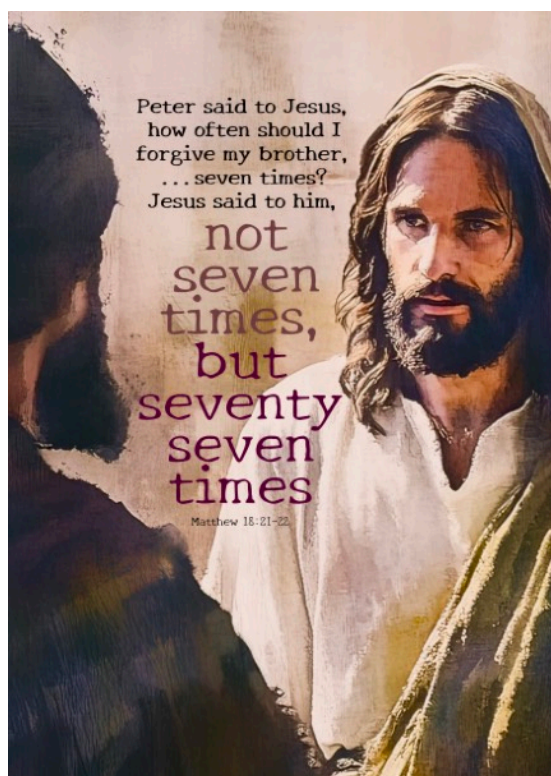


Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 13, 2026
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

Prayer Upon Entering Church: O Lord, God the Father, my Maker, Lord Jesus, my Redeemer, Holy Spirit, my Comforter in life and death, I have entered Your house to hear what You will speak to me. Lord, renew now my heart through Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, that from Your Word I learn to grieve over my sins, trust in Jesus in life and in death, and daily to better myself in holy life and conduct. Hear and answer me through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 you 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 Statement: All visitors are asked to speak with Pastor before the service and prior to coming up for communion. We invite those who are active communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us. If you are not a communicant member of the LC-MS but wish to come receive a blessing, 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 327 "Out of the Deep I Call"

Out of the deep I call To Thee, O Lord, to Thee.
Before Thy throne of grace I fall; Be merciful to me.

Out of the deep I cry, The woeful deep of sin,
Of evil done in days gone by, Of evil now within;

Out of the deep of fear And dread of coming shame;
All night till morning watch is near I plead the precious name.

Lord, there is mercy now, As ever was, with Thee.
Before Thy throne of grace I bow; Be merciful to me. 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 143:1-2; antiphon: v. 9

P: Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!
I have fled to you for refuge!

C: **Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

P: Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.

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 God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Response: [Sung] Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Epistle Reading – Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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

P: Fear the Lord, you his saints,

for those who fear him lack nothing!

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

C: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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

C: GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD!

Gospel Reading – Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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 322 “And Wilt Thou Pardon, Lord”

**And wilt Thou pardon, Lord, A sinner such as I,
Although Thy book his crimes record Of such a crimson dye?
So deep are they engraved, So terrible their fear.
The righteous scarcely shall be saved, And where shall I appear?
O Thou Physician blest, Make clean my guilty soul
And me, by many a sin opprest, Restore and keep me whole.
I know not how to praise Thy mercy and Thy love;
But deign my soul from earth to raise And learn from Thee above. Amen.**

The Sermon

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 521 "What God Ordains is Always Good"

What God ordains is always good; His will abideth holy.

As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.

My God indeed In every need Doth well know how to shield me;

To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good. He never will deceive me;

He leads me in His own right way, And never will He leave me.

I take content What He hath sent; His hand that sends me sadness

Will turn my tears to gladness.

What God ordains is always good. His loving thought attends me;

No poison can be in the cup That my Physician sends me.

My God is true; Each morn anew I'll trust His grace unending,

My life to Him commending.

What God ordains is always good. He is my Friend and Father;

He suffers naught to do me harm, Though many storms may gather.

Now I may know Both joy and woe, Some day I shall see clearly

That He hath loved me dearly.

What God ordains is always good. Though I the cup am drinking

Which savors now of bitterness, I take it without shrinking.

For after grief God grants relief, My heart with comfort filling

And all my sorrow stilling.

What God ordains is always good. This truth remains unshaken.

Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.

I fear no harm, For with His arm He shall embrace and shield me;

So to my God I yield me. Amen.

TLH 324 “Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

**Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve— Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim. Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe— Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e’er foresaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live— Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Come, ye sinners, one and all, Come, accept His invitation;
Come, obey His gracious call, Come and take His free salvation!
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession;
Savior, mercy show to me Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Oh, how blest it is to know; Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter Passion:
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Now my conscience is at peace, From the Law I stand acquitted;
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev’ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve— Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**Jesus sinners doth receive. Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave— Jesus sinners doth receive. 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 15 “From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Thy Word: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

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WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO:
CONFESSING THE NICENE CREED

The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds all have their distinct uses in the life of the Church. The Athanasian Creed is the fullest confession of the Trinity and is confessed each year on Holy Trinity Sunday. The Apostle's Creed is sometimes called the Baptismal Creed or the Catechetical Creed, because it teaches the foundations of who God is: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is the Creed confessed at one's Baptism, and it is the Creed Luther lays out in the Small Catechism.

The Nicene Creed is sometimes called the Eucharistic Creed, because of its longstanding place of being confessed when the Eucharist (i.e., the Lord's Supper) is being celebrated. Since we receive the Lord's body and blood in the Supper each Sunday, we confess the Nicene Creed. This does not devalue the Apostles' Creed. Since the Apostles' Creed is the catechetical, or teaching, Creed, we would do well to confess it throughout the week as a short but wonderful confession of who God is and what He has done for us.

Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

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

Hymn # 327: Scripture: Psalm 130; Out of the Deep I Call; Author: Henry W. Baker (1868); Tune: Southwell; Source: "Psalter";
Composer: William Daman (1579).

Hymn # 322: Scripture: Psalm 143:4; Τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν μου τὴν πληθύν; And Wilt Thou Pardon, Lord; Author: Joseph the Hymnographer
(c. 860, cento); Translator: John M. Neale (1862); Tune: St. Bride; Composer: Samuel Howard (1762).

Hymn # 521: Scripture: Deuteronomy 32:4; Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan; What God Ordains is Always Good; Author: Samuel Rodigast
(1675); Translation: composite; Tune: Was Gott tut; Composer: Severus Gastorius, 1681.

Hymn # 324: Scripture: Luke 15:2; Jesus nimmt die Sünder an; Author: Erdmann Neumeister (1718); Translation: composite; Tune:
Meinen Jesum lass' ich nicht; Source: "Neuverfertigtes Gesangbuch", Darmstadt, 1699.

Hymn # 15: Scripture: Psalm 117; From All That Dwell Below the Skies; Author: Isaac Watts (1719); Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen; Source:
"Geistlich Kirchengesang", Cologne, 1623.

Bible Readings: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a
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Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, September 14th:** Judges 6
- **Tuesday, September 15th:** Judges 7
- **Wednesday, September 16th:** Judges 8
- **Thursday, September 17th:** Judges 9
- **Friday, September 18th:** Judges 10
- **Saturday, September 19th:** Judges 11
- **Sunday, September 20th:** Judges 12

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Catechism Recitation for the Week:

Table of Duties: To Youth

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with
humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.

1 Peter 5:5–6

* * * * *

Prayer for Departing Church: O Lord, I give thanks to You with all my heart. You have
taught me Your will that I might perform it. Help me now, my God, by Your Holy Spirit,
for Jesus Christ's sake, that I may treasure Your Word in a heart unblemished, and
fortified in faith, lead a sanctified life after the manner of our forefathers, and therein
find solace in life and in death. Amen.