



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 16th Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2026

10:30 Service of the Word

Today we read Hebrews 13. It concludes the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews is a dense book full of many things we find obscure, but it has been a major influence in our faith. Chapter 13 pulls together many issues we've talked about thus far and sends us into daily life with them.

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

Opening of 2026-27 Sunday School Year

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess
our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn We Are an Offering
For music turn to Hymn 692 in the Red Hymnal

We lift our voices,
we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices,
Lord, use our hands,
Lord use our lives, they are yours:
we are an offering.
All that we have,
all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you,
we give to you.
We lift our voices,
we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering,
we are an offering.

Text and music: Dwight Liles, b. 1937, copyright 1984 Word Music, LLC

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, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Hebrews 13:1-16

B: Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' ⁶So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?'

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. ⁹Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who officiate in the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by his own blood. ¹³Let us then go to him outside the camp and bear the abuse he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 112 (*read together*)

C: Hallelujah!

**Happy are those who love God
and delight in the law.
Their children shall be blest,
strong and upright in the land.**

Their households thrive,

**their integrity stands firm.
A light shines on them in darkness,
a God of mercy and justice.**

**The good lend freely
and deal fairly,
they will never stumble;
their justice shall be remembered.**

**Bad news holds no power,
strong hearts trust God.
Steady and fearless,
they look down on their enemy.**

**They support the poor,
their integrity stands firm,
their strength brings them honor.**

**Hatred devours the wicked.
They grind their teeth;
their hopes turn to ashes.**

Second Reading Hebrews 13:17-25

D: Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you.

Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. ¹⁹I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you very soon.

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. ²³I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been set free; and if he comes in time, he will be with me when I see you. ²⁴Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy send you greetings. ²⁵Grace be with all of you.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Lead On, O King Eternal
(For music see Hymn 805 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Lead on, O King eternal!**
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.
2. **Lead on, O King eternal,**
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.
3. **Lead on, O King eternal;**
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o're us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

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 (Hebrews 13:20-21)

P: Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn All Creatures of our God and King

(The melody for this hymn may be found as Hymn 835 in the Red Hymnal)

1. All creatures of our God and King,

Lift up your voice with us and sing:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam

and silver moon with softer gleam:

Refrain **Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. O rushing wind and breezes soft,

O clouds that ride the winds aloft:

oh, praise him! Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice,

O lights of evening, find a voice. *Refrain*

3. O flowing waters, pure and clear,

make music for your Lord to hear.

Oh, praise him! Alleluia!

O fires so masterful and bright,

providing us with warmth and light, *Refrain*

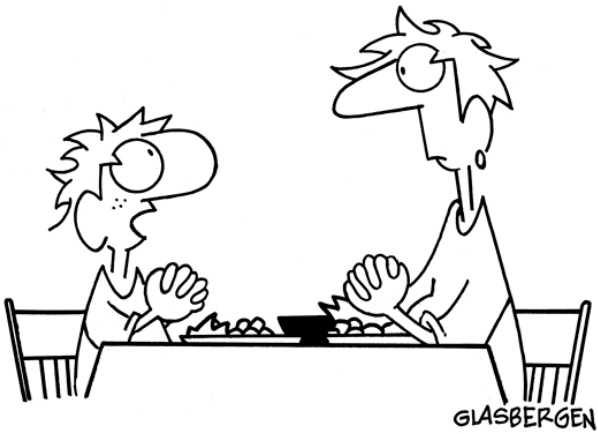
4. Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds rich blessings on our way,
oh, praise him! Alleluia!
The fruits and flow'rs that verdant grow,
let them his praise abundant show. *Refrain*
5. O ev'ryone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
oh, praise him! Alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and lay on him your care. *Refrain*
6. And you, most kind and gentle death,
waiting to hush our final breath,
oh, praise him! Alleluia!
You lead to heav'n the child of God,
where Christ our Lord the way has trod. *Refrain*
7. Let all things their Creator bless
and worship God in humbleness.
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One, *Refrain*

Text (Lutheran Book of Worship, Hymn 527): Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. William H. Draper, 1855-1933, alt. Tune: Geistliche Kirchengaslinge, Koln, 1623

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



**"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables,
why did He make them taste like vegetables?"**

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Counters	Burdie Gillern and Janice Lockwood
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 20

Greeters and Ushers	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Elijah Young
Altar Care	Sue Kaufmann
Communion Assistant	Mary Zuege
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Chicken Barbeque

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications.

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Dongwon Shin, Pianist