



September 20, 2026
17th Sunday after Pentecost

St. John Lutheran Church

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START COUNTDOWN SLIDE AT 9:20

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AT 9:25

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Congregation greets one another in the name of the Lord.)

GATHERING HYMN (TIMELINE)

In Thee is Gladness pg 552 (G)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS LBW 77

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

L: 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.

L: If we say that 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.

[Moment for reflection]

L: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and 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.**

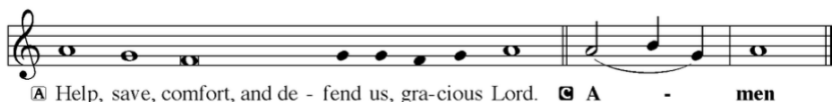
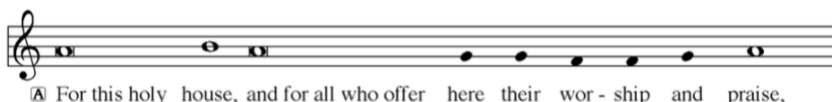
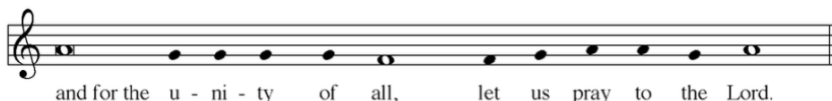
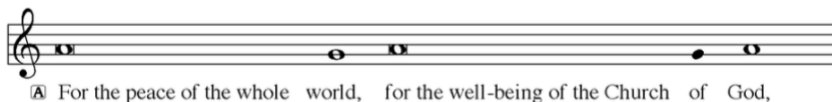
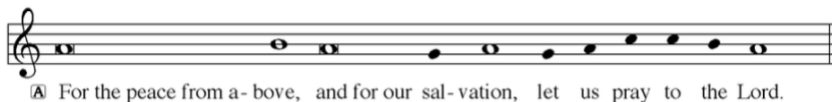
L: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: 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.

KYRIE LBW 78-79 (music cue on each slide)



HYMN OF PRAISE LBW 81

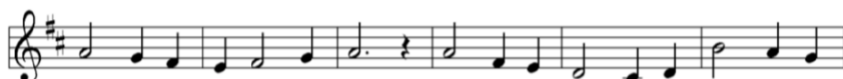
This Is the Feast (TIMELINE)



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

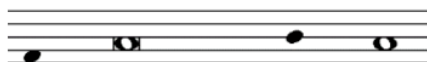


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

GREETING (ACAPPELLA)



The Lord be with you.



And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ALL: Direct our hearts, O Lord, by your merciful reign, because without your help it is impossible to please you. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

L: The First Lesson is from the 55th chapter of Isaiah.

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

7 let the wicked forsake their way

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L: Here ends the reading.

PSALM 27:1-13

L: We will read the Psalm responsively.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;

whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

**2 When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.**

3 Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

**4 One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:**

**to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.**

5 For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

**6 Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

**8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

9 Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

**10 If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.**

11 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

**12 Do not give me up to the will of my
adversaries,**

**for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.**

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

L: The Second Lesson is from the 1st chapter of
Philippians.

12 I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that
what has happened to me has actually resulted in
the progress of the gospel, 13 so that it has become
known throughout the whole imperial guard and to
everyone else that my imprisonment is for
Christ, 14 and most of the brothers and sisters,
having been made confident in the Lord by my
imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater
boldness and without fear. 19 for I know that
through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of
Jesus Christ this will turn out for my salvation. 20 It
is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be
put to shame in any way but that by my speaking
with all boldness Christ will be exalted now as always
in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to
me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to
live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet
I cannot say which I will choose. 23 I am hard
pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and
be with Christ, for that is far better, 24 but to remain
in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am
convinced of this, I know that I will remain and

continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. 27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel 28 and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: Here ends the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION LBW 83 (ACAPPELLA)



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

L: The gospel reading according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.



20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers

for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

"Are you Envious of My Generosity?"

HYMN AFTER SERMON (VIDEO)

Blest Are They

NICENE CREED LBW 84

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became Incarnate from the Virgin Mary
and was made man**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius

Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge

the living and the dead,

and his Kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the

giver of life, who proceeds from the Father

**and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped
and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic
Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and
the life of the world to come Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH LBW 85

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

L: Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our
prayer.**

L: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

RECEPTION OF OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY (VIDEO)

We Give Thee But Thine Own

OFFERING PRAYER LBW 87

C: Gracious God, we are grateful that you welcome all who seek your love. Let these gifts be joined with our prayers, our presence, and our service, that we may live as faithful disciples. Use all that we offer to bring hope and healing to your people. Amen.

DIALOGUE LBW 88 (ACAPPELLA)

Two-part acapella setting in G major. The first part (P) begins with a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, and a whole note B4. The second part (C) begins with a half note A4, followed by a half note G4, and a whole note F#4. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: P The Lord be with you. C And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE LBW 88

L: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: **(TIMELINE)**

Single-part setting in G major. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and a whole note B4. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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 LBW 91

**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

(The wine is red, and the grape juice is white)

COMMUNION

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

O Come To The Altar (VIDEO)

Turn Your Eyes (VIDEO)

Now We Join In Celebration (TIMELINE)

Fade out last hymn after communion is completed

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE LBW 92

(ACAPPELLA)

☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

COMMUNION PRAYER LBW 94

L: We give you thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

BENEDICTION LBW 95

L: 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

CLOSING SONG

Great Are You Lord (VIDEO)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Tanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Sound cue is on the slide

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: Soups, peanut butter, hamburger and tuna "helper meals", tuna, cereal and any other food you would like to share. Toilet paper is always in need. "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:12-13

Sept. 27th - Mission Festival - Caleb Meyer from The Salt Company - College Outreach Ministry from Citylight Church, Kearney. Plan to bring a favorite side dish for a potluck meal after the service!

Please continue to post pictures for Pastor boB's memory posters.

Pastor Bob's Committal will be at St John at 11am on October 3, 2026. The Memorial service will be live streamed on the St John YouTube channel.

Alvin (Irish) Kussman turns 98 years young on September 28. His family would like to bless him with a card shower for his birthday. Cards can reach him at Sun Porch 920 E. Kansas Ave. Smith Center

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Sept. 22 - @ 6:30 PM - Pastor Ann's Bible Study - Book of Romans. Text Pastor Ann if you would like to Zoom In and Join us!

Sept. 23 - @ 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study

@ 9:00-12:00 Pastor Ann's Office Hours
Noon – Bulletin and Messenger Deadline
@ 4:45-6:15 PM Confirmation
@ 7:30 PM Church Council
Sept. 24 - @ 1:30 PM - Bible Study at Sunporch

Sunday, Sept. 27 - Mission Festival
Scriptures for 18th Sunday after Pentecost
1st Reading: Acts 1:1-8
Psalm 25:1-9
2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-18
Gospel: Luke 10:1-3
Sermon Title:

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