



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 8, 2024 | 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, as the presiding minister begins.

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 sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

GLORIA

Fast and lively

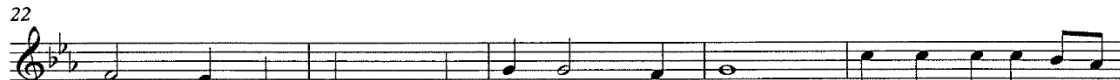
Org.  *f*
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

5  peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al -

9  - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

13  praise you for your glo - ry. *mp* Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

18  Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

22  sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the

27 Org.

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

32 *f*

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

35

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

40

with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

44 *ff* *rit.*

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35:4-7

A reading from Isaiah.

SAY to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

Sung by the choir. Music by C. V. Stanford

PSALM 146

1 Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will I praise the Lord :
yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing praises unto my God.
2 O put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man :
for there is no help in them.
3 For when the breath of man goeth forth he shall turn again to his earth:
and then all his thoughts perish.
4 Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help :
and whose hope is in the Lord his God;
5 Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is :
who keepeth his promise for ever;
6 Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong :
who feedeth the hungry.

7 The Lord looseth men out of prison :
the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

8 The Lord helpeth them that are fallen :
the Lord careth for the righteous.

9 The Lord careth for the strangers; he defendeth the fatherless and widow :
as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

10 The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore :
and throughout all generations.

SECOND READING

JAMES 2:1-10, 14-17

A reading from First John.

MY brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

God's word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;

HYMN 509

To spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.

Through life it guides our way;
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last

Your church may hold it fast
Throughout all generations.
Amen.

GOSPEL

MARK 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁸ But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”²⁹ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

HYMN 514

O Word of god incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:

We praise you for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.

We sit.

SERMON

PASTOR GRORUD

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Christ, our light, O Radiance true

HYMN 675

CREED

Apostles'

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

**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

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.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Call

STROOPE (CONTEMPORARY)

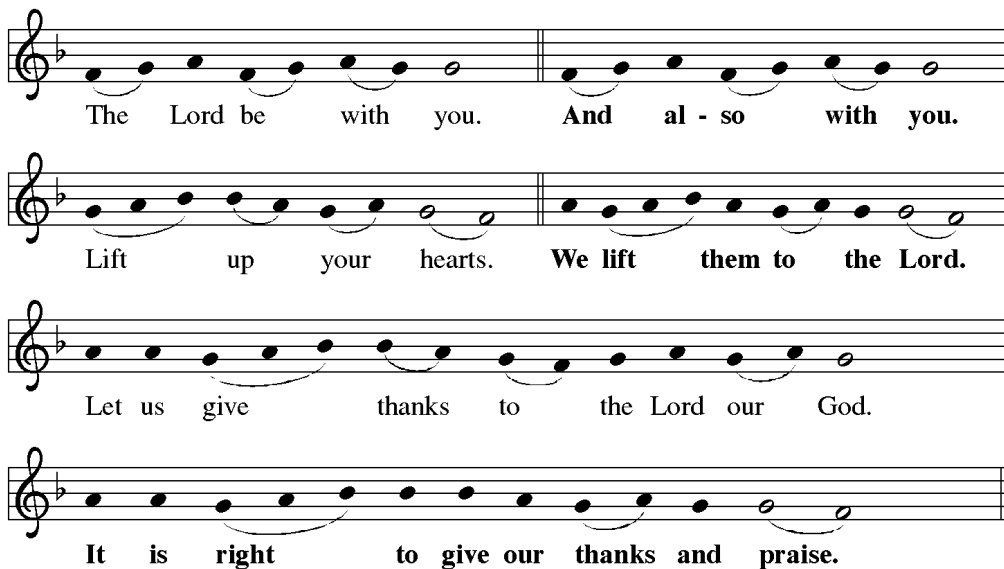
We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

HYMN 879

For each perfect gift of thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
For thyself, best gift divine,
To our world so freely giv'n:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Majestic

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Slower

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
 his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
 and the promise of his coming again,
 we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
 not as we ought but as we are able;
 we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
 and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
 so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
 may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
 and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
 may be formed to live as your holy people
 and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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

The gifts of God for the people of 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

Slowly and gently

Org. *p*
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
7 *mp*
world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
13 *mf*
sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
19 *rit. p pp ppp*
take a - way the sin of the world, grant us peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

Draw us in the Spirit's tether

FREIDELL

We stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 AT THE PROCESSION

God, whose almighty word

HYMN 673

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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St. Martin's Mass, David Bednall, Oxford Music Press

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

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant	The Rev. Mark A. Grorud
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Pat Fisher
Reader	Michele Effren
Communion Assistant	Michele Effren
Acolytes	
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Mike Mahler

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 11:

Confirmation - 4:30 pm Sweden Room
Handbells - 6:00 pm Reformation Room
Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm Choir Room

Wednesday, September 13:

Quilting - 5:30 pm Welcome Room

Sunday, September 15:

Worship - 8:30 & 10:30 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am Luther Hall
Fellowship Hour - 11:30 am Welcome Room

Pick-up Choir on Sunday, September 15. Like the Summer Choir, this is an easy, fun, low commitment musical way to participate in Worship. Come at 10am and learn an easy anthem to sing during the service. We welcome all!

New worship assistant and acolyte robes



The Worship and Music Committee has ordered new robes for our acolytes and worship assistants to replace the current white robes, which are twenty years old. The new robes are here and match the same color as the current blue choir robes, making them interchangeable for different sizes and will also be fitted with a white scapular that is worn over the robe.

If you would like to help, each robe is \$235, totaling \$3,000. Gifts of any size can be made to the church, marked “robes” in the memo.

Evensong

The choir is once again offering Evensong (sung Evening Prayer) during the next season. This service offers a chance to attend an evening service that is brief, filled with prayers and music.

The first Evensong is Sunday, September 15, at 5pm. The offering collected at this service will benefit the Alzheimer’s Association.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

September 12	OWLS - 12:00 noon - Welcome Room
September 15	Sunday School Begins - 9:30 am
September 15	Evensong - 5:00 pm
September 19	Threads of Warmth - 6:00 pm
September 21	Unload Pumpkins - 9:00 am
September 22	New Member Orientation
September 27	Beer & Hymns - 6:00 pm Luther Hall
September 29	New Members Received
October 12	Outdoor Movie - Pumpkin Patch 6:00 pm
October 19	Oktoberfest - 5:00 pm
October 27	Reformation Sunday - Wear Red! First Communion - 10:30 am Evensong St. John's Episcopal - 5:00 pm
November 3	All Saints Sunday All Saints Requiem Concert - 5:00 pm
November 10	Stewardship Sunday 9:30 am single service Youth Pancake Breakfast 10:30 am
November 17	9:30 am Single Worship - Bishop Piphon Evensong - 5:00 pm
December 1	10:30 am Advent Lessons & Carols 4:00 pm Decorate Church 5:00 pm Advent Night - Welcome Room
December 8	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - 5:00 pm
December 15	Santa Lucia Procession
December 24	Family Christmas Eve Worship - 5:00 pm 8:30 pm Prelude & 9pm Candlelight Service
December 29	9:30 am Single Service