



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15, 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 *mp*
praise you for your glo - ry. 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.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 50:4-9

A reading from Isaiah.

THE Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM *Sung by the congregation to the tune of ERHALT UNS, HERR*

1 I love the Lord because he heard,
Because he listened to my plea;
Because when I have called on him
He has inclined his ear to me.

2 The grace held me within its grip,
The cords of death entangled me;
Then sorrow overwhelmed my life
And grief was my lot constantly.

3 I called upon his Name and said,
“Save me, O Lord, I pray to you;”
Full of compassion is our God;
The Lord is gracious, righteous, too.

4 The innocent are kept from harm;
He helped me when I was brought low;
Turn, then, my soul, and take your rest;
He treats you fairly, as you know.

5 He keeps my feet from any fall,
My eyes from tears, my life from death,
And in the presence of the Lord
I will walk while I draw my breath.

SECOND READING

JAMES 3:1-12

A reading from First James.

NOT many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though

they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

HYMN 509

God's word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
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 8:27-38

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and

said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

HYMN 514

○ Word of God incarnate,
○ Wisdom from on high,
○ Truth unchanged, unchanging,
○ 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 God, my faithful God

HYMN 806

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 *St. John's Pick-Up Choir*

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

f
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

ff
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Slower

p
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

pp
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

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

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTARY

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.

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 & Preacher	The Rev. Mark A. Grorud
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Pat Fisher
Reader	Jennifer Leffers
Communion Assistant	Anita Gallo, Jennifer Leffers
Acolyte	Max Leffers
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher
Little Free Pantry	
Coffee Hour	

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 17

Choristers - 5:15 pm Choir Room
Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, September 18

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

Thursday, September 19

Threads of Warmth - 6:00 pm Welcome Room

Sunday, September 22

Worship - 8:30 & 10:30 am
Bible Study - 9:30 Sweden Room
New Member Orientation - 11:30 Sweden Room
Fellowship Hour - 11:30 am Welcome Room

Pick-up Choir Today. 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! The next is October 20.

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 today, 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 29	New Members Received
October 11	Beer & Hymns - 6:00 pm Luther Hall
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 Piphio 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