



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

10:30 Holy Communion

Having a purpose is what gives life meaning. Today's worship is based on Hebrews 12. It is a tough chapter with challenging teachings. It's about discipline and endurance. Those calls for endurance and discipline from us are aimed at us keeping a sense of purpose, and also having a meaningful life.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us 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 available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn All Are Welcome
(For music turn to Hymn 1 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**All are welcome, friend and stranger,
At the banquet of the Savior.
All are welcome. All are welcome here.**

**1. From the woman who comes crying
Leaving tears at Jesus' feet,
To the man who knows the right way
But cannot see.** *Chorus*

**2. From the ones who feel forgotten,
Those who sense their place is gone,
To the ones who live in hunger,
Here you belong.** *Chorus*

**3. Go into the streets and cities,
To the farms and families,
Tell about the splendid table,
God's mercy** *Chorus*

Text and music: Hans Peterson, Larry Olson; copyright 1999 Dakota Road Music; CCLI #2944348

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.

Hymn of Praise Father, I Adore You
(For music see Hymn 11 in the Songbook Binder)

**1. Father, I adore you,
lay my life before you.
How I love you.**

**2. Jesus, I adore you,
lay my life before you.
How I love you.**

**3. Spirit, I adore you,
lay my life before you.
How I love you.**

Text and music: Terrye Coelho

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Hebrews 12:1-17

B: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children—

‘My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
or lose heart when you are punished by him;
⁶ for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves,
and chastises every child whom he accepts.’

⁷Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. ⁹Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. ¹¹Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. ¹⁶See to it that no one becomes like Esau, an immoral and godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷You know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, even though he sought the blessing* with tears.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 103:1-8 (*read responsively*)

D: My soul, bless the Lord,
bless God's holy name!

**C: My soul, bless the Lord,
hold dear all God's gifts!**

D: Bless God, who forgives our sin
and heals every illness,

**C: who snatches you from death
and enfolds you with tender care,**

D: who fills your life with richness
and gives you an eagle's strength.

**C: The Lord, who works justice
and defends the oppressed,**

D: teaches Moses and Israel
divine ways and deeds.

**C: The Lord is tender and caring,
slow to anger, rich in love.**

Second Reading Hebrews 12:18-29

E: ¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.")

²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Hebrews 12:28)

**C: Alleluia. We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.
Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 16:20-24

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples] Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. ²²So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ²³On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day When Memory Fades

(For music turn to Hymn 792 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **When mem'ry faces, and recognition falters,
when eyes we love grow dim, and minds confused,
speak to our souls of love that never alters;
speak to our hearts, by pain and fear abused.
O God of life and healing peace, empow'r us,
with patient courage, by your grace infused.**
2. **As frailness grows, and youthful strengths diminish,
in weary arms which worked their earnest fill,**

**your aging servants labor now to finish
their earthly tasks, as fits your mercy's will.
We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing,
your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.**

- 3. Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading.
The past and future mingle into one.
All joys remain, unshadowed light pervading.
No valued deed will ever be undone.
Your mind enfolds all finite acts and off'rings.
Held in your heart, our deathless life is won.**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953, copyright 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957, copyright Breitkopf & Hartel

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

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.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

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

Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

During the offertory 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.

† MEAL †

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord
For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of creation:

**C: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
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.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

468 *Around You, O Lord Jesus (Red Hymnal)*

469 *My Your Hand You Feed Your People (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: 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 *On What Has Now Been Sown*

(For music see Hymn 550 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. On what has now been sown
your blessing now bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone
to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
and yours alone shall be the praise!**

2. To you our wants are known,
from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own
and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers
receive and to your word a blessing give.

3. Oh, grant that each of us,
now met before you here,
may meet together thus
when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807 alt. Music: John Darwall, 1731-1789

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Sue Kaufmann
Communion Assistants	Linda Flood
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 13

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

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