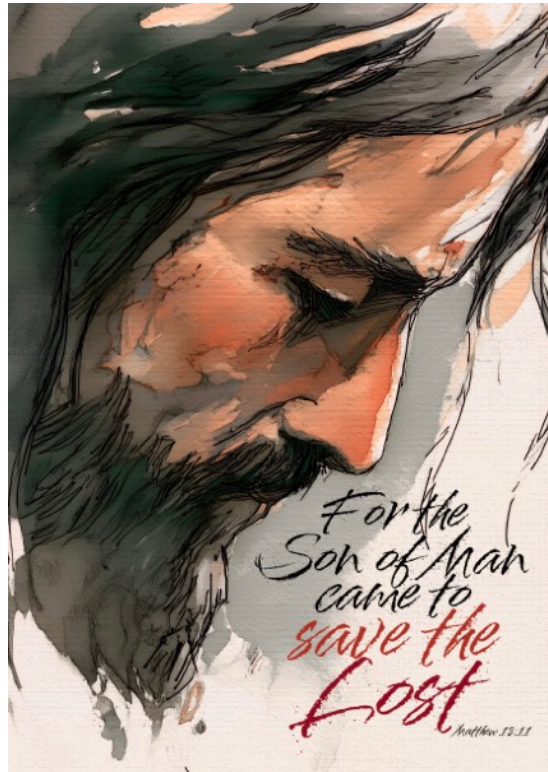


Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 6, 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 416 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands--'Tis a delightful road--

Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God. 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 92:1-4; antiphon: v. 5

P: How great are your works, O Lord!

Your thoughts are very deep!

C: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

P: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,

C: to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

P: For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

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, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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 – Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

Epistle Reading – Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

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 628 "Shepherd of Tender Youth"

**Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth Through devious ways;
Christ, our triumphant King, We come Thy name to sing
And here our children bring To join Thy praise.**

**Thou art our holy Lord, O all-subduing Word, Healer of strife.
Thou didst Thyself abase That from sin's deep disgrace
Thou mightest save our race, And give us life.**

**Thou art the great High Priest; Thou hast prepared the feast Of holy love:
And in our mortal pain, None call on Thee in vain;
Help Thou dost not disdain, Help from above.**

**Ever be Thou our Guide, Our Shepherd and our Pride, Our Staff and Song;
Jesus, Thou Christ of God, By Thine enduring Word,
Lead us where Thou hast trod, Make our faith strong.**

**So now, and till we die, Sound we Thy praises high, And joyful sing;
Infants and the glad throng, Who to Thy church belong,
Unite to swell the song To Christ, our King. 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 306 "Lord Jesus Christ"

**Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast prepared A feast for our salvation,
It is Thy body and Thy blood; And at Thy invitation
As weary souls, with sin opprest, We come to Thee for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.**

**Although Thou didst to heav'n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Thy presence they behold Thy glory, all excelling,
And though Thy people shall not see Thy glory and Thy majesty
Till dawns the Judgment morning.**

**Yet, Savior, Thou art not confined To any habitation,
But Thou art present ev'rywhere And with Thy congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.**

**We eat this bread and drink this cup, Thy precious Word believing
That Thy true body and Thy blood Our lips are here receiving.
This word remains forever true, And there is naught Thou canst not do;
For Thou, Lord, art almighty.**

**Though reason cannot understand Yet faith this truth embraces;
Thy body, Lord, is everywhere At once in many places.
How this can be I leave to Thee, Thy Word alone sufficeth me,
I trust its truth unfailing.**

Lord, I believe what Thou hast said, Help me when doubts assail me;
Remember that I am but dust And let my faith not fail me.
Thy Supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.

Grant that we worthily receive Thy Supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving o'er our sins, May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Thy grace And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.

For Thy consoling Supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in every place The world against it rages.
Grant that this Sacrament may be A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying. Amen.

TLH 34 "My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker"

My soul, now bless thy Maker! Let all within me bless His name
Who maketh thee partaker Of mercies more than thou dar'st claim.
Forget Him not whose meekness Still bears with all thy sin,
Who healeth all thy weakness, Renews thy life within;
Whose grace and care are endless And saved thee through the past;
Who leaves no sufferer friendless, But rights the wronged at last.

He shows to man His treasure Of judgment, truth, and righteousness,
His love beyond all measure, His yearning pity o'er distress,
Nor treats us as we merit, But lays His anger by,
The humble, contrite spirit Finds His compassion nigh;
And high as heaven above us, As break from close of day,
So far, since He doth love us, He puts our sins away.

For as a tender father Hath pity on his children here,
He in His arms will gather All who are His in childlike fear.
He knows how frail our powers Who but from dust are made;
We flourish like the flowers, And even so we fade;
The wind but o'er them passes, And all their bloom is o'er,-
We wither like the grasses, Our place knows us no more.

God's grace alone endureth, And children's children yet shall prove
How He with strength assureth The hearts of all that seek His love.
In heaven is fixed His dwelling, His rule is over all;
Angels, in might excelling, Bright hosts, before Him fall.
Praise Him, who ever reigneth, All ye who hear His Word,
Nor our poor hymns disdaineth- My soul, oh, bless the Lord! 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 295 "The Law of God is Good and Wise"

**The Law of God is good and wise And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness, And dooms to death when we transgress.**

**Its light of holiness imparts The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate And seek deliv'rance ere too late.**

**To those who help in Christ have found And wound in works of love abound
It shows what deeds are His delight And should be done as good and right.**

**When men the offered help disdain And willfully in sin remain,
Its terror in their ear resounds And keeps their wickedness in bounds.**

**The Law is good; but since the Fall Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die And has no pow'r to justify.**

**To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone. Amen.**

Silent Prayer - Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

"By the wedding ring of faith Christ shares in the sins, death, and pains of hell which are his bride's. . . Who then can fully appreciate what this royal marriage means? Who can understand the riches of the glory of this grace? Here this rich and divine bridegroom Christ marries the poor, wicked harlot, redeems her from all her evil, and adorns her with all his goodness. Her sins cannot now destroy her, since they are laid upon Christ and swallowed up by him. And she has that righteousness in Christ, her husband, of which she may boast as of her own and which she can confidently display alongside her sins in the face of death and hell and say, 'If I have sinned, yet my Christ, in whom I believe, has not sinned, and all his is mine and all mine is his,' as the bride in the Song of Solomon [2:16] says, 'My beloved is mine and I am his.'"

- Martin Luther

Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

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

Hymn # 416: Scripture: Psalm 119:5; Psalm 119:33; Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways; Author: Isaac Watts (1719, cento, alt.);
Tune: Evan; Composer: William H. Havergal (1846).

Hymn # 628: Scripture: Isaiah 40:11; Στόμον πώλων ἄβαων; Shepherd Of The Tender Youth; Author: Clement of Alexandria (c. 200, asc.); Translator: Henry W. Dexter (1846); Tune: Olivet; Composer: Lowell Mason (1832).

Hymn #306: Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:26; Herr Jesu Christ du hast bereit't; Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Hast Prepared; Author: Samuel Kinner (1638); Translator: Emmanuel Cronenwett (1880, ad.); Tune: Herr Jesu Christ du hast bereit't; Composer: Peter Sohren (1668)

Hymn # 34: Scripture: Psalm 103; Nun lob, mein' Seel', den Herre; My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker; Author: Johann Gramann (1525);
Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1863, alt.); Tune: Nun lob, mein' Seel', Source: "Concentus Novi", Augsburg, 1540.

Hymn #295: Text: Psalm 19:8; Author: Matthias Loy (1863); Tune: Erhalt uns, Herr; Source: "Geistliche Lieder", Wittenberg, 1543.

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Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, September 7th:** Jonah 3
- **Tuesday, September 8th:** Jonah 4
- **Wednesday, September 9th:** Judges 1
- **Thursday, September 10th:** Judges 2
- **Friday, September 11th:** Judges 3
- **Saturday, September 12th:** Judges 4
- **Sunday, September 13th:** Judges 5

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Catechism Recitation for the Week:

Table of Duties: To Employers and Supervisors

Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him. Eph. 6:9

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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.