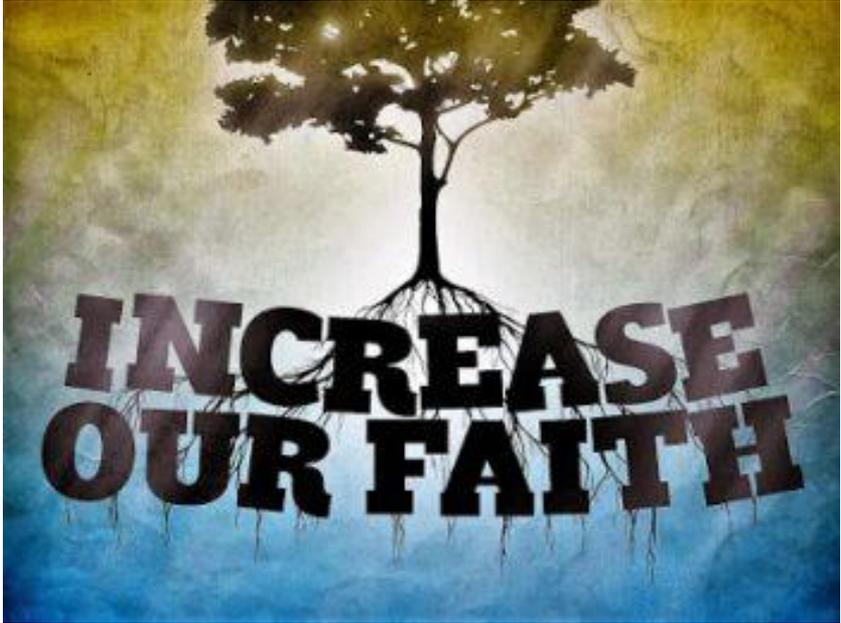




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 16th Sunday After Pentecost

September 28, 2025

10:30 Service of the Word

In today's gospel reading we'll hear the disciples say to Jesus, "Increase our faith!" But is faith like a commodity that can be increased? What is faith? How does it develop? What role does it play in the life of a follower of Christ? We'll explore all of these things as we worship today.

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 Let the Walls Fall Down

(for music, please turn to Hymn 21 in the Songbook binder)

Refrain

**Let the walls fall down,
let the walls fall down,
let the walls fall down;
By his love let the walls fall down.**

1. **One by one, we're drawn together,
one by one, to Jesus' side.
One in Him, we'll live forever,
strangers He has reconciled. Refrain**
2. **In His Love, no walls between us,
in His love, a common ground.
Kneeling at the cross of Jesus
all our pride comes tumbling down. Refrain**

Text and music: Bill Balstone, John Barbour, Anne Barbour; copyright 1993 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; CCLI #1185954

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...

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

B: The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"

and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see wrong-doing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost,

and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,

and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

²Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,

so that a runner may read it.

³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;

it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;

it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them,

but the righteous live by their faith.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 37:1-9 (*Read responsively*)

D: No need to fret over sinners
or to envy wrongdoers.

**C: They wither like grass,
they wilt like young plants.**

D: Trust God and do good,
settle down and be at peace.

**C: Delight in the Lord
who satisfies your heart.**

D: Give your life to the Lord.
Trust God to act on your behalf,

**C: to make your integrity shine forth
and your justice bright as noon.**

D: Be still, wait for the Lord.

C: Waste no energy fretting

about the success of evil schemers.

D: Stop your ranting and raving,
for anger begets nothing by harm.

**C: Wrongdoers will be exiled,
but those who wait for God
will possess the land.**

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:1-14

E: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (1 Peter 1:25)

C: Alleluia. The word of the Lord endures forever. That word is the good news that was announced to you. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 17:1-10

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 17th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone by whom they come! ²It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble. ³Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. ⁴And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive.”

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

(For music turn to Hymn 708 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain **Jesu, Jesu,
 fill us with your love,
 show us how to serve
 the neighbors we have from you.**

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends

**silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***

**2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain***

**3. These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***

**4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain***

Text: Tom Colvin; Music: Ghanaian fold tune, adapt. Tom Colvin, arr. Jane Marshall; Copyright 1982 Hope Publishing Co

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.

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 prayed for.

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 Give Me Jesus
(For music see Hymn 770 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.**

Refrain: **Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest,
give me Jesus.**

2. **Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus.** *Refrain*

3. **Just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
give me Jesus.** *Refrain*

4. **Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus.** *Refrain*

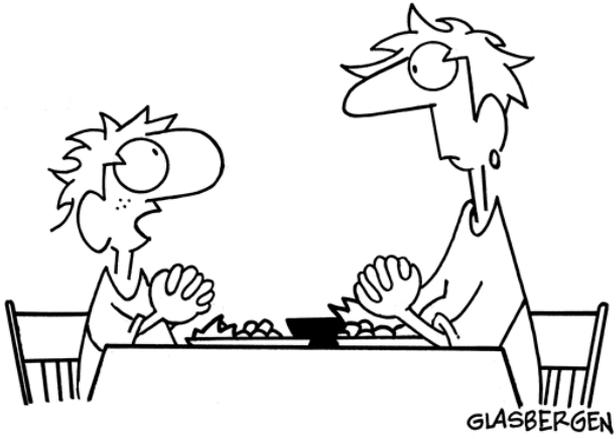
5. **And when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
give me Jesus.** *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual. Music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version, copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 5

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Emma Deibler
Communion Assistant Mary Zuege
Counters Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour

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