

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 13 | 9:30 am

Hymn of the Day: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart ELW 750

Offertory Hymn: If You But Trust in God to Guide You ELW 769

Sending Hymn: God Is Here! ELW 526

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

A reading from Deuteronomy

The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰ when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ “Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my sal - va - tion.

A B

- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting. [ANT.]
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way. [ANT.]
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. [ANT.]

Glory be to the Father * and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the be-ginning * is now and ever shall be, world without end. A-men.

The holy gospel according to Luke

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev Martha McCreight
Musicians	Nathan K. Lively-Greyling, Nanette & Tom Jordan, Alex McGuiness
Worship Assistant	Cheryl Milukas
Reader	Cheryl Milukas
Communion Assistants	Lois Coffin, Marie Sweglar
Acolyte	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	Joe & Cheryl Milukas, Shirley Schulz, Michele Taylor
Little Free Pantry	
Coffee Hour	Janet Segerdell

Little Free Pantry

To volunteer and maintain the Little Free Pantry – clean, organize, and restock – for the period of one week, go to the Social Ministry tab on St. John’s website or contact Janet Segerdell - janet.segerdell@gmail.com. The LFP can always use cash contributions which are used to purchase food at the Food Bank for pennies on the dollar.

Summer Pick-Up Choir

If you enjoy singing, feel free to join the summer choir at 9:00 am each Sunday. We meet in the church around the piano. There's no weekly commitment and it's fun and easy—a great family opportunity.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 16

Vespers - 6:00 pm Chapel

Thursday, July 17

Fellowship Event - 5:30 pm - 314 Beer Garden, Norwalk

Sunday, July 20

9:30 am Worship | 10:30 am Fellowship Hour Welcome Room

Looking Ahead . . .

- July 27 Mass on the Grass
- August 7 Choir trip to Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, VA
- August 31 Mass on the Grass & Blessing of Backpacks
- September 7 Rally Sunday 10:30 am Worship
10:30 am God's Work Our Hands Service Project
11:30 am Church Picnic



We are collecting items for making school kits on God's Work...Our Hands Sunday, September 7. Start looking for school supply items and drop them off in the collection box in the back of the church. **All items are due no later than September 1.**

Here is a list of what's needed for each kit:

Quantity	Description
4	70-sheet package notebook ruled paper - wide or college-ruled
1	30 centimeter ruler (12 inch) or centimeters on one side & inches on the other
1	Pencil sharpener
1	Pair of blunt scissors -(safety scissors w/embedded steel blades work well)
5	Unsharpened #2 Pencils with erasers (secure with rubber band)
5	Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens (no gel ink) (secure with rubber band)
1	Box of 16 or 24 crayons
1	2 ½" eraser
1	Sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" x 17"

Everyone's help is needed...our goal is to complete at least 100 kits. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Otto Daniel Riesett

Parents: Greg & Katie Riesett Sponsors: Carolyn Kennedy & Doug Ryder

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 Otto Daniel Riesett 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 Otto to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with your child among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him 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 Otto in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Otto and pray for him 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

Otto Daniel, 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 Otto 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.

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

Amen.

WELCOME

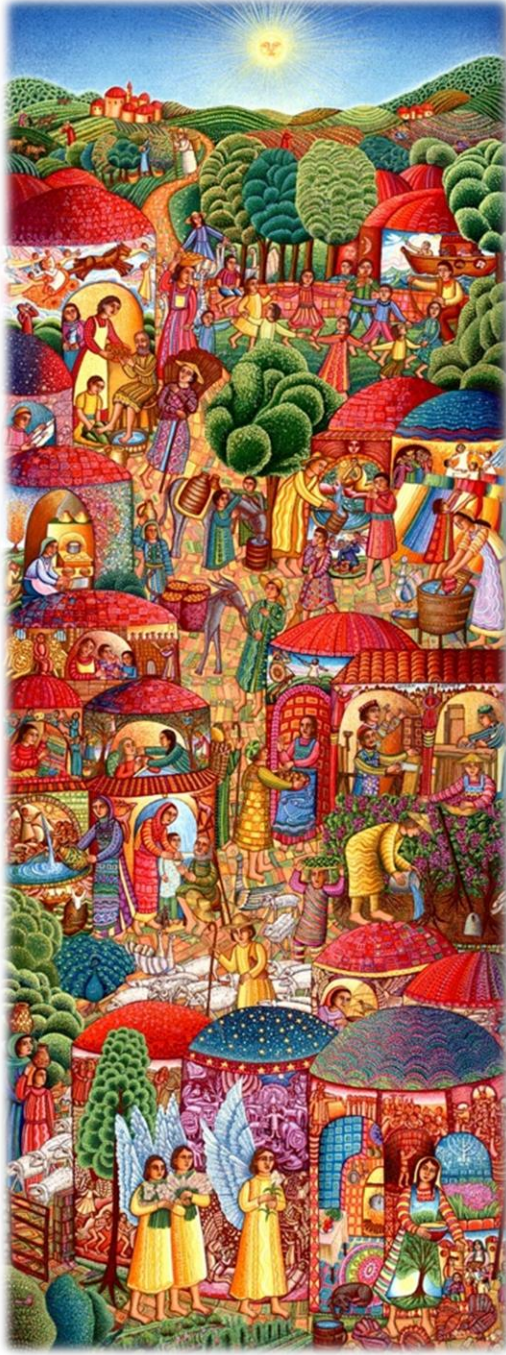
A representative of the congregation lights and presents the baptismal candle.

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE



PRELUDE

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the residing minister begins.

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

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You fill us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and lead us on the path of life.
Amen.

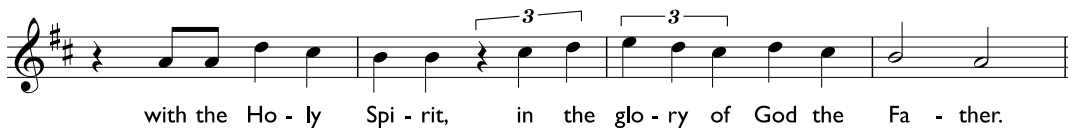
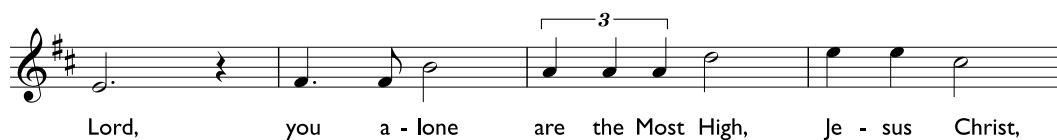
You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

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





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.

ANTHEM

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

CREED

Apostles'

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

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 HYMN

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 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.

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

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

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

HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

***PLEASE RETURN THE ORDER OF SERVICE TO THE NARTHEX.
YOU MAY TAKE THE INSERT HOME.***

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Summer Pick-Up Choir

If you enjoy singing, feel free to join the summer choir at 9am each Sunday. We meet in the church around the piano. There's no weekly commitment and it's fun and easy—a great family opportunity.

Mass on the Grass

Our 9:30 am worship during the summer is held in the air conditioned nave, except for the last Sunday of each month when we worship outdoors for *Mass on the Grass*. Remember to bring your lawn chairs for *Mass on the Grass*.

June 29

July 27

August 31 At the end of worship, we will “bless the backpacks.” Students of all ages should bring their school backpacks to worship and receive a blessing for the school year.

Looking Ahead in the Church Calendar

August 7	Choir trip to Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, VA
September 7	Rally Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am God's Work Our Hands Service Project 11:30 am Church Picnic
September 14	8:30 & 10:30 am Worship Resume
September 27	9:00 am Pumpkins Arrive - Come Help Unload the Truck

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.

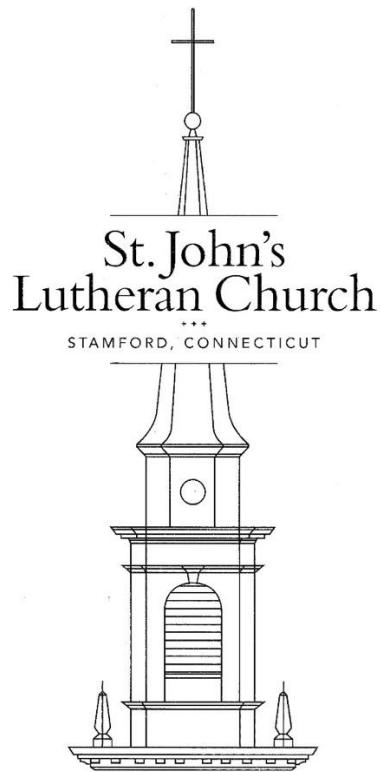
WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP

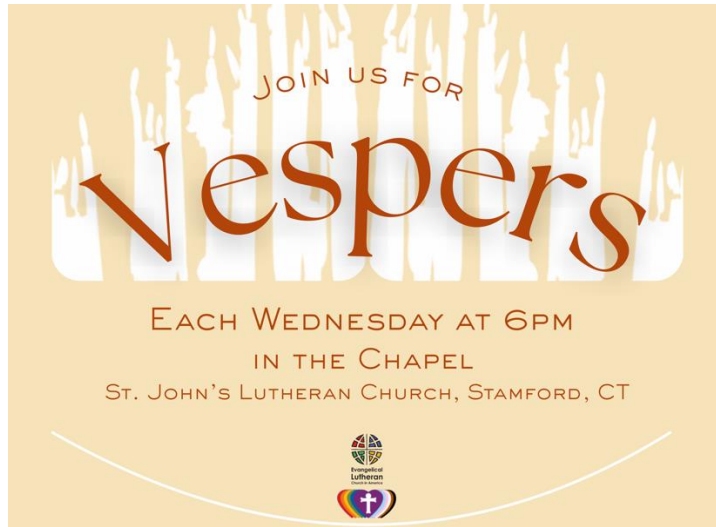


WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS,
USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP





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What is 'Vespers'?

Prayer service for the time of sunset and evening, also known as Evening Prayer. Inheriting the practice from Judaism, the Christian Church has observed certain times of the day with prayer since the apostolic period. By the 4th century, the practice of corporate prayer at designated times had become established. These daily prayer offices focus on times of the day rather than the day of the week. While the focus of Sunday is the Eucharist, a celebration of Christ's resurrection, daily prayers focus on the 24-hour cycle of light and darkness.

Evening prayer, like morning prayer, has a basic six-part structure: opening, psalmody, readings, gospel canticle, intercessory prayers, and concluding blessing. The visual focus of evening prayer is a lighted candle known as the Lucernarium candle, which is carried into the worship space. This practice originates from an ancient Jewish lamp-lighting tradition, which the early Christians adapted to represent Christ as the light of the world. This initial section of evening prayer is also known as the lunarium, from the Latin word lucerna, meaning "lamp."

We also sing the Psalms, the oldest form of song in worship since the Old Testament.

Join us in the Chapel every Wednesday at 6pm from June to August for this brief service.