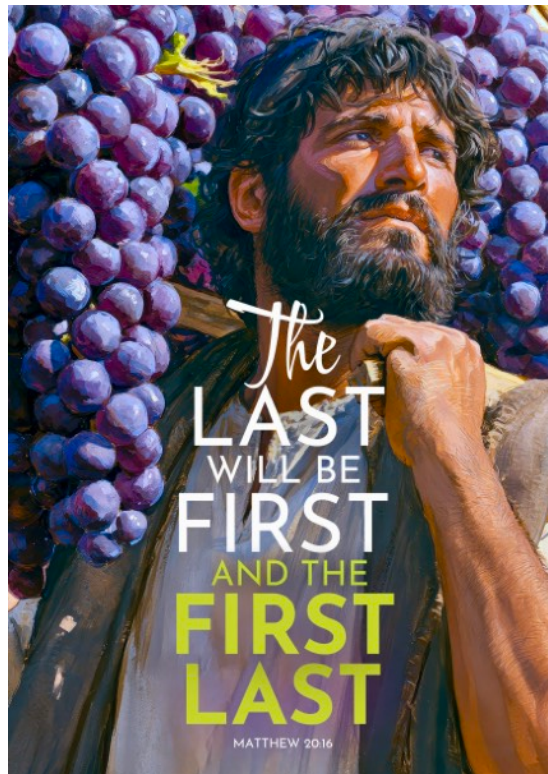


Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 20, 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
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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 377 "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" stz. 1-5

**Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone; He is our one Redeemer.**

**What God did in His Law demand And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires, And lost is our condition.**

**It was a false, misleading dream That God His Law hath given
That sinners could themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright To bring the inbred sin to light That lurks within our nature.**

**From sin our flesh could not abstain, Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain, Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart Or purify our guileful heart – So deep is our corruption.**

**Yet as the law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and hath God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.
He hath for us the law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed Which over us impended.**

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 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17*

P: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the Lord.

**C: What shall I render to the Lord
for all his benefits to me?**

P: I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.

**C: Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints.**

P: O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

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 God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on
anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word;
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.**

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 55:6-9

⁶“Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Epistle Reading – Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

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 377* "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" stz. 6-10 Δ

**Since Christ hath full atonement made And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead Thy death is now my life indeed,
For Thou hast paid my ransom.**

**Let me not doubt, but but trust in Thee Thy Word cannot be broken;
Thy call rings out, "Come unto me!" No falsehood have you spoken.
Baptized into Thy precious name, My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.**

**The law reveals the guilt of sin And makes us conscience-stricken;
The gospel then dost enter in The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; The law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.**

**Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope increasing.
Yet faith alone doth justify, Works serve the neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.**

Δ **All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God that saved us by his grace – All glory to His merit!
O Triune God in heav'n above, Who hast revealed Thy saving love,
Thy blessed name be hallowed. 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 27 “Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul”

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness And without praises die!

'Tis He forgives thy sins; 'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.

He crowns thy life with love When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good; He gives the sufferers rest:
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th'opprest.

His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace By His beloved Son. Amen.

TLH 395 “O God, Thou Faithful God”

O God, Thou faithful God, Thou Fountain ever flowing,
Who good and perfect gifts In mercy art bestowing,
Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within
A conscience free from blame, A soul unhurt by sin!

Grant Thou me strength to do With ready heart and willing
What-e'er Thou shalt command, My calling here fulfilling;
To do it when I ought, With all my might, and bless
The work I thus have wrought, For Thou must give success.

O, let me never speak What bounds of truth exceedeth;
Grant that no idle word From out my mouth proceedeth;
And then, when in my place I must and ought to speak,
My words grant pow'r and grace Lest I offend the weak.

If dangers gather round, Still keep me calm and fearless;
Help me to bear the cross When life is dark and cheerless;
And let me win my foe With words and actions kind.
When counsel I would know, Good counsel let me find.

And let me with all men, As far as in me lieth,
In peace and friendship live. And if Thy gift supplieth
Great wealth and honor fair, Then this refuse me not,
That naught be mingled there Of goods unjustly got.

If Thou a longer life Hast here on earth decreed me;
If Thou through many ills To age at length wilt lead me,
Thy patience on me shed. Avert all sin and shame
And crown my hoary head With honor free from blame.

Let me depart this life Confiding in my Savior;
Do Thou my soul receive That it may live forever;
And let my body have A quiet resting-place
Within a Christian grave; And let it sleep in peace.

And on that solemn Day When all the dead are waking,
Stretch o'er my grave Thy hand, Thyself my slumbers breaking.
Then let me hear Thy voice, Change Thou this earthly frame,
And bid me aye rejoice With those who love Thy name. 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 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.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

Prior to coming to the altar, one may pray:

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

After returning from the altar, one may pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

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WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO: THE PAX DOMINI

Following the Words of our Lord, “Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. . . After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped. . .” the pastor turns and faces the congregation, lifting both the host and the chalice as he proclaims, “The peace of the Lord be with you always.” He does so because it is precisely here in Christ’s body and blood that the peace of Christ is given to us. The same body that was pierced by the Roman spear, and the same blood that flowed out from Christ’s pierced side, is now given to us in the Sacrament to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins.

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Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

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

Hymn #377: Scripture: Romans 3-5; Es is das Heil uns Kommen her; Salvation Unto Us Has Come; Author: Paul Speratus (1523, cento); Translation: Composite; Tune: Es ist das Heil; German Melody (c. 1400).

Hymn # 27: Scripture: Psalm 103:1-7; Oh, Bless The Lord My Soul; Author: Isaac Watts (1719); Tune: St. Thomas; Composer: Aaron Williams (1770).

Hymn #395: Text: 1 Kings 3:5; O Gott, du frommer Gott; ; Author: Johann Heermann, 1630; Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.; O Gott, du frommer Gott; “Newvermehrtes Gesangbuch”; Meiningen, 1693.

Hymn # 322: Scripture: Psalm 143:4; Τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν 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).

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

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Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, September 21st**: Judges 13
- **Tuesday, September 22nd**: Judges 14
- **Wednesday, September 23rd**: Judges 15
- **Thursday, September 24th**: Judges 16
- **Friday, September 25th**: Judges 17
- **Saturday, September 26th**: Judges 18
- **Sunday, September 27th**: Judges 19

Catechism Recitation for the Week:

Table of Duties: To Widows

The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 1 Tim. 5:5–6

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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.