

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 7, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Churches  
stjohnslutheranjc.com

**Schubert**

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**Babbtown**

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**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.

**Christian Education Sunday:** Today is Christian Education Sunday, and today we especially give thanks for the teaching that goes on here at St. John's. Our teaching staff will be installed during the service this morning.

**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 406 "Lord, as Thou Wilt, Deal Thou with Me"**

**Lord, as Thou wilt, deal Thou with me; No other wish I cherish.  
In life and death I cling to Thee; Oh, do not let me perish!  
Let not Thy grace from me depart And grant an ever patient heart  
To bear what Thou dost send me.**

**Grant honor, truth, and purity, And love Thy Word to ponder;  
From all false doctrine keep me free. Bestow, both here and yonder,  
What serves my everlasting bliss; Preserve me from unrighteousness  
Throughout my earthly journey.**

**When, at Thy summons, I must leave This vale of sin and sadness,  
Give me Thy grace, Lord, not to grieve, But to depart with gladness.  
To Thee my spirit I commend; O Lord, grant me a blessed end  
Through Jesus Christ, my Savior. 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 119:28–32; antiphon: v. 27*

P: Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

**C: My soul melts away for sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word!**

P: Put false ways far from me  
and graciously teach me your law!

**C: I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your just decrees before me.**

P: I cling to your testimonies, O Lord;  
let me not be put to shame!

**C: I will run in the way of your commandments  
when you enlarge my heart!**

**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)* – **Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ.  
United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His  
redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same 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 – Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

## **Schubert – Children’s Song: “Thy Word” Children’s Message**

## **Epistle Reading – Philemon 1-21**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup>and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, <sup>6</sup>and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup>For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup>yet for love’s sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup>I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. <sup>15</sup>For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

## **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 14:25-35**

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

<sup>34</sup>"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

*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 496 "Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying"**

**Hark! the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?"  
Loud and long the Master calleth, Rich reward He offers thee;  
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I; send me, send me"?**

**If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the Judgment's dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.**

**If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion's wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off'ring life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God demands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands.**

Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"  
While the souls of men are dying, And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly; Let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!" Amen.

### **The Sermon**

Sermon Text: Luke 14:25-35

### **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.**

### **Installation of Sunday School Teachers**

**TLH 644** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**△ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Prayers**

*TLH Pages 23-24*

## **ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Preface:** *TLH Page 24 [Responses Sung]*

<b>P: The Lord be with you.</b>	<b>C: And with thy spirit.</b>
<b>P: Lift up your hearts.</b>	<b>C: We lift them up unto the Lord.</b>
<b>P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.</b>	<b>C: It is meet and right so to do.</b>

**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 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 oppress, 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. Amen.

**TLH 310 “Thy Table I Approach”**

**Thy Table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer;  
Oh, let no unrepented sin Prove hurtful to me there!**

**Lo, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Thy hands.**

**Thy body and Thy blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken here with mouth and soul, I blest reality.**

**Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than seemeth plain to thee.**

**Vouchsafe, O blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May ne’er about this Sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.**

**Oh, may I never fail To thank Thee day and night  
For Thy true body and Thy blood, O God, my Peace and Light! 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: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift; and we beseech You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith towards You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 658 "Onward, Christian Soldiers"**

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master, Leads against the Foe;  
Forward into battle See His banners go!  
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God;  
Brothers, we are treading Where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided, All one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity.  
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never 'Gainst that church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail.  
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Onward, then, ye faithful, Join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices In the triumph song:  
Glory, laud, and honor Unto Christ, the King;  
This thro' countless ages Men and angels sing.  
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus Going on before. Amen.

**Silent Prayer**

**Announcements**

***Have A Blessed Week!***

*1. Let children hear the mighty deeds  
Which God performed of old,  
Which in our younger days we saw,  
And which our fathers told.*

*4. Oh, teach them with all diligence  
The truths of god's own Word,  
To place in him their confidence,  
To fear and trust their Lord.*

*TLH 629 "Let Children Hear  
the Mighty Deeds"*

**Cover pic artwork:** Allan Forbis

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

Hymn # 406: Text: Psalm 40:8; Herr, wie du willst, so schick's mit mir; Lord, as Thou wilt, Deal Thou with Me; Author:Kasparr Bienemann (1574); Translator: Emanuel Cronenwett (1880, alt.); Tune: Herr, wie du willst; Source: "Deutsch Kirchenamt", Strassburg, 1525.

Hymn # 496: Scripture: Isaiah 6:8; Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying; Author: Stanzas 1, 2, 4 – Daniel March (1868); Stanza 3 – Author unknown; Tune: Galilean; Composer: Joseph Barnby (1883).

Hymn #644: Psalm 150:1; Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow' Author: Thomas Ken (1695); Tune: Old Hundreth; Source: Geneven Psalter," 1551.

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 # 310: Scripture: Mark 14:22-25; Ich trete frisch; Thy Table I Approach; Author: Gerhard W. Molanus, (1673, cento.); Tr., Matthias Loy (1850, alt.); Tune: St. Michael; Source: "Genevan Psalter," 1551.

Hymn # 658: Scripture: Matthew 16:18; Onward Christian Soldiers; Author: Sabine Baring-Gould (1864); Tune: St. Gertrude; Composer: Arthur S. Sullivan (1871).

**"Thy Word":** Words and Music by Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith. Based on Psalm 119:105.

**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, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>:** Psalms 1-2
- **Tuesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>:** Psalms 3-4
- **Wednesday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>:** Psalms 5-6
- **Thursday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>:** Psalms 7-8
- **Friday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>:** Psalms 9-10
- **Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>:** Psalms 11-12
- **Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>:** Psalms 13-14

*"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*

*Beginning tomorrow, there are 83 days until the start of Advent. Join 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 30<sup>th</sup> with about a week to spare.*

**Catechism Recitation for the Week:**

**The First Commandment**

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.