

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost



November 16, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Churches
stjohnslutheranjc.com

Schubert

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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 95 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

**Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh— Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.**

**Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the Virgin undefiled!
Tho' by all the world disowned, Still to be in heav'n enthroned.**

**From the Father forth He came And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell— High the song of triumph swell!**

**Thou, the Father's only Son, Hast o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be; When shall we its glories see?**

**Brightly doth Thy manger shine, Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light; Ever be our faith thus bright.**

△ **Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally. 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 121:1-2, 5, 7-8; antiphon: Luke 21:33

P: Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.

C: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

P: My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

**C: The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.**

P: The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

**C: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

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) – **O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Response: [Sung] Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Malachi 4:1-6

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Epistle Reading – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

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

P: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

C: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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

C: GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD!

Gospel Reading – Luke 21:5-36

⁵While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ⁷And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. ⁹And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.”

¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹²But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. ¹³This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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 447 “Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might”

**Fight the good fight With all thy might; Christ is thy Strength and Christ thy Right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race Thro' God's good grace; Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the Path and Christ the Prize.**

**Cast care aside; Upon thy Guide Lean, and His mercy will provide;
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is its Life and Christ its Love.**

**Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see That Christ is All in all to thee. Amen.**

The Sermon

Text: Luke 21:5-36

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 467 “Built on the Rock, the Church Doth Stand”

**Built on the Rock the Church doth stand, Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land, Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the soul distrest,
Longing for rest everlasting.**

**Surely in temples made with hands, God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands, All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He whom heav’ns cannot contain Chose to abide on earth with men,
Built in our bodies His temple.**

**We are God’s house of living stones, Buildded for His habitation;
He through baptismal grace us owns Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell, Yet He would deign with us to dwell,
With all His grace and His favor.**

**Now we may gather with our King E’en in the lowliest dwelling;
Praises to Him we there may bring, His wondrous mercy forth telling.
Jesus His grace to us accords; Spirit and life are all His words;
His truth doth hallow the temple.**

**Still we our earthly temples rear That we may herald His praises;
They are the homes where He draws near And little children embraces.
Beautiful things in them are said; God there with us His covenant made,
Making us heirs of His kingdom.**

**Here stands the font before our eyes Telling how God did receive us;
Th’ altar recalls Christ’s sacrifice And what His table doth give us;
Here sounds the Word that doth proclaim Christ yesterday, today, the same,
Yea, and for aye our Redeemer.**

**Grant, then, O God, where’er men roam, That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come Where Christ His message is bringing:
“I know Mine own, Mine own know Me; Ye, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you.” Amen.**

TLH 310 “Thy Table I Approach”

**Thy Table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer;
Oh, let no unrepented sin Prove hurtful to me there!**

**Lo, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Thy hands.**

**Thy body and Thy blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken here with mouth and soul, I blest reality.**

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
 God can accomplish vastly more Than seemeth plain to thee.
 Vouchsafe, O blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined
 May ne'er about this Sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.
 Oh, may I never fail To thank Thee day and night
 For Thy true body and Thy blood, O God, my Peace and Light! 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 52** "Almighty Father, Bless the Word"
 Almighty Father, bless the Word Which thro' Thy grace we now have heard.
 Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!
 We praise Thee for the means of grace As homeward now our steps we trace.
 Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here May all at last in heav'n appear. 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 # 95: Scripture: John 1:14; Veni, Redemptor gentium; Savior of the Nations, Come; St. Ambrose (†397); German version, Martin Luther (1524); Tr. William M. Reynolds (1860, alt.)

Hymn # 447: Scripture: Matthew 26:41; Mach dich, mein Geist, bereit; Fight The Good Fight With All Thy Might; Author: Johann B. Freystein (1697, cento); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1863, alt.); Tune: Straf Mich nicht; Source: “Hundert Arien” Dresden, 1694.

Hymn #467: Text: Ephesians 2:10-22; Kirken den er et gammelt Hus; Author: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1837; Tr.: Carl Doving, 1909, alt.; Tune: Kirken den er et; Composer: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1871.

Hymn #310: Scripture: Mark 14:22-25; Ich trete frisch; Thy Table I Approach; Author: Gerhard W. Molanus, (1673, cento.); Tr., Matthias Loy (1850, alt.); Tune: St. Michael; Source: “Genevan Psalter,” 1551.

Hymn # 52: Scripture: Luke 8:8; Almighty Father, Bless The Word; From the Scandinavian, Author Unknown; Tune: Old Hundreth; Source: “Genevan Psalter,” 1551.

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Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, Nov. 17th:** Psalms 140-141
- **Tuesday, Nov. 18th:** Psalms 142-143
- **Wednesday, Nov. 19th:** Psalms 144-145
- **Thursday, Nov. 20th:** Psalms 146-147
- **Friday, Nov. 21st:** Psalms 148-149
- **Saturday, Nov. 22nd:** Psalm 150
- **Sunday, Nov. 23rd:** Finishing the Psalms

“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*

Catechism Recitation for the Week:

The Close of the Commandments

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Ex. 20: 5–6)

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.