

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

10:00 a.m.

September 14, A.D. 2025



Saint John's Lutheran Church

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

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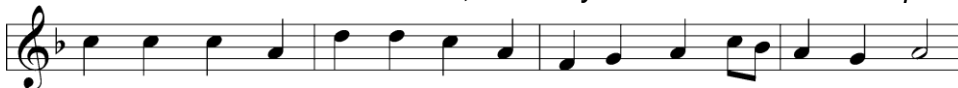
WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD and SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST!

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.

AS WE GATHER: If the Lord describes Himself in Scripture as our “Shepherd,” it follows that we, as those who belong to Him, are His “sheep.” True to our broken nature, we all wander away from our Shepherd’s provision, wrongly assuming we can find our own way. Not only can we never find our own way to lasting life, but we can find our own way only to everlasting death. We all stand in need of rescue! We all are the lost sheep who have wandered away. Thank the Shepherd for coming to your rescue. His death and resurrection are proof that He never gives up on us! He pursues His wanderers. Finding us and claiming us, He carries us home. And that’s exactly where He gathers us today: at home in His presence so that He, our Shepherd, can fill us, His sheep, with His love and mercy.

✠ **OPENING HYMN NO. 911:** “*Lord, This Day We’ve Come to Worship*”



1 Lord, this day we’ve come to wor-ship; Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost,
 2 In the pow’r of res-ur-rec-tion We have come to praise the Lord,
 3 May Your Word en-rich our spir-it, Give us strength to do Your will,
 4 As we meet our bless-ed Sav-ior At the Ta-ble of the Lord,
 5 Cel-e-brate the res-ur-rec-tion In the church and sing His praise,



Grace us with Your bless-ed pres-ence; Bless-ed Sav-ior, be our host.
 Cel-e-brate His bless-ed sup-per, And to learn His ho-ly Word.
 Show the king-dom we’ll in-her-it, When at last our voice is still.
 May this bod-y bro-ken for us Strength and com-fort, Lord, af-ford.
 Till we come to true per-fec-tion: Serve the Lord through all our days.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,



Al-le-lu-ia, praise the Lord! Al-le-lu-ia,



al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, praise the Lord!

✠ **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. Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd. Without You nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever. Help us to follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

■ A - men.

✠ OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 34:11–24

(The Lord will search for and seek out His scattered sheep.)

“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

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: 1 Timothy 1:12–17 *(Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.)*

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

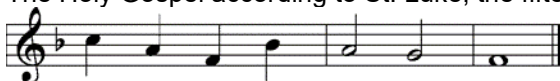
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)



† HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 15:1–10 (*Heaven's joy will be great when sinners repent.*)

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



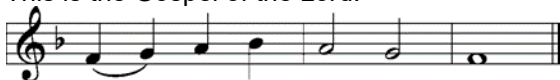
☛ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☛ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

† 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

(Be Seated)

† SERMON HYMN NO. **609**: *"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"*



1	Je - sus	sin - ners	doth	re - ceive;	Oh,	may	all	this
2	We	de - serve	but	grief and shame,	Yet	His	words,	rich
3	Sheep	that	from the	fold did stray	No	true	shep -	herd
4	I,	a	sin - ner,	come to Thee	With	a	pen -	i -



say - ing	pon - der	Who	in	sin's	de - lu - sions	live
grace	re - veal - ing,	Par - don,	peace,	and	life	pro - claim;
e'er	for - sak - eth;	Wea - ry	souls	that	lost	their way
tent	con - fes - sion.	Sav - ior,	mer - cy	show	to	me;



And	from	God	and	heav - en	wan - der!	Here	is	hope	for
Here	our	ills	have	per - fect	heal - ing.	Firm - ly	in	these	
Christ,	the	Shep - herd,	gent - ly	tak - eth	In	His	arms	that	
Grant	for	all	my	sins	re - mis - sion.	Let	these	words	my



all	who	grieve:	Je - sus	sin - ners	doth	re - ceive.
words	be - lieve:	Je - sus	sin - ners	doth	re - ceive.	
they	may	live:	Je - sus	sin - ners	doth	re - ceive.
soul	re - lieve:	Je - sus	sin - ners	doth	re - ceive.	

† SERMON: *"Joy in Mission"* Luke 15:1-10

† OFFERING

(Please Stand)

† OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray to the Lord, who in Christ will hear our prayers and, in His time, turn our mourning into dancing. Heavenly Father, heaven rejoices when a sinner repents. Guard us against self-righteousness that sees no need to hear of Christ and His redemption, and preserve us in Your Word and grace, that as Your people we might always be about the proclamation of repentance and the forgiveness of sins for the sake of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, You call pastors and set them to the task of shepherding Your people. Bless them in their work of providing Your gifts to those You have gathered and as they seek those who have wandered away. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, look with favor on the households of this congregation, and grant that all may live in love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: King of the ages, immortal and invisible, the only God, look in kindness upon all entrusted with public office in our land, and grant them wisdom and courage to serve our nation according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord God, You promise to shepherd Your sheep for the sake of Jesus. According to Your Word, seek the lost, bring back the stray, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. Have mercy [*especially upon _____ and*] upon all who look to You for deliverance. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of the ages, in the fullness of time Your Son became flesh, and He received sinners and ate with them on His way to the cross. Bless all those He feeds today with His own holy body and blood. Guard them from impenitence and resistance to Your promises, and with forgiveness grant them life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We recall with thanksgiving, O Lord, those who served You in days past and now rest from their labors, and we pray that You would keep us in fellowship with all Your saints. By this holy communion, give us grace to sustain us through the changes and chances of this mortal life, and keep us to that day when Christ shall call us unto Himself and we shall know Him face to face in the marriage supper of the Lamb that knows no end. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust all these petitions to Your care, loving Father, confident in Your great mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is worshiped together with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



© 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.

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.

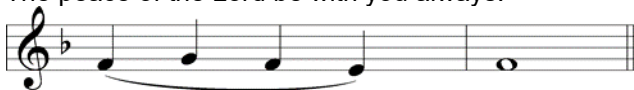
✠ WORDS of INSTITUTION

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.



C A - men.

† AGNUS DEI

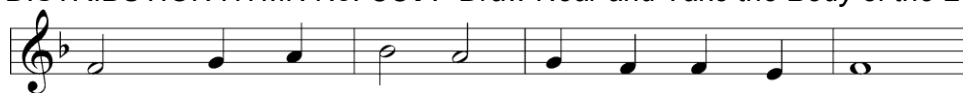
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

(Be Seated)

Regarding the Reception of the Lord's Supper

At Saint John's we believe, teach, and confess according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that in the Lord's Supper we receive not merely bread and wine, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This Holy Supper is not only a gift of Christ, but also a confession of the faith and doctrine confessed at this altar. Because Holy Scripture warns that those who eat and drink unworthily do so to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and because communing together is also an expression of unity in doctrine and confession, we joyfully invite to the Lord's Table all confirmed members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who are in good standing with their home congregation, who have been instructed and who publicly confess this faith. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation, we are thankful for your presence today and warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor approaches. Following the service and in the coming week, our pastors would be glad to speak with you about the Lord's Supper and to share more about what we believe, teach, and confess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod."

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **637**: *“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”*



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



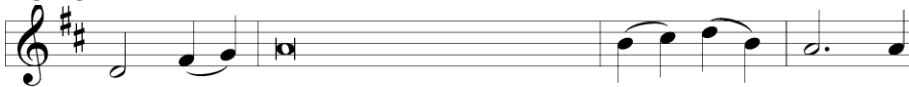
Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

(Please Stand)

† 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 with out end. A - men.

✠ THANKSGIVING

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

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.

A - men.

✠ SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.

And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



☐ 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.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

✠ CLOSING HYMN NO. **830**: *"Spread the Reign of God the Lord"*



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might-y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re-deem-er's grace, Who, to save our hu-man race
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry-where His crea-tures call To His heav'n-ly ban - quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel-lion's price, Gave Him-self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work-ing both to will and do.

**5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!**

**6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.**