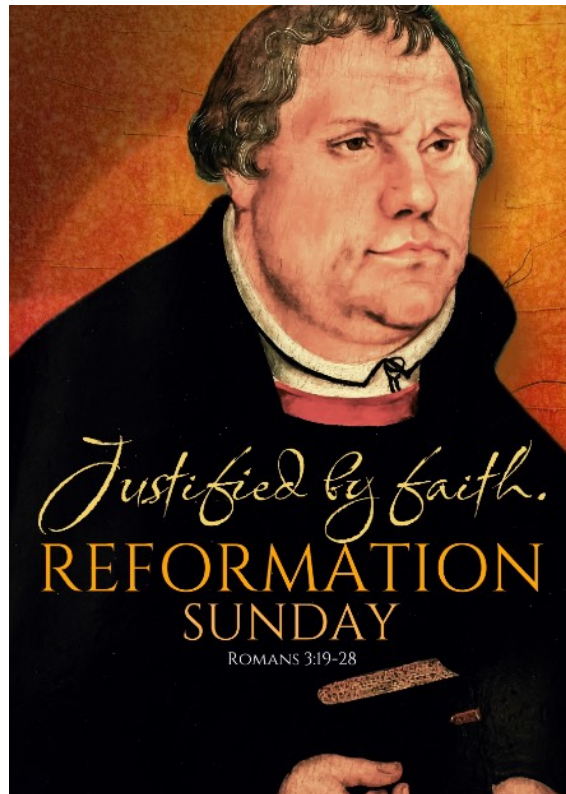


Reformation Sunday (Observed)



October 26, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Churches
stjohnslutheranjc.com

Schubert

4409 Saint Johns Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Babbtown

7075 Highway P
Westphalia, MO 65085

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Groh
groh.stjohns@gmail.com

About This Service: The heart of Christianity is not what we do for God but what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We call our service the "Divine Service" because the Divine One, our Lord Jesus, promises to be present to serve us by His Word and with His body and blood.

Are My Children Welcome? Our Lord says, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). Yes, your little ones are more than welcome! We are delighted to have them with us in the service!

Visitors: Welcome to St. John's! If you have not already done so, please fill out the visitor's book outside of the sanctuary. If don't yet have a church home, or have any questions about what we believe, teach, and confess, feel free to speak with Pastor; he would be happy to talk with you!

Communion: We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us. If you are not a communicant member of the LC-MS, please cross your arms when you come up to the communion rail to receive a blessing.

Ring of the Bell - Prelude - Welcome

Opening Hymn TLH 262 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

**A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil Foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, who is this? Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord, And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.**

**Tho' devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill, They shall not over-pow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none, He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.**

**The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Let these all be gone, They yet have nothing won; The Kingdom ours remaineth. Amen.**

The Order of Worship, Page 15 TLH

Invocation: TLH Page 15 [Responses Sung]

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Confession of Sins TLH Page 16

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution TLH Page 16

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: [Sung] Amen.

Introit (P: Pastor C: Congregation)

Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

P: I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

**C: I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

P: My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.

**C: Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.**

P: The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Gloria Patri: *TLH Page 16 [Sung]*

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Kyrie: *TLH Page 17 [Sung]*

C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH Pages 17-19 [Sung]*

C: Glory be to God on high; And on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect

TLH Page 19

P: The Lord be with you! **C: And with thy spirit!**

(prayed together) – **Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people.
Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend
us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Response: [Sung] Amen.

First Reading – Revelation 14:6-7

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

Epistle Reading – Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Gradual (*Pastor speaks, congregation responds with “Hallelujahs!”*)

P: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God!

Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,
consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,
that you may tell the next generation
that this is God, our God forever and ever.

C: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

As the Gospel reading is announced, the congregation sings...

C: GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD!

Gospel Reading – Matthew 11:12-19

¹²[Jesus said:] “From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

¹⁶“But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates,

¹⁷“‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”

The Gospel ended, the congregation sings...

C: PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST!

The Nicene Creed *TLH Page 22*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn *TLH 263 "O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe"*

**O little flock, fear not the Foe Who madly seeks your overthrow;
Dread not his rage and pow'r. What tho' your courage sometimes faints,
His seeming triumph o'er God's saints Lasts but a little hour.**

**Be of good cheer; your cause belongs To Him who can avenge your wrongs;
Leave it to Him, our Lord. Tho' hidden yet from mortal eyes,
His Gideon shall for you arise, Uphold you and His Word.**

**As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor hell with all their crew
Against us shall prevail. A jest and byword are they grown;
God is with us, we are His own; Our vict'ry cannot fail.**

**Amen, Lord Jesus, grant our prayer; Great Captain, now Thine arm make bare,
Fight for us once again! So shall Thy saints and martyrs raise
A mighty chorus to Thy praise, World without end. Amen. Amen.**

The Sermon

Sermon Text: Matthew 11:12-19

Offertory

TLH Pages 22-23 [Sung]

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayers

TLH Pages 23-24

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Preface: *TLH Page 24 [Responses Sung]*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

The Sanctus: *TLH Page 26 [Sung]*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer: *TLH Page 27*

**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;**

[Sung] **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution: *TLH Page 27*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini: *TLH Page 27*

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

C: *[Sung]* **A - - - - men.**

The Agnus Dei: *TLH Page 28 [Sung]*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A - - - - men.**

The Distribution *(We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us.)*

Distribution Hymns TLH 264 "Preserve Thy Word, O Savior"

**Preserve Thy Word, O Savior, To us this latter day,
And let your kingdom flourish; Enlarge Thy Church, we pray.
Oh, keep our faith from failing; Keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let naught from Thy Word turn us While wand'ring here below here below.**

**Preserve, O Lord, Thine honor, The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten The souls in error's night.
Reveal Thy will, dear Savior, To all who dwell below—
Thou light of all the living—That men Thy name may know.**

**Preserve, O Lord, Thy Zion, Bought dearly with Thy blood;
Protect what Thou hast chosen Against the foes' dread brood.
Be Thou her great defender When dangers gather round;
E'en tho' the earth be crumbling, Safe will Thy Church be found.**

Preserve , O Lord Thy children Thine own blest heritage
Resist, disperse, and scatter Those who against Thee rage
Let Thy commandments guide us, Grant us Thy heav'nly food
Clothe us in Thy rich garments, Bought with Thy precious blood.

Preserve Thy Word and preaching, The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Thy glory, The power that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water, This dew of heavenly grace,
Sustain us while here living Until we see Thy face!

Preserve in wave and tempest Thy storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather, May it endure each shock.
Take Thou the helm, O pilot, And set the course aright;
Thus we shall reach the harbor In Thine eternal light. Amen.

TLH 258 "Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation"

Lord of our life and God of our salvation, Star of our night and Hope of every nation,
Hear and receive Thy Church's supplication, Lord God Almighty.

See round Thine ark the hungry billows curling; See how thy foes their banners are unfurling.
Lord, while their darts envenomed they are hurling, Thou canst preserve us.

Lord, Thou canst help when earthly armor faileth; Lord, Thou canst save when sin assaileth;
Lord, o'er Thy Church nor death nor hell prevaieth; Grant us Thy peace, Lord:

Peace in our hearts, our evil thoughts assuaging;
Peace in Thy Church where brothers are engaging;
Peace when the world its busy war is waging. Calm Thy foes' raging.

Grant us Thy help till backward they are driven; Grant them Thy truth that they may be forgiven;
Grant peace on earth or, after we have striven, Peace in Thy heaven. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

TLH Pages 29-30 [Sung]

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation:
which Thou hast prepared before the Face of all people,
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Thanksgiving: *TLH Page 30*

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: *[Sung]* **And His mercy endureth forever.**

The Thanksgiving Prayer: *TLH Pages 30-31*

P: ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God,
world without end.

C: *[Sung]* **A- - - - men.**

The Benedicamus: TLH Page 31

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *[Sung]* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *[Sung]* **Thanks be to God.**

The Benediction: TLH Page 31

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Closing Hymn TLH 444 "Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You"

**Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you, O Christians, lest the Foe destroy you,
For Satan has designed your fall. Wield God's Word, a weapon glorious!
Against each foe you'll be victorious; Our God will set you o'er them all.
Is Satan strong and fell? Here is Immanuel. Sing hosanna!
The strong ones yield, With Christ our Shield, And we as conquerors hold the field.**

**Cast afar this world's vain pleasures, Aye, boldly fight for heavenly treasures,
And steadfast be in Jesus' might. He will help, whate'er betide you,
And naught will harm with Christ beside you; By faith you'll conquer in the fight.
Then shame, thou weary soul! Look forward to the goal: There joy waits thee.
The race, then, run; The combat done, Thy crown of glory will be won.**

**Wisely fight, for time is fleeting, The hours of grace are fast retreating;
Short, short, is this our earthly way. Then the trump the dead is waking
And sinners all with fear are quaking, With joy the saints will greet that Day.
Bless God, our triumph's sure, Tho' long we did endure Scorn and trial.
Thou, Son of God, To Thine abode Wilt lead the way Thyself hast trod.**

**Jesus, all Thy children cherish And keep them that they never perish
Whom Thou hast purchased with Thy blood. Let new life to us be given
That we may look to Thee in heaven Whenever fearful is our mood.
Thy spirit on us pour That we may love Thee more-- Hearts o'erflowing;
And then will we Be true to Thee In death and life eternally. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

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Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

The Lutheran Hymnal: St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, © 1941.

Hymn #262: Scripture: Psalm.46; Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott; A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; Author: Martin Luther, 1529; Tr.: Composite; Tune: Ein feste Burg; Composer: Martin Luther, 1529.

Hymn #263: Scripture: Luke 12:32; Verzage nicht, du Hauflein klein; O Little Flock, Fear Not The Foe; Author: Johann M. Altenberg, 1632, asc., ab.; Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.; Kommt her mir; German melody, c. 1400.

Hymn #264: Scripture: Jude, 20, 21; Erhalt uns deine Lehre; Preserve Thy Word, O Savior; Author: Andreas Gryphius (1676, ab.); Translator: William J. Schaefer (1938); Tune: Herzlich tut mich; Composer: Hans L. Hassler (1601).

Hymn #258: Text: Psalm 79:9; Christe, du Beistand; Lord of Life And God Of Our Salvation; Author: Matthaus A. Von Lowenstein, 1644; Tr., Philip Pussey, 1840, alt.; Herzliebster; Tune: Jesu; Composer: Johann Cruger, 1640.

Hymn # 444: Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18; Ruestet euch, ihr Christenleute; Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You; Author: Wilhelm E. Arends (1714); Translator: John M. Sloan (1865); Tune: Wachet auf; Composer: Philipp Nicolai (1599).

Bible Readings: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Martin Luther on Facing Persecution

“Therefore we are not concerned with our woes, but with the wretchedness of our persecutors; for we ourselves are well provided for. We are certain that they cannot detract from that; rather, the more they rage against us, the more they destroy themselves and prosper us, as St. Paul states in Philippians 1 [:18]. “Who can harm us since we have a Lord who holds the death and life of all our adversaries in his hand” [Rom. 14:9], and who addresses our heart so comfortingly in John 16 [:33] saying, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” They threaten us with death. If they were as smart as they are stupid, they would threaten us with life. It is a shame and disgrace to try to threaten and terrify Christ and his Christians with death for, after all, they are lords and victors over death.”

- Martin Luther, *A Letter of Consolation to All Who Suffer Persecution*

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Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, Oct. 27th**: Psalms 99-100
- **Tuesday, Oct. 28th**: Psalms 101-102
- **Wednesday, Oct. 29th**: Psalms 103-104
- **Thursday, Oct. 30th**: Psalms 105-106
- **Friday, Oct. 31st**: Psalms 107-108
- **Saturday, Nov. 1st**: Psalms 109-110
- **Sunday, Nov. 2nd**: Psalms 111-112

“Hence it comes that the Psalter is the book of all saints, and everyone, in whatever case he is, finds in it psalms and words that fit his case and suit him exactly, as though they were put thus for his sake only, so that he could not put it better himself, or find better words, or wish for better. And this, too, is good; for when these words please a man and suit him, he becomes sure that he is in the communion of saints, and that it has gone with all the saints as it goes with him, since they all sing one song with him.”

Martin Luther, *Preface to the Psalter*

Continue with us in the corporate reading of the Psalter over these next few months.

Catechism Recitation for the Week:

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.