



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 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.

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.

♪ “Simple Kingdom”

Words and Music by Cody Carnes, Bryan Torwalt, Katie Rorwalt and Paul Duncan

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Your kingdom is simple, as simple as love.
You welcomed the children, You stopped for the one.
We want to see people the way Jesus does.
Your kingdom is simple, Lord, teach it to us.

Your kingdom is humble, as humble as death.
His King is a savior who gave His last breath,
So may we die daily, our pride laid to rest.
His kingdom is humble and the broken are blessed.

Chorus: Hallelujah, hallowed be Your name,
May we live and breathe Your praise.
Hallelujah, let all creation say,
Oh, the King of heaven reigns.
Your kingdom is coming, Your kingdom is here,
Alive in our waiting, at work in our tears.
So come to us quickly, forever our prayer.
Your kingdom is coming, Lord Jesus come near. (*Chorus 2x*)

Your kingdom is backwards, it flows in reverse.
What You call a treasure, this world calls a curse.
The small become great and the last become first.
Your kingdom is backwards, Lord, teach us to serve.
As it is with Your kingdom, let it be with Your church. (*Chorus 2x*)

Ending: Oh the King of heaven reigns.
Oh the King of heaven reigns.

Baptism

Norman Garland White

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 built our lives upon the sure foundation of Your Word. We have relied on our own wisdom, strength, and accomplishments rather than trusting in Your grace. We have neglected the gifts You have given us and have failed to bear the fruits of faith in our words and actions. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, the true cornerstone of our salvation. Turn our hearts toward You, renew our faith, and make us faithful stewards of all You have entrusted to us.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the sure cornerstone of your salvation. Through His death and resurrection, He has redeemed you and forgiven 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. 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!

Collect of the Day

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.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

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

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

[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.

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 of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Message

Alaine Massey

“No Longer Slaves”

Words and Music by Jonathan David Helsner, Brian Johnson and Joel Case
©2014 Bethel Music Publishing

You unravel me with a melody. You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies till all my fears are gone.

Chorus: I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.
I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.

From my Mother's womb You have chosen me;
Love has called my name.
I've been born again into Your family;
Your blood flows through my veins. (*Chorus 2x*)

Instrumental

Bridge (2x): You split the sea so I could walk right through it.
My fears were drowned in perfect love.
You rescued me so I could stand and sing:
I am a child of God.

I am a child of God. I am a child of God.

Chorus: I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.
I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.

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.**

Communion Preparation

P Let us pray.

C Gracious Father, we come before Your Table trusting not in our own righteousness, but in the saving work of Jesus Christ, our sure and steadfast Cornerstone. Prepare our hearts by Your Holy Spirit to receive His true body and blood with repentance, faith, and thanksgiving. Forgive our sins, strengthen our faith, and renew us in the assurance of Your grace. Nourish us through this holy meal, that we may remain firmly rooted in Christ and bear the fruits of faith in lives of love, mercy, and service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Words of Institution

“I’m Forever Grateful”

Words and Music by Mark Altrogger
© 1985 Forever Grateful Music

You did not wait for me to draw near to You,
But You clothed Yourself with frail humanity.
You did not wait for me to cry out to You,
But You let me hear Your voice calling me.

And I'm forever grateful to You.
I'm forever grateful for the cross.
I'm forever grateful to You,
That You came to seek and save the lost.

I'm forever grateful to You.
I'm forever grateful for the cross.
I'm forever grateful to You,
That You came to seek and save the lost.

You did not wait for me to draw near to You,
But You clothed Yourself with frail humanity.
You did not wait for me to cry out to You,
But You let me hear Your voice calling me.

And I'm forever grateful to You.
I'm forever grateful for the cross.
I'm forever grateful to You,
That You came to seek and save the lost.

I'm forever grateful to You.
I'm forever grateful for the cross.
I'm forever grateful to You,
That You came to seek and save the lost.
That You came to seek and save the lost.

“Give Thanks”

Words and Music by Henry Smith
© 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong.”
Let the poor say, “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong.”
Let the poor say, “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong.”
Let the poor say, “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, give thanks.

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 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