

Sunday, September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



"And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Matthew 18:34-35

Prelude

Matthias Raffa, Organist

HYMN: “Come Down, O Love Divine”

LSB 501

Stand

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 151

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

LSB 151

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant

of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Remain Standing

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Introit

Psalm 143:1-2; antiphon: v.9



P Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*
I have fled to you for | refuge!

C Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

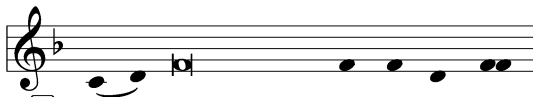
P Enter not into judgment with your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

ALL Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*
I have fled to you for | refuge!

Kyrie

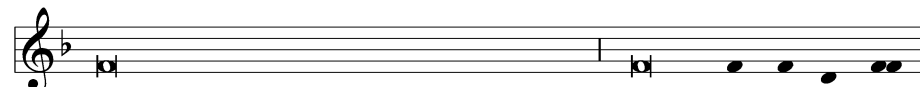
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

The first staff of music is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a sequence of six notes: a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, a dotted quarter note G, an eighth note F, a quarter note E, and a quarter note D. A slur is placed under the first four notes (B-flat, A, G, F). The staff ends with a double bar line.

C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.



- P** Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
- C** Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

Epistle

Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

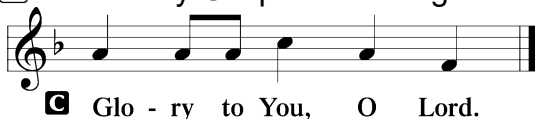


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly

Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN: "I Leave All Things To God's Direction"

LSB 719

Sermon

Rev. Richard Gaub

Stand

Following the Sermon, the Pastor Prays:

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Nicene Creed

C 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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in 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.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

P ... one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Our Offerings to God

The Offering is a part of our Worship life together as God's children gathered here at St. John. This historical practice is more than "helping pay the electric bill". Having received His absolution and cleansing of our sin, the Offering, then, is a part of our worship posture (Psalm 51). As we move from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament we bring before God, in a communal fashion (Acts 2:42-47), the toils of our hands, the bread of the earth (Gen. 3:19) and give it to God. This, He transforms and provides back to us the Bread of Life in the Sacrament of the Altar! Together, placing our offerings in the plate, the Lord sees and treats all giving hearts the same, whether they can provide much or little (Luke 21:1-4). All of this, then, furthers God's mission and ministry in our flock and into the lives of our community members. May the Lord bless your lives as you entrust your possessions to Him (Phil. 4:10-20)!

(Please place your offering envelope in the collection plates at the entrance to the Sanctuary, thank you!)

Offertory

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Our Communion Statement

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with Pastor or see an usher to assist in speaking with Pastor or an Elder. All are welcome to come forward for a blessing from Pastor by placing your arms in an "X" across your chest.

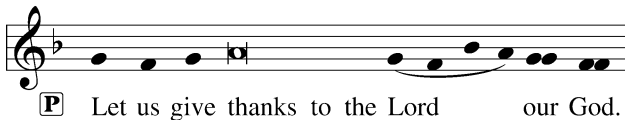
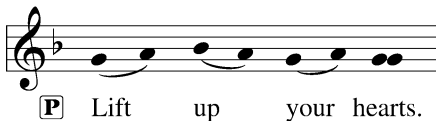
Our Communion Statement (continued)

If you intend to receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please place the empty cup in the gold bowls following your table's dismissal. If you intend to receive from the common cup, please raise your hand forward, signaling your preference, and then feel free to guide the chalice to your lips by holding on to the bottom of the chalice. For further study, *see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.*

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Preface

LSB 160

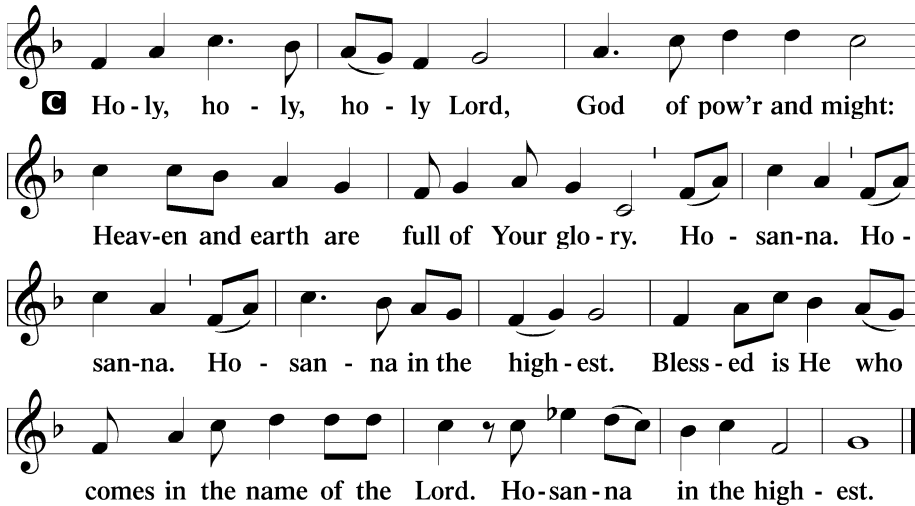


Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

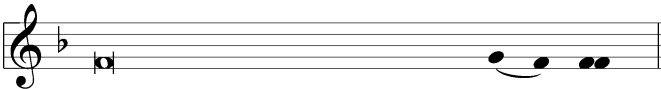
The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

Pax Domini

LSB 163



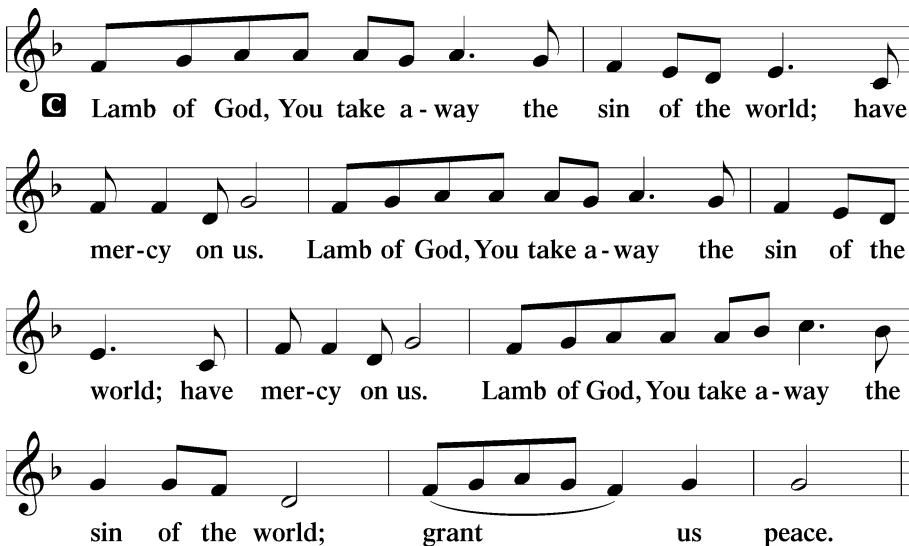
P The peace of the Lord be with you al - - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



Sit

Distribution

HYMN: "To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All"

LSB 613

HYMN: "Forgive Us, Lord, For Shallow Thankfulness"

LSB 788

HYMN: "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death"

LSB 697

HYMN: "In The Very Midst of Life"

LSB 755

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 164





Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

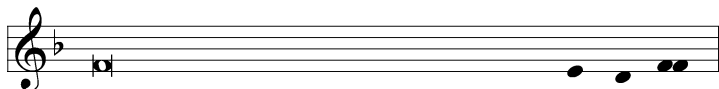
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

HYMN: "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

LSB 816



Hymnals Still Available!

Concordia Publishing House had a recent sale on the *Lutheran Service Book: Pew Edition (Hymnal)*.

St. John has purchased a limited number of hymnals to help make them available for use in our members' homes. The hymnals were purchased at a cost of \$20 each and are being offered for a freewill donation. **There are still 10 left!**

If your household would like to receive a copy, please contact the church office to reserve one.

Lutheran Service Book: Pew Edition

is a hymnal with a rich compilation of Christ-centered services, psalms, hymns, reading schedules and prayers to nourish the faithful week after week for generations to come.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Serving Us this Week

Elders (8am): Ben Ross

(1030am): Steve Jagow

Finance Team: Parchim & Hempelman

Altar Committee: Sandi Tretow & Bonnie Brookins

Usher Team (#5): Rick Nelson, Captain

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun (9/13/26)

† Sixteenth S. after Pentecost

- **Divine Service 8am and 1030am– with**
Rev. Richard Gaub
- Bible Study and Sunday School Hour
915am-1015am
- Board of Education meets after 2nd service

Tues (9/15/26)

- Women's Bible Study – 1pm *Church Library*

Wed (9/16/26)

- Youth Catechesis Night 530pm-630pm
5th and 6th Graders

Sun (9/20/26)

† Seventeenth S. after Pentecost

- **Divine Service 8am and 1030am– with**
Rev. Richard Gaub
- Bible Study and Sunday School Hour
915am-1015am

Please Remember in Your Prayers:

- ✠ Rose Bottesi
- ✠ Jane Kultgen (Eric Kultgen's mother)
- ✠ Judy Fischer
- ✠ Keith Johnson
- ✠ Susan Kloppmann (Alisyn Bell's aunt)
- ✠ Randy Fairbert (Betty Fairbert's son)
- ✠ Lou Anne (Grace Bonjean's friend)
- ✠ Nico Lawver (Lisa McGuire's cousin's son)
- ✠ Pam Anschuetz (Renae Roos's friend)
- ✠ Amelia (Mass family friend)
- ✠ Joni Heilgendorf (Rose Bottesi's sister-in-law)
- ✠ John Diehl (Mike Czysh's uncle)
- ✠ Alvin Czysh (Mike Czysh's father)
- ✠ Mike Czysh
- ✠ Jeff Ader
- ✠ Ron Parchim
- ✠ James Blecha (Mike Berry's Grandson)
- ✠ Ellen Heilgendorf (cousin of Rose Bottesi)
- ✠ Tom Ravn
- ✠ LisaBeth Dohrwardt

UPCOMING Blood Drive



On Sunday, **November 8th**, the St. John Lutheran supported event through Versiti for “Virginia’s Renewed Strength Blood drive” will take place in the Church Fellowship Hall from 1030am-3pm. To schedule your time, please visit: **versiti.org**. Once on the website select **Donate Blood**, type in the **zip code of 53021**, **the date of the event** and schedule your time. We are grateful to Virginia Rathke’s desire to give back to the community and celebrate the donors who help her in her time of need. She gives thanks to God for His blessings during her medical challenges and shares these Bible verses from the book of Isaiah:

*He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint. **Isaiah 40:29-31***

Fall Schedule Start times!

Using God’s Talents (UGT) – Wednesday, September 16th – 11am-3pm in the Church Fellowship Hall and adjoining rooms.

Men’s Bible Study – Thursday, September 17 – 615am at Fredonia Family Restaurant. Contact Steve Jagow with questions at 262.339.6891.





ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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