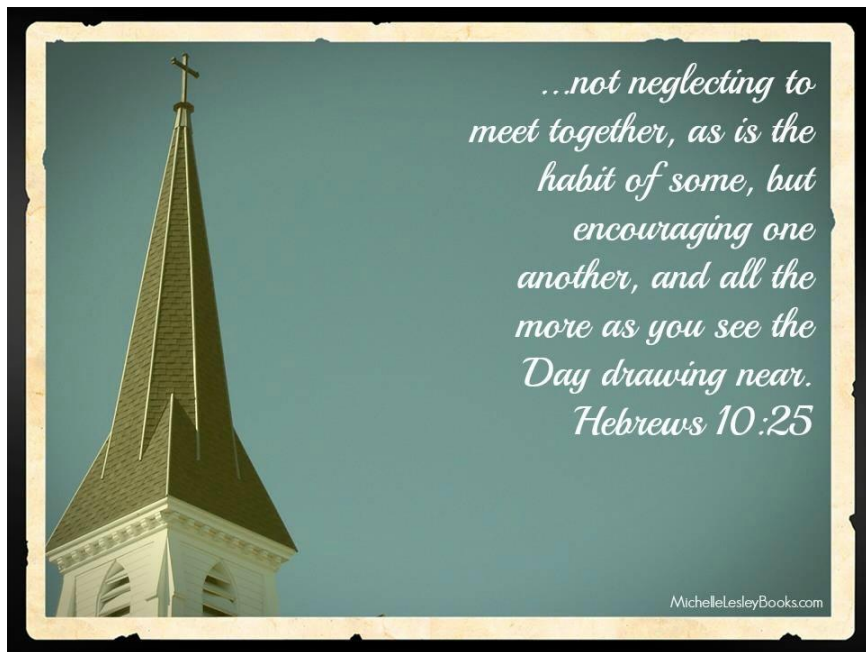




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 13th Sunday After Pentecost

August 23, 2026 10:30 Service of the Word

What happens when the newness of something wears off? What happens when faith becomes stale? What happens when we read the fine print of something and realize we signed up for more than we bargained for? In today's reading from Hebrews we'll see these issues at work and hear an exhortation to renewed energy in faith.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting St. John's we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown in the nursery.

GATHERING

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all who are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn The Church of Christ, in Every Age
(For music see Hymn 729 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**
- 2. Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.**
- 3. Then let the servant church arise,**

a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

4. For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

5. We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000. Copyright 1971 Hope Publishing Company. Music: William Knapp, 1698-1768

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us
faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world trusting that your
kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Hebrews 10:1-18

B: Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered year after year, make perfect those who approach. ²Otherwise, would they not have ceased being offered, since the worshippers, cleansed once for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sin? ³But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin year after year. ⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God”
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’

⁸When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, ‘he sat down at the right hand of God’, ¹³and since then has been waiting ‘until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.’ ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶ ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds’,

¹⁷he also adds,

‘I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.’

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 16 (*read responsively*)

D: Protect me, God,

I turn to you for help.

**C: I profess, “You are my Lord,
my greatest good.”**

D: I once put my faith in false gods,
the idols of the land.

**C: Now I make no offering to them,
nor invoke their names.**

D: Those who chase after them
add grief upon grief.

**C: Lord, you measure out my portion,
the shape of my future;
you mark off the best place for me
to enjoy my inheritance.**

D: I bless God who teaches me,
who schools my heart even at night.

**C: I am sure God is here,
right beside me.
I cannot be shaken.**

D: So my heart rejoices,
my body thrills with life,
my whole being rests secure.

**C: You will not abandon me to Sheol,
nor send your faithful one to death.
You show me the road to life:
boundless joy at your side for ever!**

Second Reading Hebrews 10:19-39

E: Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

For if we willfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a fearful prospect of judgement, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has violated the law of Moses dies without mercy ‘on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ²⁹How much worse punishment do you think will be deserved by those who have spurned the Son of God, profaned the blood of the covenant by which they were sanctified, and outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know the one who said, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay.’ And again, ‘The Lord will judge his people.’ ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

But recall those earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting. ³⁵Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. ³⁶For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. ³⁷For yet ‘in a very little while,

the one who is coming will come and will not delay;

³⁸ but my righteous one will live by faith.

My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back.’

³⁹But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 23:36)

C: Alleluia. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of Man. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Mark 13:1-8

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this

be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day The Church of Christ, in Every Age
(For music see Hymn 729 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**
2. **Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.**
3. **Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**
4. **For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.**
5. **We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.**

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God,

C: ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are lifted in prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn When Peace, Like a River
(for music, turn to Hymn 785 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. When peace, live a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

**It is well with my soul, it is well,
It is well with my soul.**

**2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come.
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain***

**3. He lives--- oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,**

**Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

Refrain

**4. And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

Text: Horatio Spafford, Music: Philip Bliss

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Counters	Burdie Gillern and Babette Huber
Coffee Hour	Sally Mansfield - Cookies

Worship assistants for next Sunday, August 30

Greeters and Ushers	Greg and Mary Zuege
Acolyte	Elijah Young
Counters	Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour	Michele Myers and Anne Stromstad

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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