



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FOURTEENTH AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2025 | 10:30am

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

PRELUDE

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, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING

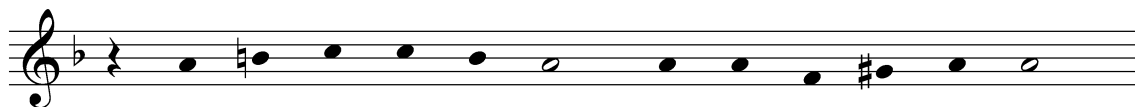
The grace of our Lord Jesus, Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE & GLORIA

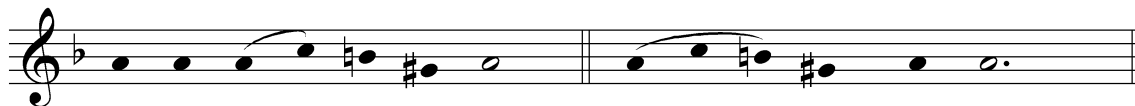


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion,

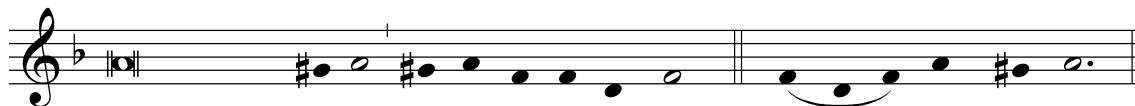


let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.



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.

Lord, have mer-cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

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 Fath - er. A - - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

EXODUS 32:7-14

A reading from Exodus.

THE Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth?’ Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

Sung by the choir. Music by NKL.

PSALM 51:1-11

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your
loving-kindness; *

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵ And so you are justified when you speak *

and upright in your judgment.

⁶ Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷ For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸ Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹ Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰ Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹ Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

SECOND READING

I TIMOTHY 1:12-17

A reading from First Timothy.

I AM grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

HYMN 507

O God of light, your word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
And show your grace, your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

NOW all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ 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.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ 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.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

HYMN 507

Undimmed by time, those words are
still revealing
To sinful hearts your justice and your
grace;

And questing spirits, longing for your
healing,
See your compassion in the Savior's
face.

We sit.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON**

REV. NICK SOLLUM

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

*There's a wideness
(Sung to IN BABILONE)*

HYMN 588

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

Each intercession ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Miserere mei

LOTTI

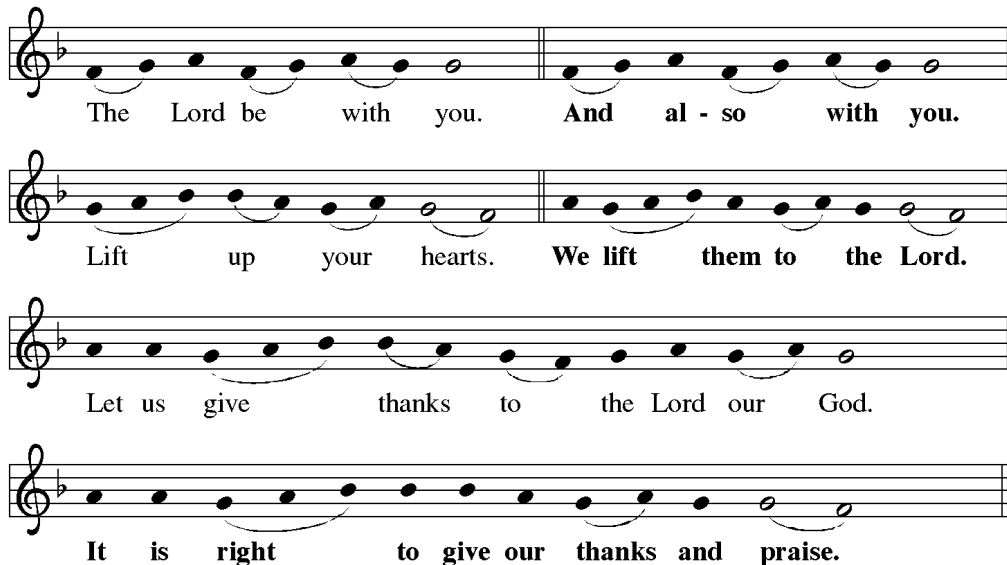
We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION











HYMN 188

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

<i>Organ</i>	<i>Assembly</i>
	
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,	
	
God of pow'r and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -	
	
san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.	
	
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the <i>Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.</i>	
	
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.	

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;
 you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.
 We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.
 We thank you for the new world to come
 and for the love that will rule all in all.
 We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,
 the people of your promise:
 the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
 the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,
 and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.
 In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
 who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:
his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.
But chiefly [on this day] we remember his rising from the tomb,
his ascension to the seat of power,
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again in beauty and power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available if requested.

We sit.

LAMB OF GOD

Organ *Assembly*

1,2 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin
of the world, have mer - cy on us.
3 Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world, grant us peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

Chief of sinners

HYMN 609

We stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Almighty God,
you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life.
Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

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

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Immortal, invisible

HYMN 834

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.



POSTLUDE

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Holy Feast Mass by Larry Long

Lord's Prayer, Traditional Afrikaans, arr. Marnus Lively-Greyling

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant	The Rev. Nick Sollom
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Jennifer Leffers
Communion Assistant	Jennifer Leffers, Teresa Moses
Acolyte	Max Leffers
Usher	Sam Leffers
Altar Committee	Eva Jakubek, Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher
Little Free Pantry	Shirley Schulz
Coffee Hour	

This week we pray for . . . Pastor Emeritus Dennis Albrecht, Andrew, Beryl, Brita, Cat, Diane, James, Lee, Marie, Ron, Sandra, Shirley and Toby.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 17

12:00 noon - Midweek Eucharist - Chapel

Friday, September 19

5:00 pm - Knit Night - Sweden Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 21

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, September 23

6:15 pm Executive Committee | 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 24

12:00 noon – Midweek Eucharist – Chapel

Saturday, September 27

9:00 am - Unload the Pumpkins

6:00 pm - Beer & Hymns - Luther Hall

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.



Come to Luther Hall on Saturday, September 27, at 6 pm, for a fun fellowship event!

Bring your favorite food and beverage and enjoy the conversation and music! The event is free, but donations will go toward St. John's Worship and Music fund.

Bring family and friends!

Choral Evensong

**Holy
Cross
Day**

**SUN
SEPT 14
5PM**

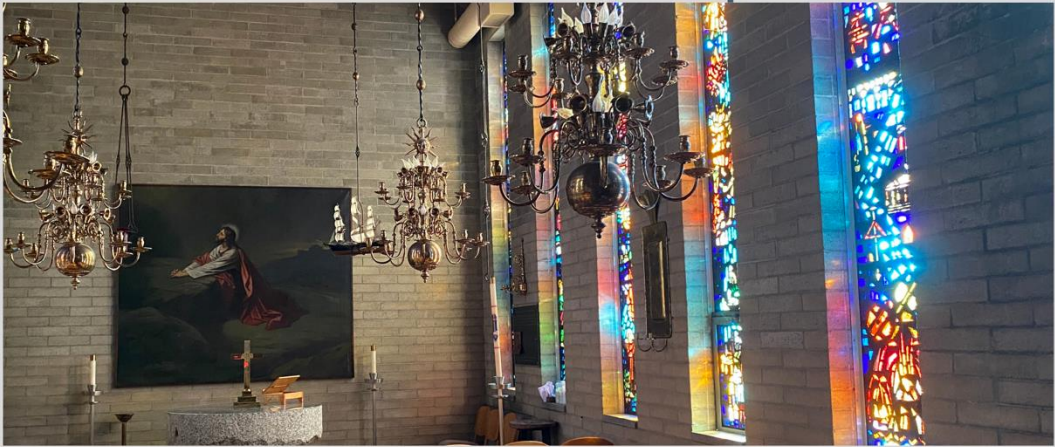
**For the healing of the nations, O God,
you raised up your Son on the wood of the cross
and exalted him as the Lord of all creation.**

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, STAMFORD

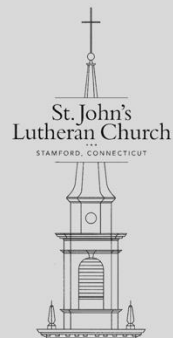
EUCHARIST

Wednesdays at 12 noon

St. John's Chapel



We warmly invite you to join us for a brief mid-week service of Holy Communion, providing a peaceful pause in your week. This service will be held in the chapel every Wednesday at 12 noon, offering a moment of spiritual reflection and community. After the Eucharist, you're welcome to bring your lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship with others. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, share, and nourish both body and spirit. We look forward to sharing this sacred time with you.



WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



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



Covenant for Parental Leave Contact Pastor

As Christians, we are all baptized into the priesthood of Christ to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us. It is my privilege to support the mission and ministry of St John's Lutheran Church in Stamford, CT as Parental Leave Contact Pastor During Pastor Martha McCreight Maternity Leave.

In prayerful conversation with the Congregation Council, I, Pastor Nick Sollom, enter the following covenant. I agree:

- to pray for the pastor on leave for the sake of the mission of the Church;
- to speak well of the pastor on leave and interpret everything they have done in the best possible light;
- to treat the pastor on leave with respect as a sibling in Christ and valued pastoral colleague;
- to provide the following ministry
 - Preach and preside at regular liturgies of the congregation
 - Emergency pastoral care
 - Attend the monthly congregational meetings
 - Additional responsibilities: homebound visitation, staff meetings, worship planning, teaching Christian Education classes, Bible Study, etc.

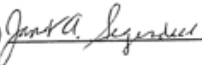
The congregation agrees:

- to support the work of the Supply Pastor
- to assist in securing supply pastors for additional Sundays not covered in this covenant
- to pay the Supply Pastor according to the synod compensation guidelines
 - \$336.60 (includes mileage at the current IRS rate) for 2 Sunday Worship Services/week
 - \$150 per week plus mileage at the current IRS rate for council meetings and pastoral emergencies
 - \$ 75 weekly for additional responsibilities (homebound visitation, staff meetings, worship planning, teaching Christian Education classes, Bible Study, etc.)
 - Total Compensation: approx. \$6,000 (may be a bit less, may be a bit more depending on: leave starts earlier, funerals, etc.)

Effective Dates of this Covenant: September 14th 2025 – November 30th, 2025
This covenant may be terminated by either party with 30 days written notice.

It is understood that this covenant does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals who are members of this congregation.

Signature of Pastor  Date 8/26/25

Witnessed by President (Vice-President)  Date 8/26/25

Describe the manner and date shared with the congregation:

Hand-dart and verbal announcement

After sharing this Covenant with the congregation, please email a copy of the completed and signed document to your Associate to the Bishop and the New England Synod office, where it will be kept in the pastor's file and the congregation's file.