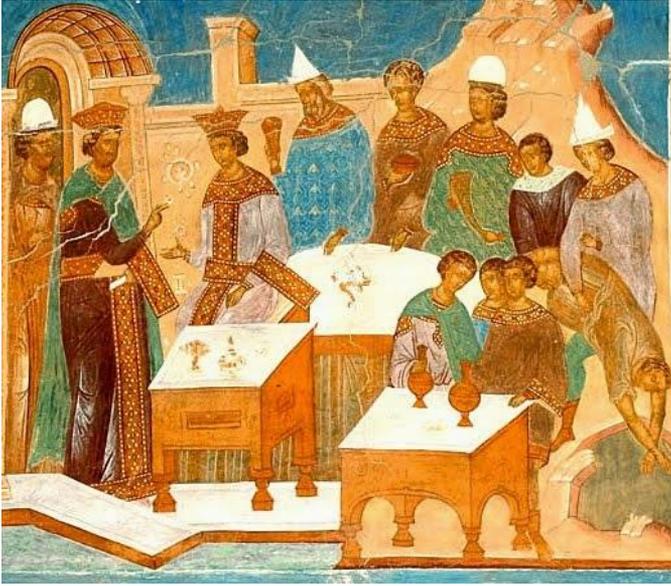




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 12th Sunday After Pentecost

August 31, 2025

10:30 Service of the Word

Advertising and politics are all about getting people to buy into what you are selling. The complications and problems are usually ignored or put into the fine print that no one reads. How about Jesus? He tells his followers clearly and up front the hard truths that following him will require.

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: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn Spirit of God Descend upon My Heart
(For music see Hymn 800 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.**

2. **I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.**

3. **Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!**

4. **Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.**

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860. Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

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...

O God, our eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always in our mind that you are our God and judge. Inspire us for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

B: ⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. ¹⁴I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. ¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 65:1-9 (read responsively)

D: Praise is yours, God in Zion.

Now is the moment to keep our vow,
for you, God, are listening.

**C: All people come to you
bringing their shameful deeds.
You free us from guilt,
from overwhelming sin.**

D: Happy are those you invite
and then welcome to your courts.

**C: Fill us with the plenty of your house,
the holiness of your temple.**

D: You give victory
in answer to prayer.
You inspire awe, God, our savior,
hope of distant lands and waters.

**C: Clothed in power,
you steady the mountains;**

D: you still the roaring seas,
restless waves, raging nations.

**C: People everywhere
stand amazed at what you do,
east and west shout for joy.**

Second Reading Romans 10:11-17

¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” ¹⁶But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Philippians 4:13)

C: Alleluia. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 14:25-35

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus]; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. ³⁴“Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? ³⁵It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; they throw it away. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon Noisy Offering

Hymn Sing

O Jesus I Have Promised 810

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 803

Take My Life, That I May Be 583

Will You Come and Follow Me 798

Lead On, O King Eternal! 805

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

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

From *Collects and Prayers for use in Church*, United Lutheran Publishing House, Philadelphia, 1935

Our heavenly Father, we humbly confess our sins in that we have left undone the things which we should have done, and have done the things we should not have done. Forgive us our sad betrayals, our broken loyalties, our faint attachments to your cause. Make us your true disciples, enabling us to keep the faith, not to falter nor run away. And bring us all at last to the reward in heaven of those who finish bravely their high calling in him who loved us and gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

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 O Master, Let Me Walk with You
(For music turn to Hymn 818 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
teach me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**
2. **Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**
3. **Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.**
4. **In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.**

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt. Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

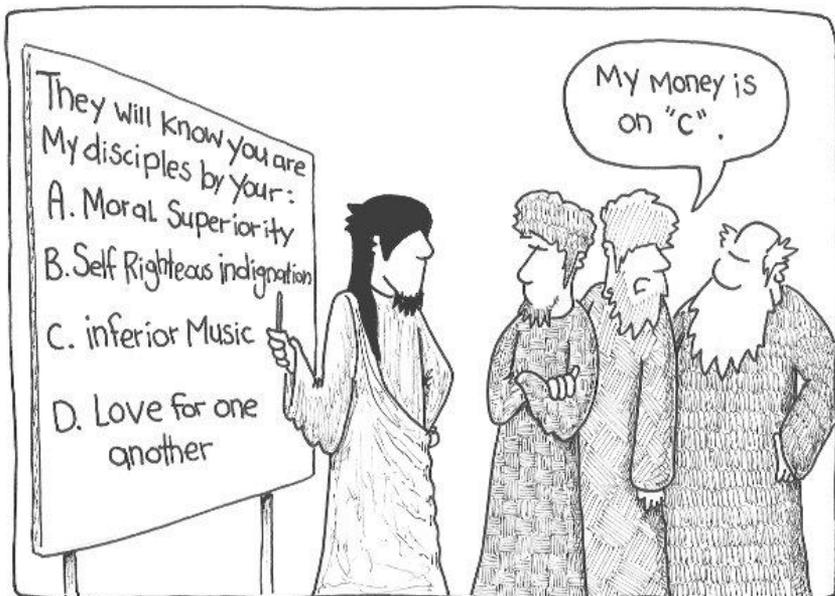
Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



"It'll take my husband a while to get here. He won't ask directions."



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Janice Lockwood
Acolyte Elijah Young
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 7

Greeters and Ushers Rob Stroup
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant Rob Stroup
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour God's Work Our Hands Lunch

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