



October 11, 2026

20th Sunday after Pentecost

St. John Lutheran Church

Pastor Ann M. Auten

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Athol, Kansas 66392

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START COUNTDOWN SLIDE AT 9:20

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AT 9:25

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

(Congregation greets one another in the name of the Lord then gathers around the baptismal font.)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: We gather around the font remembering that in baptism we have been incorporated into the one body of Christ. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

(As the presider continues to give thanks, water is slowly poured into the baptismal font.)

L: "Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things. Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever." Amen.

L: Let us confess our faith together with the whole church. Do you believe in God the Father?

C: We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: We 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 into 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.

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: We 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.

(Congregation will be asked to dip their hand into the water and make the sign of the cross on their foreheads as they go back to their seats.)

GATHERING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (VIDEO)

CONFESSION

L: Let us pray...

C: Jesus Christ, Lord of the church, send your Holy Spirit! Illumine our hearts and heal our memories. O Holy Spirit: help us to rejoice in the gifts that have come to the Church through the Reformation, prepare us to repent for the dividing walls that we, and our forebears, have built, and equip us for common witness and service in the world. Amen.

L: O God of mercy, we lament that even good intentions of reform and renewal are still blocked by sin. Remove these barriers as we ask for forgiveness.

C: Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy)

L: We bring before you the burdens of the guilt of the past when our forebears did not follow your will that all be one in the truth of the Gospel.

C: Christe eleison (Christ have mercy)

L: We confess our own ways of thinking and acting that perpetuate the divisions of the past. As communities and as individuals, we build many walls around us: mental, spiritual, physical, political walls that result in discrimination and violence. Forgive us, Lord.

C: Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy)

L: Christ is the way, the truth and the life. He is our peace, who breaks down the walls that divide, who gives us, through the Holy Spirit, ever-new beginnings. In Christ, we receive forgiveness and reconciliation, and we are strengthened for a faithful and common witness in our time. Amen

GREETING (ACAPPELLA)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray...

C: Thanks be to you O God for the many guiding theological and spiritual insights that we have all received through the Reformation. Thanks be to you for the good transformations and reforms that were set in motion by the Reformation or by struggling with its challenges. Thanks be to you for the proclamation of the gospel that occurred during the Reformation and that has since that time strengthened countless people to live lives of faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 14:6-7

L: The First Lesson is from the 14th chapter of Revelation.

6 Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation and tribe and language and people. 7 He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

L: Here ends the reading.

PSALM 46

L: We will read the Psalm responsively.

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
should change,**

**though the mountains shake in the heart of
the sea,**

3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Selah

**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the
city of God,**

the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be
moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

**6 The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms
totter;**

he utters his voice; the earth melts.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

**8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the
earth.**

9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

**10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."**

11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 3:19-28

L: The Second Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of Romans.

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins

previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: Here ends the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ACAPELLA)

L: Please rise in honor of the Gospel.



HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.



31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits

sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

"Back to the Basics: Catechism and Core Values"

SLIDES DURING SERMON

PRAISE SONG

Take My Life That I May Be (TIMELINE)

APOSTLE'S CREED

**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 into hell.**

**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 again to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,**

**The communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

RECEPTION OF OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY (VIDEO)

OFFERING PRAYER

C: Father, we come before you with joyful hearts, eager to give back a portion of what you have given us. May our tithes and offerings be a blessing to others as they have been to us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BENEDICTION

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

New Name Written Down In Glory (VIDEO)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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OFFICE HOURS- WEDNESDAYS 9AM-NOON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pantry Items Needed: 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

Women's annual meeting November 1st right after service.

Next Sunday is All Saints Sunday - Weather Permitting our service will end in the cemetery with prayers of remembrance. White carnations will be available to lay on graves of friends and family.

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Oct. 27 - @ 6:30 PM Daniel Bible study in person or online!

Oct. 28 - @ 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study

@ 4:45-6:15 PM Confirmation

@ 7:00-8:00 Youth Meetup Online.

Oct. 29 - @ 1:30 PM - Bible Study at Sunporch

Oct. 31st - @ 5:30-7:30 SCMA is sponsoring a pancake feed and Trunk or Treat at First Christian Church.

Sunday, Nov.

Scriptures for All Saints Sunday

1st Reading: Revelation 7:[2-8] 9-17

Psalms 149

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon Title: Can You Be Happy in an Unhappy World?"