

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7 | 9:30 am

FIRST READING

A reading: from Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM FOUND ON OVERLEAF

GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke.

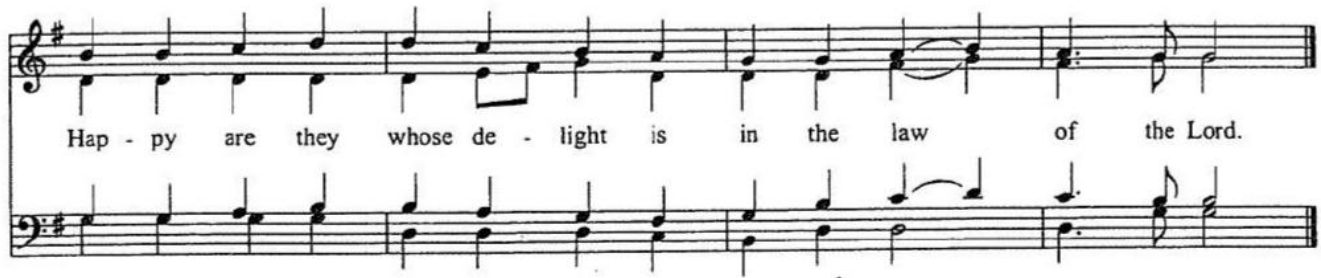
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Psalm 1



- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of
the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night. [ANT.]
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away. [ANT.]
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when
judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed. [ANT.]

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev Martha McCreight
Musicians	Nathan K. Lively-Greyling, Nanette & Tom Jordan, Alex McGuiness
Worship Assistant	Eric Lane
Reader	Peter Coffin
Communion Assistants	Lois Coffin, Michele Effren
Acolyte	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Eva Jakubek, Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher
Little Free Pantry	Peter Coffin
Fellowship Hour	Andrea Budner, Kathy Caraballo, Lois Coffin, Barbara Gleckler, Sheila Koch, Cathy Mahler, Carol Sadlon, Janet Segerdell

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 14

8:30 and 10:30 am Worship
9:30 am Sunday School Intro - Sweden Room
11:30 am Confirmation Class Intro - Sweden Room
5:00 pm Evensong

Looking Ahead . . .

September 17 Noon - Mid-week Eucharist - Chapel
September 24 4:30 pm - Confirmation Class - Sweden Room
September 27 9:00 am - Pumpkins Arrive



St. John's Lutheran Church Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025 | 9:30am

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

PRELUDE

Zanta Hofmeyr, violinist

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Holy Name.**

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all
goodness, and by the power of the ✙ Holy Spirit keep you in
eternal life.

Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

All my hope

HYMN 757

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GLORIA

[Organ] *ff*
Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the

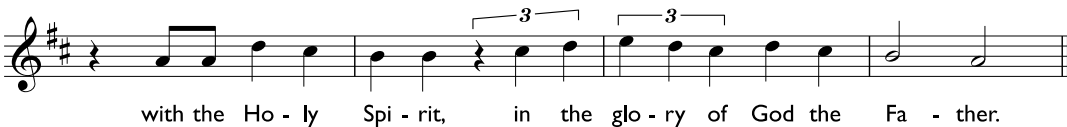
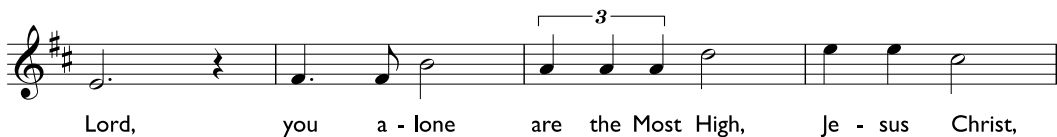
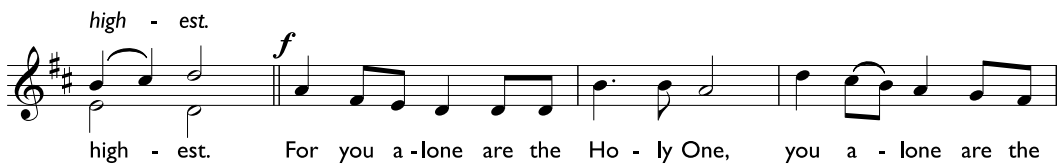
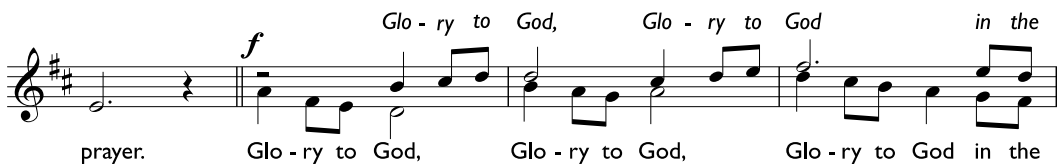
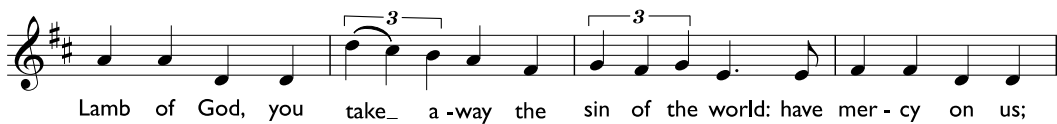
f
high - est. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on

earth. Lord God, Heav'n - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we_ praise you for your glo - ry.

[ff] *f*
Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

mf
Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther. Lord God,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Pastor leads the Prayer of the Day; after the people respond:

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

READING

A reading from _____.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Sung by the congregation. The Psalm can be found in the insert.*

We stand.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Jesus, I have promised

HYMN 810

HOLY BAPTISM

LUCY BLAIRE FENTON

Parents: **Tom and Cara Fenton** *Sponsor:* **Eric Schneider**

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

PRESENTATION

Parents and sponsors: We present Lucy Blaire Fenton for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Parents and sponsors: I do.

As you bring Lucy to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with your child among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help this child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and sponsors: I do.

Sponsor, do you promise to nurture Lucy in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Lucy and pray for her in his new life in Christ?
We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Parents and sponsors: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Parents and sponsors: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Parents and sponsors: I renounce them.

Assembly stands

As the whole people of God, let us profess our baptismal faith:

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Water is poured into the font.

We give thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea, you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection, you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen. *Assembly is seated.*

BAPTISM

Lucy Blaire, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The minister places hands on head of newly baptized.

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Lucy with the gift of your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of newly baptized.

Lucy, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A representative of the congregation lights and presents the baptismal candle.

Representative: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Representative: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

We kneel or sit for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each intercession,

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit.

GREETINGS

MEAL

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and
gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERING

We sit.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Zanta Hofmeyr, violinist

We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. Amen.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Fa - ther who art in__ hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;
 Thy king - dom come; thy will be__ done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.
 Give us this day our__ dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pass - es as
 we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst__ us. And lead us
 not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the
 king - dom, the po - wer and the glo - ry, for e - ver and e - ver.
 A - men. For e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION

We sit.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Zanta Hofmeyr, violinist

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

God is at work in us!

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

God is at work through our hands!

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

O God beyond all praising

HYMN 880

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Zanta Hofmeyr, one of South Africa's most celebrated violinists, graces us with her presence today during her visit to the United States. Known for her exceptional talent and dedication to her craft, Hofmeyr has captivated audiences worldwide with her emotive performances and technical prowess. We are truly honored to have her share her gift with us.

MISSION STATEMENT

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church Stamford CT is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Choral Evensong

**Holy
Cross
Day**

**SUN
SEPT 14
5PM**

**For the healing of the nations, O God,
you raised up your Son on the wood of the cross
and exalted him as the Lord of all creation.**

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, STAMFORD