

September 7, 2025 8:00/9:30am

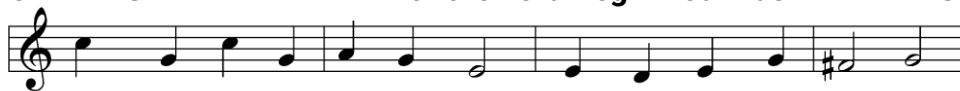
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

"With the Lord Begin Your Task"

LSB 869, vv. 1-4



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.
2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, Praise, and ad - o - ra - tion.
3 With your Sav - ior at your side, Foes need not a - larm you;
4 If your task be thus be - gun With the Sav - ior's bless - ing,



For His aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.
On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; He is your sal - va - tion.
In His prom - is - es con - fide, And no ill can harm you.
Safe - ly then your course will run, Toward the prom - ise press - ing.



Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, And when day is end - ed,
Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,
All your trust and hope re - pose In the might - y Mas - ter,
Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where While you here must wan - der;



In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him com - mend - ed.
Save you from the tempt - er's might, With His pres - ence cheer you.
Who in wis - dom tru - ly knows How to stem dis - as - ter.
You at last the joy will share In the man - sions yon - der.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our failure to heed the instruction of the Lord.

We confess that we have wasted more time acquiring things and pleasing ourselves than in teaching each other the fear of the Lord. Forgive us.

We recognize, gracious God, that you have entrusted us to each other in our families and congregation, where we are to use every means to teach about Your great love for us.

We confess that we have let the voices of this world drown out Your precious Gospel. Forgive us.

Having heard your confession, I share with you the good news of the Gospel: God's love for you in Jesus Christ, His own Son and our only Savior. In Christ's name and at His command, I forgive you of your sins. You are set free to live new lives of love in the name of Christ and to His glory.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"


LSB 155

Refrain




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb ——— who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 30:11–20

“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philemon 3–9a

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love’s sake I prefer to appeal to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:25–35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” LSB 707

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e’er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wand’ring sheep.

Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

Make me to walk in Thy commands—
’Tis a delightful road—
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., Text: Public domain

SERMON

“Choose Life”

Pastor Snow

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs. We pray, heavenly Father, for those whose lives are difficult due to circumstances beyond their control, the effects of war and terror, the oppression from dictators, the results of drought and flood, disease and displacement, slavery and poverty. Give them courage and strength to choose life in Your Son, Jesus. As fits Your gracious plans, bring them peace and security, food and shelter, health and home. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray, Lord Jesus, for those who proclaim the Gospel and lead the Church here and around the world, pastors and teachers, lay leaders and missionaries, caregivers and chaplains. In the face of indifference and opposition, keep them strong in the faith so that the Church may grow in grace and numbers until that day when You shall return at the end of all things. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, hear our prayers for those near and dear to us who call out to You for relief . . . surround them with people of faith, good counselors, and compassionate caregivers. Use us and our resources to bring about the healing, dignity, and consoling they so desperately need. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving Savior, we give thanks for the witness of those who have gone before us in the faith, Moses and Paul, and Your people of faith throughout the ages, especially those you placed in our lives to teach us your commands and show us how to walk in your ways. Grant us so to follow You no matter the cost until we join them at Your eternal banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

OFFERING

PREFACE

LSB 160

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

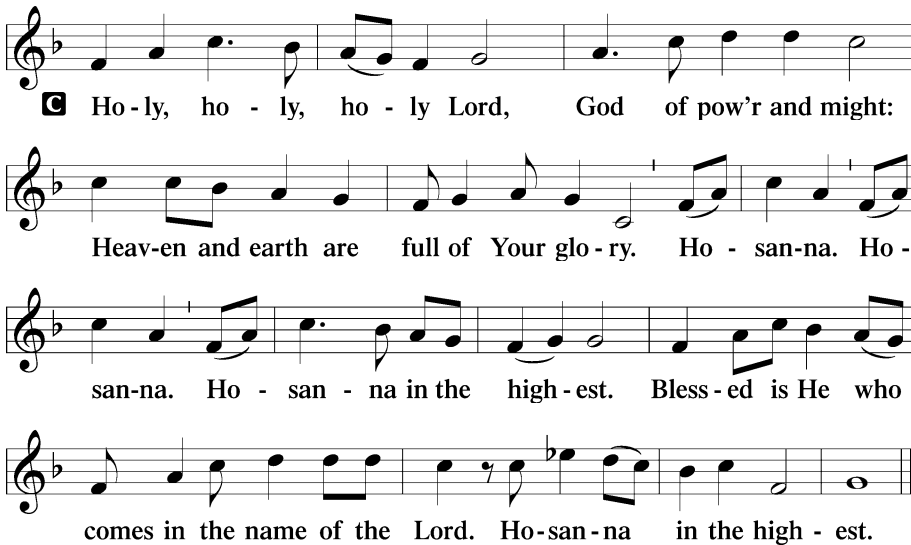
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

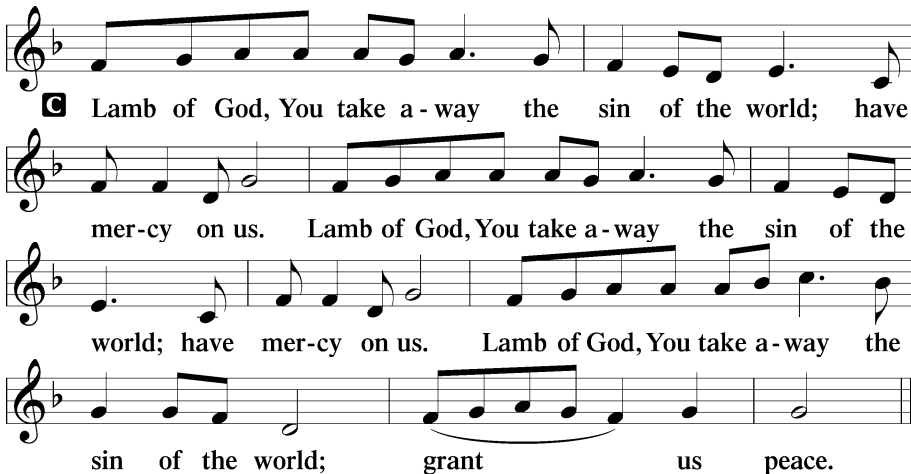
PAX DOMINI


LSB 163

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



 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.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood. This we eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold to a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked to first speak with the pastor or an elder. For further readings in Scripture, we suggest Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

- **Communicants will receive elements in a continuous fashion.**
- **If you would like the pastor to bring communion to you, please inform an usher anytime during the service.**
- **Children of all ages may join their parents and receive a special blessing.**
- **For those who desire it, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center ring of the tray of individual cups.**

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

"What Is This Bread"

LSB 629

What is this bread?
Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break,
This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul
He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

What is this wine?
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace
Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.

Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe
That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

So who am I,
That I should live and He should die
Under the rod?
My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946, Text: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: OneLicense A-710094

HYMN**“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”****LSB 427**

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o’ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872, Text: Public domain

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

HYMN**“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”****LSB 729**

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, Text: Public domain

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev’ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

LSB 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

CLOSING HYMN

“O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”

LSB 632

O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.

Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928, Text: Public domain

SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH ST. JOHN’S TODAY! If this is your first time at St. John’s, we encourage you to fill out a CONNECTCard located on the Welcome Desk. We want an opportunity to get to know you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte: 8:00 Zoey Lewis

Elders: 8:00 Zac Lewis /9:30 Pete Siedelman, Timothy Peterson

Communion Assistants: 8:00 Chris Mundahl, Marcus Simpson, Paul

DeRocher/9:30 Thomas Leier

Welcome Team: 8:00 Gary Herber, Gayle Degler/9:30 Elizabeth & Michael Bennes

Usher Team: 8:00 Jay Molnau/9:30 Brian Dahlke

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UPCOMING WEEK	
Sunday, September 7	Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am
	Meet the Pastors Event 9:00am
Monday, September 8	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	AA 7:00pm
Tuesday, September 9	Mary Martha Guild Meeting 6:30pm
	Elders Meeting 6:30pm
Wednesday, September 10	Confirmation (Public School) 6:00pm
	Washington DC Meeting 6:30pm
	MOP Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
Thursday, September 11	Women's Lifelight Bible Study 9:00am
Friday, September 12	AA 6:30pm
Saturday, September 13	Bible and Bacon Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Colson Fellows Cohort Meeting 8:30am
Sunday, September 14	Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am
	Education Hour 9:30am
	Discovery Class 9:30am
	Blood Pressure Screening 9:30am

Celebrating Birthdays

9/7
 Madison Tucker
 James Zangl
 Carol McCarty
 9/8
 Carol Adams
 Pat Haack
 Sherri Krueger
 Christian Wachter
 Nicole Thuente

9/9
 Jenny Erdmann
 Roslyn Wiegert
 Paula Mosley
 Brock Hubley
 9/10
 Leanne Backlund
 Ashley Eastlund
 Bev Hendrickson
 Julie Hesse
 Nick Atkinson

9/11
 Allen Giernett
 Liz Kulzer
 Dan Trost
 Lillian Swanson
 Alyssa Larson
 9/12
 Morgan Baker
 Kaye Wikstrom
 9/13
 Morgan Lewis

Celebrating Anniversaries

9/7 Jeff and Deana Stillman

9/7 Ben and Kadi Peterson

9/7 Darren and Anna Jeurissen

9/8 Steven and Joanne Latzke

9/9 Thomas and Morgan Stanley

9/11 Steven and Sandra Beulke

9/12 Timothy and Rio Schaekel

Expectant Moms

Jessica Lewis

Nicole Thuente

Anna Jeurissen

Hailey Busker

Katelyn Olson

Amy Peterson

Prayers for Healing and Strength

Gary Anderson

Jack Boman

Angeline Rannow

Orma Kraai

Joann Mueller

Doris Rossow

Tyler Trost

Ongoing Prayers

Carol Affeldt

John Barney

Angel Benes

Jimann Campbell

Julie Carver

Marguerite Craighead

Sunnie Deis

Bob DeMaris

Anita Doss

Sid & Merna Fjelstad

Dennis Gaarder

Bernie Gnan

Pearl Gray

Hilde Grev

Eugene Henke

Suzanne Honebrink

Carol Jones

Len Kallsen

Gretchen Laubach

Jeanette Lieske

Melinda Meuwissen

Gina Niesche

Steve Pond

Austin Rannow

JoAnn Schesso

Val Schlefsky

Larry Smith

Cliff Waller

Lisa Neitzel

Deb Wold

Merlin Bentz

Ruth Harms

Journey in the Footsteps of Paul Study Tour – April 10-19, 2026

Join Pastor Snow and experience the journey of a lifetime! This ten-day journey begins with a flight to Thessalonica, arriving on April 11. Travel to Philippi where Paul met Lydia, the first convert in Europe, and planted the first church. Visit Corinth where Paul lived and worked as a tentmaker with Priscilla and Aquila teaching the Word of God. Visit the ruins of the Parthenon, the House of Parliament, and the Olympic Stadium among other sites. In Rome, we will visit the Spanish Steps, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica, as well as the Coliseum and the Mamertine Prison where Paul was executed. If this special journey is something you want to consider, contact Pastor Snow.

