

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 14, 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 342 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high, Lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love! Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity.
Love that found me--wondrous thought!--Found me when I sought Him not.**

**Jesus only can impart Balm to heal the smitten heart;
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n;
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.**

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is All in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
Safe with Him from earthly strife, He sustains the hidden life.**

**O my Savior, help afford By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die. 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 Spirit.

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 Spirit.

C: [Sung] Amen.

Introit (P: Pastor C: Congregation)

Psalm 30:2-5; antiphon: vv. 11a, 12b

P: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

**C: O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.**

P: O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;

you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

**C: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.**

P: For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

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) – **Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure.
Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that
leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.**

Response: *[Sung]* Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel 34:11-24

¹¹“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.”

Epistle Reading – 1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 – Luke 15:1-10

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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 172 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (vs. 4-6)*

**My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me,
For it was my transgression Which brought this woe on Thee.
I cast me down before Thee, Wrath were my rightful lot;
Have mercy, I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not!**

**My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine!
Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love,
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.**

**Here I will stand beside Thee, From Thee I will not part;
O Savior, do not chide me! When breaks Thy loving heart,
When soul and body languish In death's cold, cruel grasp,
Then, in Thy deepest anguish, Thee in mine arms I'll clasp.**

The Sermon

Sermon Text: Luke 15:1-10

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 good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You 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, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you 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 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.

TLH 297 “The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace”

The Gospel shows the Father’s grace, Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died That man might thus be justified.

It sets the Lamb before our eyes, Who made the atoning sacrifice,
And call the souls with guilt oppress To come and find eternal rest.

It brings the Savior’s righteousness Our souls to robe in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release And gives the troubled conscience peace.

It is the power of God to save From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith, which firmly clings To all the treasures which it brings.

It bears to all the tidings glad And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The heavy-laden souls it cheers And banishes their guilty fears.

May we in faith its tidings learn Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess And praise the Lord our Righteousness! 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 50 "Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"

**Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us, Oh, refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness!**

**Thanks we give and adoration For Thy Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound;
Ever faithful, Ever faithful To the Truth may we be found!**

**So whene'er the signal's given Us from earth to call away,
Borne on angels' wings to heaven, Glad the summons to obey,
May we ever, May we ever Reign with Christ in endless day! Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

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

Hymn #342: Scripture: Romans 5-8; Chief of Sinners, Though I Be; Author: William McComb (1864); Tune: Gethsemane.
Composer: Richard Redhead (1853).

Hymn #154; Scripture: Luke 23:44-46; Alas And Did My Savior Bleed; Author: Isaac Watts, (1707, ab. and alt); Tune: Martyrdom; Composer: Hugh Wilson († 1824).

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 #297: Scripture: John 3:16; The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace; Author: Matthias Loy (1863); Tune: Herr Jesu Christ, dich; Source: "Cantionale Germanicum", Dresden, 1628.

Hymn # 50: Scripture: Numbers 6:24-26; Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing; Author: John Fawcett (1773); Tune: Regent Square; Composer Henry Smart (1867).

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Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, Sept. 15th:** Psalms 15-16
- **Tuesday, Sept. 16th:** Psalms 17-18
- **Wednesday, Sept. 17th:** Psalms 19-20
- **Thursday, Sept. 18th:** Psalms 21-22
- **Friday, Sept. 19th:** Psalms 23-24
- **Saturday, Sept. 20th:** Psalms 25-26
- **Sunday, Sept. 21st:** Psalms 27-28

"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. Following the plan above, we are able to read through all the Psalms before the start of Advent on November 30th with about a week to spare. If you have not yet started, there is still time!

Catechism Recitation for the Week:

The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.