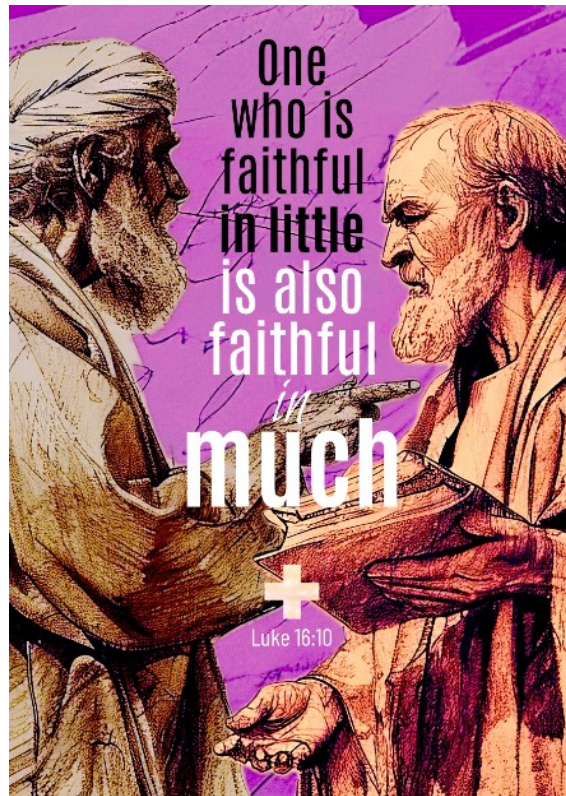


Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 21, 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
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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 288 “Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”

**Lord, help us ever to retain The Catechism's doctrine plain
As Luther taught the Word of Truth In simple style to tender youth.**

**Help us Thy holy Law to learn, To mourn our sin, and from it turn
In faith to Thee and to Thy Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One.**

**Hear us, dear Father, when we pray For needed help from day to day
That as Thy children we may live, Whom Thou in Baptism didst receive.**

**Lord, when we fall and sin doth stain, Absolve and lift us up again;
And through the Sacrament increase Our faith till we depart in peace. 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 119:137-140, 142; antiphon: v. 144

P: Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

C: Righteous are you, O Lord, and right are your just decrees.

P: You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

C: My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.

P: Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.

C: Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

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, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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 – Amos 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,

⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath,

that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,

⁶that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

⁷The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
"Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

Epistle Reading – 1 Timothy 2:1-15

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

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 16:1-15

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’ ³And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

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 294 "O Word of God Incarnate"*

**O Word of God Incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky—
We praise Thee for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our foot-steps, Shines on from age to age.**

**The Church from her dear Master Received the gift divine,
And still that light she lifteth O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the golden casket Where gems of truth are stored;
It is the heav'n-drawn picture Of Christ, the living Word.**

**It floateth like a banner Before God's host unfurled;
It shineth like a beacon Above the darkling world;
It is the chart and compass That o'er life's surging sea,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, Still guides, O Christ, to Thee.**

**Oh, make Thy Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations Thy true light as of old!
Oh, teach Thy wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see Thee face to face! Amen.**

The Sermon

Sermon Text: Luke 16:1-15

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 315 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table” stz. 1-8

I come, O Savior, to Thy Table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole.

REFRAIN: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood be for my soul the highest good!

Oh, grant that I in manner worthy May now approach Thy heav’nly Board
And, as I lowly bow before Thee, Look only unto Thee, O Lord! **REFRAIN.**

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful Shepherd art: **REFRAIN.**

Oh, let me loathe all sin forever As death and poison to my soul
That I through willful sinning never May see Thy Judgment take its toll! **REFRAIN.**

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. **REFRAIN.**

Weary am I and heaven laden, With sin my soul is sore opprest;
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now Thy guest. **REFRAIN**

Thou here wilt find a heart most lowly That humbly falls before Thy feet,
That duly weeps o’er sin, yet solely Thy merit pleads, as it is meet. **REFRAIN.**

By faith I call Thy holy Table The testament of Thy deep love;
For, lo, thereby I now am able To see how love Thy heart doth move. **REFRAIN. Amen.**

TLH 307 “Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord”

Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord And drink the holy blood for you out-poured.
Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the Victim and Himself the Priest.

He that His saints in this world rules and shields To all believers life eternal yields,
With heav’nly bread makes them that hunger whole, Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.

Approach ye, then, with faithful hearts sincere And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Judge of all, our only Savior Thou, In this Thy feast of love be with us now. **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 442 "Lord of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us"

Lord of Glory, who hast bought us With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th'unthankful and the evil With Thine own unsparing hand;

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor hast Thou given To our humblest charity
In Thine own mysterious sentence, "Ye have done it unto Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, Thou dost deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Thy poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Yes, the sorrow and the sufferings Which on every hand we see
Channels are for gifts and offerings Due by solemn right to Thee;
Right of which we may not rob Thee, Debt we may not choose but pay,
Lest that face of love and pity Turn from us another day.

Lord of Glory, who hast bought us With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust Thee boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on Thee;
But, oh! best of all Thy graces, Give us Thine own charity. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

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

Hymn # 288: Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17; Her Gott, erhalt uns für und für; Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain; Author: Ludwig Helmbold (1594); Translator: Matthias Loy (1880, alt.); Tune: Herr Jesu Christ, mein's; Source: "As Hymnodus Sacer", Leipzig, 1625.

Hymn #294: Text: Psalm 119:105; Author: William W. How, 1867; Tune: Munich; Source: "Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch", Meiningen, 1693.

Hymn #315: Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:28; German: Ich komm'zu deinem, Abendmahle; I Come, O Savior, To Thy Table; Author: Friedrich C. Heyder (1710, cento); Translator: Composite; Tune: Ich Sterbe Taglich; Source: Ms., Municipal Library Leipzig, 1756; Translator: © 1941, Concordia Publishing House.

Hymn #307: Scripture: Psalm 34:8; Sancti, venite, corpus Christi sumite; Latin Author Unknown, (circa 680), Translator: John M. Neale (1851, cento, alt.); Tune: Old 124th; Source: "Genevan Psalter," 1551.

Hymn # 442: Scripture: Acts 20:35; Lord Of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us; Author: Eliza S. Alderson (1864); Tune: Hyfrydol; Composer: Rowland H. Prichard († 1887, alt.).

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Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, Sept. 22nd:** Psalms 29-30
- **Tuesday, Sept. 23rd:** Psalms 31-32
- **Wednesday, Sept. 24th:** Psalms 33-34
- **Thursday, Sept. 25th:** Psalms 35-36
- **Friday, Sept. 26th:** Psalms 37-38
- **Saturday, Sept. 27th:** Psalms 39-40
- **Sunday, Sept. 28st:** Psalms 41-42

"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 Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.