

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026 | 8:00 AM
September 21, 2026 | 6:30 PM



St. John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

“Listen, God Is Calling”

LSB 833, vv. 1, 3

Refrain:

Listen,
listen, God is calling
Through the Word inviting,
Offering forgiveness,
Comfort, and joy.

Jesus gave His mandate:

Share the good news
That He came to save us
And set us free. Refrain

Help us to be faithful,

Standing steadfast,
Walking in Your precepts,
Led by Your Word. Refrain

Text: tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922–2010; Kenyan Text: © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania. Used by permission:
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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Merciful Lord,

You have called us to work in Your vineyard, but we confess that we have often found excuses to wait passively on the sidelines, eager to consider and pursue our own goals. Our thoughts, words, and deeds have been self-centered; we have not loved You with our whole heart, soul, and mind, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us and renew our hearts to focus on Your undeserved love.

The prophet Isaiah tells us today to "return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on [us], for He will abundantly pardon" *Isaiah 55:7b*. Through the sacrifice of our Lord for us, God has made His infinite grace known to us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BIBLE MILESTONES

Presentation of Bibles and Catechisms to 3rd Graders.

- *Bibles are provided by Ladies Aid. Catechisms are provided by Mary Martha Guild.*
- *3-year-olds will receive Bibles at 9:30 in their classroom.*
- *7th Grade Confirmands celebrate the Rite of Beginning as they begin Confirmation.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

“Jesus Loves Me”

LSB 588

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong. **Refrain**

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.

He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in. **Refrain**

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt. Text: Public domain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

Pew Bible Page 615

⁶“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to
our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your
thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹For as the
heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE**LSB 156**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

From sin our flesh could not abstain, Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain, Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart Or purify our guileful heart—
So deep is our corruption.

Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.

Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead, Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.

SERMON

Pastor Snow

+ Sermon Notes +

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 the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, who calls us to work in Your vineyard, strengthen us and Your Church around the world, that we may use the time, abilities, and resources You so generously provide to bring many to saving faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, as Your thoughts are not our thoughts nor Your ways our ways, (*Isaiah 55:8*) so inform the hearts and minds of those who make, administer, and judge the laws for citizens throughout the world. Instill in them a clear understanding of Your will so that they may govern societies in justice and live peaceably with neighboring states and nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, hear the cries of all who call out to You for comfort, healing, and relief ...Visit and relieve them from their ailments according to Your gracious will. And as we are able, use us as Your instruments to increase their sense of peace and joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

OFFERING

Musical Offering

"Praise the Lord, Our God, Forever"

Mozart/arr.Walter Ehret

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**LSB 161**

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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**"The Peace of the Lord"****LSB 163**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.**AGNUS DEI****"Lamb of God"****LSB 163**

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away 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, called *"Kneel and Replace"*.**
- **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.**
- **Individual cups may be deposited in the wooden box on the wall.**

***KNEEL AND REPLACE**

We have begun using a new pattern for receiving Holy Communion called "Kneel and Replace." When invited forward, communicants are asked to come to the communion rail and kneel to receive the Lord's Supper. After you have received the Body and Blood of Christ, in with and under the bread and the wine:

1. *Pause briefly in reverence and thanksgiving.*
2. *Rise and return to your seat.*
3. *As you leave the rail, those waiting behind you may then come forward and take your place.*

This allows all communicants to receive the Sacrament prayerfully, reverently, and in good order. If kneeling is difficult for you, you are welcome to stand at the rail instead.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN**“Come, Let Us Eat”****LSB 626**

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
Our Lord's body let us take together.

Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

In His presence now we meet and rest,
In His presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
In the presence of our Lord we gather.

Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word,
Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

Text (sts. 1–3): tr. Margaret D. Miller, 1927, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Billema Kwillia, 1925; (st. 4): Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024, alt. Text (sts. 1–3): © Lutheran World Federation; (st. 4): © 1972 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. A-710094

HYMN**“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”****LSB 563**

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.

Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt. Text: Public domain

HYMN**“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”****LSB 589**

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You And to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You, Let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at Your Word;
But to all who feel sin's burden You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; On Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–83; (sts. 1–3): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 1993
Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL**BENEDICTION****CLOSING HYMN****“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”****LSB 805**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, Public domain

SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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+ Today's Worship Servants +

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Pastor Snow

Liturgist: Pastor Barry

Organist: 8:00 Kristin Johnson

Pianist: 6:30 Nancy Buckentine

Choir: Messengers of Praise

Choir Director: Dr. Katie Rolf

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte: Evan Sutherland

Elders: 8:00 Paul DeRocher/6:30 Ben Wiegert

Communion Asst: Gayle Degler, Dante Langmade, Chris Mundahl

Usher Team: Jay Molnau

Welcome Team: Gary Herber

Tech Crew: Jason Eickhoff

Coffee Hour: Evan and Jenna Anderson

Banner & Paraments: Joan Bode

Today at St. John's

8:00 AM | Traditional Worship with Communion

9:00 AM | Coffee Hour

9:30 & 10:45 AM | Blended Worship with Communion

9:30 AM | Education Hour and Sunday School

9:30 AM | Rite of Beginning

9:30 AM | 3-Year-Old Bible Milestone

6:30 PM | Youth Night

Upcoming Week	
Monday, September 21	5:30 PM Monday Night Meal
	6:30 PM Monday Night Worship
	7:00 PM AA
Tuesday, September 22	6:00 PM Walk Through The Bible
Wednesday, September 23	9:30 AM Moms in the Word
	6:00 PM Confirmation (Public School)
	7:00 PM Messengers of Praise Rehearsal
Thursday, September 24	9:30 AM Life Light Bible Study
	5:30 PM Bible Story Night
Friday, September 25	6:30 PM AA
Sunday, September 27	8:00/9:30/10:45 AM Traditional Worship
	9:30 AM Education Hour/Sunday School

Thank you for worshipping with St. John's today!

If this is your first time at St. John's, we invite you to fill out a CONNECTCard located at the Welcome Desk or by using the QR code. We look forward to CONNECT-ing with you.



Weekly Word Preview

Read all these stories at stjohnschaska.org/word, scan the QR code, or pick up a printed copy at the back of the church.



MONDAY NIGHT MEAL FUNDRAISER AT CULVER'S

**Tuesday, September 29
5:00–8:00 PM**

Grab Dinner at Culver's in Chaska!

Join the Monday Night Meal team at Culver's in Chaska on Tuesday, September 29, from 5:00–8:00 PM. During the fundraiser, Culver's will donate 10% of all sales to support the Monday Night Meal ministry. Stop by for dinner, say hello to the team, and help support this ministry serving our community.

THE 13TH ANNUAL

**1 ALL
FOR
ONE**
GOD • SCHOOL • CAUSE
SCHOOL DINNER AND AUCTION

Friday, October 9
Hazeltine National
Golf Club
Get Tickets Now!



St. John's Lutheran School is excited to host our annual All for One Dinner & Auction on Friday, October 9, 2026, at Hazeltine National Golf Club. Join us for an evening together in support of St. John's Lutheran School. Tickets

are \$100 per person. This year's All for One goal is to raise \$80,000 to support: Outdoor Field Development, Gym Floor Restoration, Building Security, and Technology Innovation. Gifts made through All for One help provide resources that directly enhance the experience of our students and support the work of our teachers and staff.