St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 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.

Faithful With What We've Been Given

Jesus' parable of the talents reminds us that God entrusts each of us with gifts, opportunities, and responsibilities to be used in faithfulness to Him. We are not called to compare what we have with what others have, but to faithfully use what God has placed in our hands. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit free us from fear, strengthen us to serve with courage, and help us faithfully invest our time, abilities, and resources in the work of God's kingdom.

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

LSB 685

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

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 been faithful with the gifts and opportunities You have entrusted to us. We have allowed fear, selfishness, and complacency to keep us from serving You and others as we should. We have compared ourselves with others instead of giving thanks for Your unique gifts to us, and we have sometimes buried what You have given us rather than using it for Your glory. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who gave Himself completely for our salvation. Renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and teach us to serve You faithfully with all that You have entrusted to us.**
P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem you from sin and death. Through Christ's perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection, your sins are forgiven. 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. 143:2, 5-6, 10-1 ; antiphon: Ps. 143:1

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.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

I ponder the work of your hands.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!
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.
Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:
Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 1:7-16

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a

hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

♪ "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson and Michael Farren
©2018 CityAlight Music | Farren Love And War Publishing | Integrity's Alleluia! Music

What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,
The future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For he has said that he will bring me home.

And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

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 thank You for every good gift You have entrusted to us, and most of all for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we come to Your Holy Table, prepare our hearts by Your Holy Spirit to receive Christ's true body and blood with repentance, faith, and thanksgiving. Forgive our sins, strengthen us where we are weak, and free us from fear and selfishness. Nourish us with Your grace, that we may faithfully use the gifts You have given us to love and serve You and our neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Words of Institution

♪ "Great Are You Lord"

Words and Music by Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan and David Leonard
©2012 Open Hands music | So Essential Tunes | Integrity's Praise! Music | Little Way Creative

1, 3: You give life You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart that is broken.
And great are You Lord.

2, 4, 5, 7, 8: It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to You only.

6: And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing,
Great are You Lord. (repeat 2x)

♪ "Lord I Need You"

Words and Music by Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher, Christy Nockels and Daniel Carson
© 2011 sixsteps Music | Sweater Weather Music | Thankyou Music | Valley Of Songs Music | worshiptogether.com songs

Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart.

Chorus: Lord, I need You, oh I need You.
Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness.
Oh God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more,
Where grace is found is where You are.
And where You are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.
Where You are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me. *(Chorus)*

So teach my song to rise to You,
When temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.
Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.
Jesus, You're my hope and stay. *(Chorus 2x)*

Chorus: Lord, I need You, oh I need You.
Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness.
Oh God, how I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness; Oh God, how I need You.

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.

♪ "This Is Amazing Grace"

Words and Music by Phil Wickham, Jeremy Riddle and Josh Farro
©2012 Phil Wickham Music | Seems Like Music | Sing My Songs | Bethel Music Publishing | WC Music Corp.

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Chorus: This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love.
That You would take my place,
That You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life,
That I would be set free.
Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me
(All that You've done for me)

(Continued on Pg 10)

Who brings our chaos back into order,
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. *(Chorus)*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!

Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
Worthy, worthy, worthy. ***(Chorus)***

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the Holy Spirit strengthen you to live boldly in the grace of Christ, faithfully use the gifts God has entrusted to you, and serve your neighbor with joy until the day Christ calls you into the fullness of His kingdom.

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

4th-6th Grade Escape Room Join us TODAY from 3:00-4:40 for a 4th - 6th Escape Room in the St. John's gym! Come and try to break the code before time runs out. 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. **Please register by scanning the QR code.**

Toddler Bible Time On November 18 at 9:00am, parents/caregivers of toddlers (5 and under) are invited to join us for a fun Bible time filled with a Bible lesson, games, and activities designed especially for toddlers and their caregivers. This month's story: Jesus walks on water.

St. John's Lutheran School Board has begun the Call process to select a K-8 School Principal beginning July 1, 2027. We sincerely ask for your prayers that the Lord will guide us in this important process. The Board is also asking our congregation for help. If you know of a principal who is an excellent leader and think they would be interested, please send info to Darlene Jones, Board Chair, at darlene141516@gmail.com (1) Their name (2) Where they are serving

Poinsettia Sale The 7/8 grade students at St. John's will once again be selling Poinsettias from Boehler's Greenhouse. Sales will start at the Holiday Bazaar and run the month of November. Please contact a 7/8 grader for details or after church services starting in November.

Altar flowers are given in celebration of Bayley and Kayla Chartier's wedding anniversary!

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.
Songs used with permission CCLI License #1367966