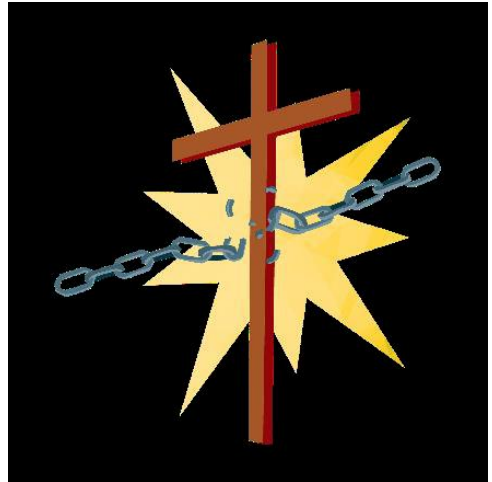


Divine Service
for the
**Thirteenth Sunday
After
Pentecost**

10:00 a.m.

September 7, A.D. 2025



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Senior Pastor
125 Glenwood Drive, Westfield, MA 01085
Cell phone # 870-814-4828

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Cell phone # 260-445-5320

Website: stjohnswestfield.org E-mail: info@stjohnswestfield.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

**WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD and SAVIOR,
JESUS CHRIST!**

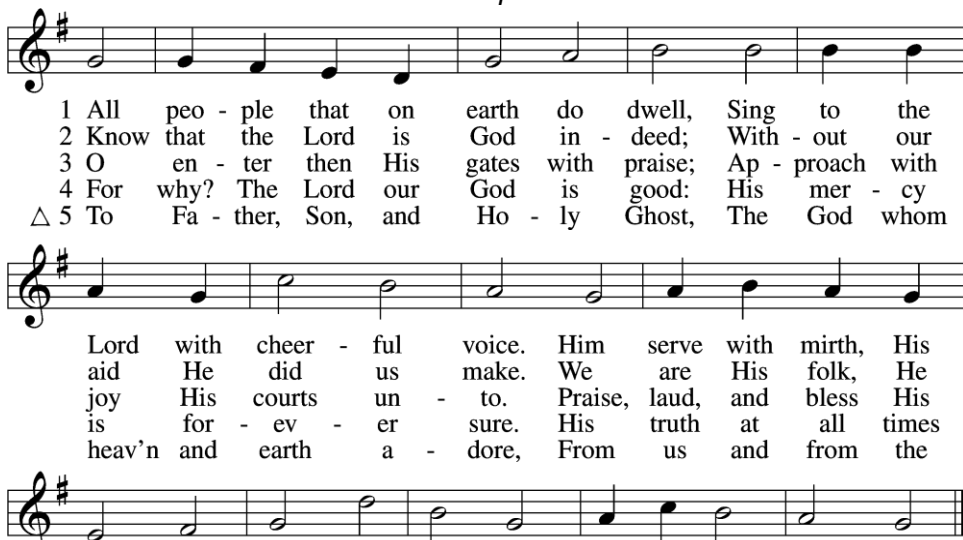
If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

REGARDING THE RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with one of our pastors, if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

AS WE GATHER: The book is only twenty-one verse, but the impact of today's Epistle is powerful! In his shortest New Testament letter, Paul appeals to a slave owner named Philemon on behalf of a repentant runaway named Onesimus. Within this bold appeal is the powerful display of Christ's work of redemption for all who seek the renewed favor of their master. The death and resurrection of Jesus make an appeal on our behalf before the Father. For we, like Onesimus, have run away from Him. And we, like Onesimus, are offered restoration, full and free, when we come into Jesus' presence in humble repentance and faith. Let's do that together this day! As repentant runaways let's gather to receive the restoration our Master alone can give!

✠ OPENING HYMN NO. **791**: *"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"*



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
 3 O en - ter then His gates with praise; Ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy
 △ 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom

Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His
 aid He did us make. We are His folk, He
 joy His courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless His
 is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times
 heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the

praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
 name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
 an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

✠ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

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: Amen.

† KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

† GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. Merciful Father, You gave up Your Son to the sacrifice of the cross in order to restore those who have run away from Your presence. Grant us to faithfully follow Him who offered His life for us all. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A - men.

(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 30:15–20 (*The Lord is your life!*)

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. 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. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, 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. 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, 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.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ GRADUAL: (*Sung by All*)

**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.**

✠ EPISTLE: Philemon 1–21 (*Paul appeals on behalf of a repentant runaway.*)

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, 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. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. 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, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant[c] but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with

my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)



† HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-35 *(We count the cost of being Jesus' disciples.)*

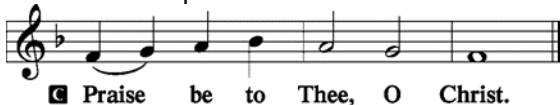
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.



Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "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. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 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? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 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? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? 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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



† STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

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.

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.

† CHILDREN'S SERMON

† SERMON HYMN NO. **707**: *"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"*



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat-utes still!
 2 Or - der my foot-steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin-cere;
 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict-er watch to keep;
 4 Make me to walk in Thy com-mands—'Tis a de-light-ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
 Let sin have no do-min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear.
 And should I e'er for-get Thy way, Re-store Thy wan-d'ring sheep.
 Nor let my head or heart or hands Of-fend a-gainst my God.

(Be Seated)

† SERMON: *"Chosen People Chose Life"* Deuteronomy 30:15-20

(Please Stand)

† DEDICATION of OFFERINGS

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. You have granted us great privilege and mercy, O Lord, that we should be called Your people. Work in us by Your Spirit, that we may love what is good and obey Your command cheerfully. Keep us from an easy faith that costs us nothing, and preserve us so that we may be the salt of the earth and light in the darkness of a world that does not know You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, You are our life and length of days, and You set before us Your gift of life in Your Holy Word for us and for our children. Preserve Your institutions of marriage and family. Guard husbands and wives, parents and children, both from despising and from idolizing one another. Instead, let every relationship in the home exemplify Your unconditional love for us in Christ, and grant that all might follow Him in their service to one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Give Your aid, O Lord, to all elected and appointed public officials, especially our president, the Congress of these United States, our governor, the legislature of this state and all who serve us in Your name in government. Grant peace to the nations, and prosper to the benefit of all people the cause of justice. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God, our King, You promise blessing to those who follow in Your way, yet You also call them to carry their crosses. Grant Your peace to those who suffer among us [*especially* _____]. Guide them by Your Word to follow Your way through the pains of this world to the glories of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, grant that all who come to the Lord's Supper this day may in faith receive Your Son's body and blood and with it the forgiveness of sins, the desire to amend our sinful lives, and the strength to confess the true faith in all that we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of Your faithful servants of every time and place, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest, until He comes again in power and glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to 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...evermore praising You and singing:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

† WORDS of INSTITUTION

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."

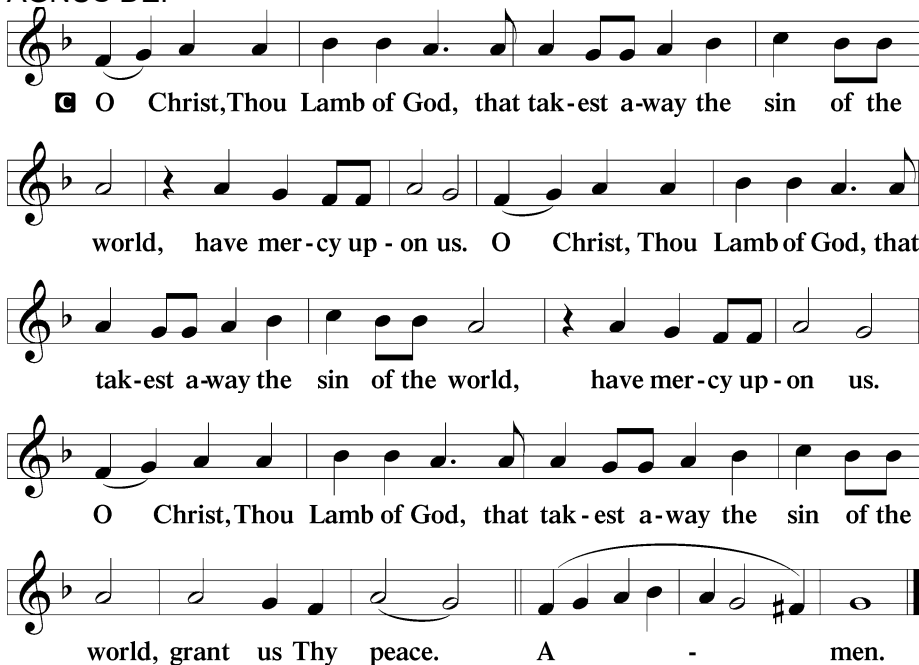
In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

† PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



† AGNUS DEI



(Be Seated)

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **643**: *"Sent Forth by God's Blessings"*



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,

The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.

The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,

The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
U-nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing

To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

(Please Stand)

† THE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace and joy.

C: Amen.

† NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

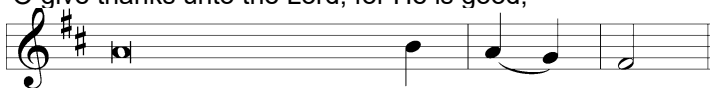
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

✠ THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: 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 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.

✠ SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



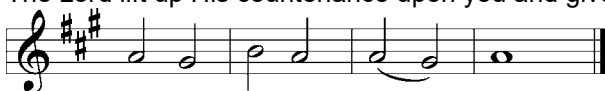
C Thanks be to God.

✠ BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

† CLOSING HYMN NO. **918**: *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
 Pilgrim through this barren land.
 I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
 Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.
 Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 Feed me till I want no more;
 Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
 Whence the healing stream doth flow;
 Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
 Lead me all my journey through.
 Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer,
 Be Thou still my strength and shield;
 Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 Bid my anxious fears subside;
 Death of death and hell’s destruction,
 Land me safe on Canaan’s side.
 Songs of praises, songs of praises
 I will ever give to Thee;
 I will ever give to Thee.