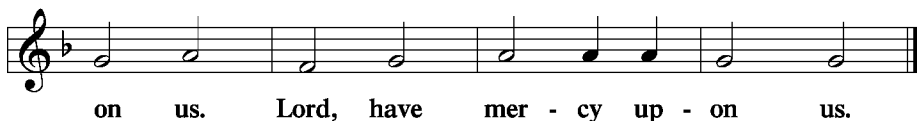
**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

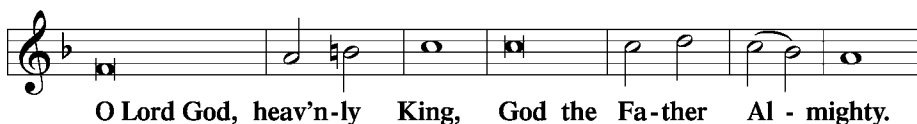
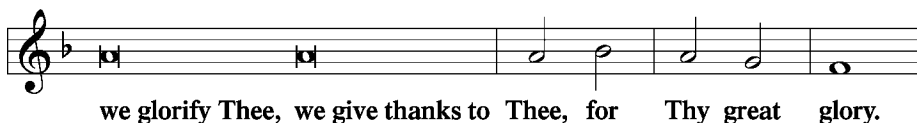
Gloria Patri



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.

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 3:4b-14

though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting

what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country.

When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’”? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, 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 of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Message

Alaine Massey

Hymn

“O Love, How Deep”

LSB 544

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!
- 2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.
- 3 For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew;
For us the tempter overthrew.
- 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus
Still seeking not Himself but us.
- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.
- 6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- D 7 All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

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

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Soloist - Arthur Kopka

Prayer of the Church

Preface

P The Lord be with You.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

The Words of Institution

Pax Domini

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution Hymns

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

LSB 680

- 1 Thine the amen Thine the praise
Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story
Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.
- 2 Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree
All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing
Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.
- 3 Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing
Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.
- 4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise
Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story
Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
- 5 Thine the glory in the night
No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree
Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy
Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

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- 1 If Your Beloved Son, O God,
Had not to earth descended
And in our mortal flesh and blood
Had not sin's power ended,
Then this poor, wretched soul of mine
In hell eternally would pine
Because of my transgression.
- 2 But now I find sweet peace and rest;
Despair no more reigns o'er me.
No more am I by sin oppressed,
For Christ has borne sin for me.
Upon the cross for me He died
That, reconciled, I might abide
With You, my God, forever.
- 3 I trust in Him with all my heart;
Now all my sorrow ceases.
His words abiding peace impart;
His blood from guilt releases.
Free grace through Him I now obtain;
He washes me from ev'ry stain,
And pure I stand before Him.
- 4 All righteousness by works is vain;
The Law brings condemnation.
True righteousness by faith I gain;
Christ's work is my salvation.
His death, that perfect sacrifice,
Has paid the all-sufficient price;
In Him my hope is anchored.
- D 5 My guilt, O Father, You have laid
On Christ, Your Son, my Savior.
Lord Jesus, You my debt have paid
And gained for me God's favor.
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace,
The good in me to You I trace;
In faith and hope preserve me.

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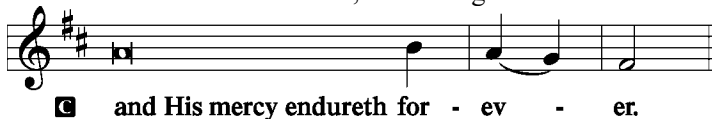
Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

L O Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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 in 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.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.



☐ Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

LSB 739

- 1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,

Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

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Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May Christ, your sure foundation, strengthen you in faith, establish you in His grace, and cause your life to bear abundant fruit in love and 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

Confirmation Prayer Mentor Pizza Party Don't forget! Our pizza party for confirmation students, their parents, and prayer mentors is happening TODAY following the 10:45am worship service in the Lounge.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League will celebrate LWML weekend on October 10 and 11. Please join the Lydia Guild members in wearing purple, the official color of the Lydia Guild, at the worship service you attend that weekend. We will be serving as greeters at all services and furnishing refreshments and children's messages on Sunday. You are invited to visit the LWML table in the mission alcove near the lounge.

Join missionaries Tim & Diane Esala at a special presentation, *Stronghold Cambodia - Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*. They will share how God is transforming lives through Stronghold Cambodia. Stronghold provides far more than education. In a country with limited public resources, Stronghold offers whole-family support, daily meals for students, English and computer training, academic advancement, and most importantly opportunities for students to grow in their faith in Jesus. Tim & Diane will share stories of growth, impact and the bold vision ahead. Come be encouraged by what God is doing and discover how you can pray, support and go.

- Short Presentation

Saturday 10/10 5pm Service @ St. John's Lutheran Midland

- Full Presentation

Sunday 10/11 10:15am @ Zion Lutheran of Auburn

SJL members are welcome to attend Sunday service at Zion 9am prior to the presentation.

Faith & Blue Hope Luncheon First Baptist Church Midland, in coordination with the Midland Police Department, will host a Faith & Blue Hope Luncheon on Sunday, October 11, from 12:30–3:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 915 E. Sugnet Rd., Midland. This luncheon is an opportunity to come together, build stronger community relationships, and make a difference for those in need. Spaghetti and breadsticks will be served, and donations are encouraged. 100% of the funds raised will be donated to The Bridge Food Center. Everyone is welcome to attend!

4th-6th Grade Autumn Party Join us on October 11 from 3:00-4:30pm for a 4th - 6th Autumn Party in the St. John's gym! Come for a time of games and cider and donuts. 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. Scan the QR code below to register.



Young Adult Meet Ups Monthly meet ups for mid-20s to mid-30s young adults continue this fall! Join us at City Forest on Saturday, October 17 for a hike and cider/donut tailgate and at Nord Social on Sunday, November 8 for a Detroit Lions watch party. Fliers are available in the Lounge with full details. Please consider those in your life who might be blessed by these events and share an invite with them!

Fall Fest Mark your calendars, invite your friends and neighbors, and plan to join us for Fall Fest happening 2:00-4:00pm on Sunday, October 25! The event will feature music, trunk-or-treating, games, face painting, concessions, and more. Candy donations are appreciated and can be dropped off to the Church Office anytime. Interested in volunteering? Sign up in the Lounge!

Harvest Dinner Tickets are being sold after each service (Saturday & 10:45 in the church office, 8am in the lounge). Please make checks payable to **Women of St. John's**. Sign up on the tables in the Lounge or on Sign Up Genius: <https://tinyurl.com/5dchbc99>. If you have any questions contact Joyce Battjes (989.430.7166), Cynthia Benner (989.600.9463), or Joy Miller (989.600.5437).

Birthday Card Shower! Bob Hartlein will be celebrating his 90th birthday on October 7th! To help make his milestone birthday extra special, his family is aiming to shower him with as many birthday cards as possible. Please consider sending a card to:
Bob Hartlein, 5600 Waldo Rd. Villa 22, Midland, MI 48642

Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church & School
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Joshua Parsons (ext. 1202)

Dir. of Family Life Ministry:

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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."