Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026 | 8:00, 9:30 & 10:45 AM
November 16, 2026 | 6:30 PM

St. John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" **LSB 528, vv. 1-3, 7**

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.

To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav'n.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Merciful God,
We confess that we have labored to accumulate things which do not satisfy us. Forgive us for hoarding possessions while others stand in need. Forgive us for not responding to Your abundant love and gracious generosity as we should. Change our minds and our hearts so that we might love and serve You.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the good news we receive from God today is that God does forgive our sins! His abundant grace through the sacrifice of His Only Son covers all of our sins.

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I announce His grace to you and forgive all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast" LSB 155
Refrain:
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. ***Refrain***

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing and glory are His. ***Refrain***

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. ***Refrain***

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ***Refrain***
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PRAYER OF THE DAY
Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Zephaniah 1:7a; 12-16
Pew Bible Page 788

[7]Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests… [12]At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.'

[13]Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though
they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant
vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." [14]The great day of the
Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is
bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. [15]A day of wrath is that day, a
day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of
darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, [16]a day of
trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the
lofty battlements.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**
Pew Bible Page 987

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need
to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that
the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are
saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come
upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will
not escape. [4]But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise
you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the day. We
are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep, as others
do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at
night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we belong
to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not destined us for
wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died
for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.
[11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you
are doing.

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.

HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 25:14-30**

Pew Bible Page 830

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
Glory to You, O Lord.

14 [Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his
servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five
talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.
Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once
and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who
had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received
the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.
19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled
accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came
forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me
five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him,
‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little;
I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also
who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to
me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to
him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a
little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 He
also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I
knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and
gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and
hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26 But his
master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I
reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed?
27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at
my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So
take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.

[29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN "Take My Life and Let It Be" LSB 783, vv. 1-4

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

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SERMON "Investing for a Kingdom Return" Pastor Barry

+ 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" LSB 955

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us
A foretaste of the feast to come.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
Now let us come before the Lord in prayer for ourselves and for all people as they have need.

The homes of Your people cry out for Your blessing and peace. Teach us to love one another, O Lord, and to forgive one another as You have forgiven us. Help us to encourage one another to faithfulness and good works that glorify You. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You know the needs of all, and You invite us to turn to You in prayer. Heal, relieve, and sustain all the sick and those who suffer… Comfort all who grieve and give peace to those in their final days on earth… Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant to us Your Spirit, O Lord, that we who commune here this day may receive with faith the bread which is Your body and the cup of Your blood. Strengthen us by this communion, and encourage our unity of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

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 “The Peace of the Lord”

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

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.***
- ***Individual cups may be deposited in the wooden box on the wall.***

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN **“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”** **LSB 575**

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name. ***Refrain***

Refrain:
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. ***Refrain***

His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. ***Refrain***

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! ***Refrain***

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HYMN

“The Day Is Surely Drawing Near” **LSB 508, vv. 1-2, 5-6**

The day is surely drawing near
When Jesus, God’s anointed,
In all His power shall appear
As judge whom God appointed.
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,
And flames on flames shall ravage earth
As Scripture long has warned us.

The final trumpet then shall sound
And all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground
Shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hour,
By God’s almighty, boundless pow’r,
Be changed at His commanding.

My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

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HYMN "Lord of All Hopefulness" LSB 738

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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HYMN "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" LSB 729, vv. 1-4

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.

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

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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT
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

CLOSING HYMN "Voices Raised to You We Offer" LSB 795, vv. 1-2 (Tune: LSB 924)

Voices raised to You we offer; Tune them, God, for songs of praise.
Hearts and hands we bring in tribute For Your gifts through all our days.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to You we sing!

All creation joins to praise You; Earth and sky Your works display.
Art and music, gifts You lend us, We return to You today.
Alleluia! Alleluia! God, Creator, source of life!
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SENDING
Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

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+ Today's Worship Servants +

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Pastor Barry
Liturgist: Pastor Snow
Organist: 8:00/9:30/10:45 Linda DeRocher
Pianist: 6:30 Gunnar Olson

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolyte:	8:00 Paityn Wolter/10:45 Noella Scheidt
Communion Assistants:	8:00 Gayle Degler, Chris Hammons, Spencer Roxas 9:30 Bruce Bergo, Scott McCarty, Daniel Schlueter, Pete Stephan 10:45 Paul Dolan, Lyle Hilk, Ben Wiegert
Elders:	8:00 Chris Mundahl/9:30 Pete Siedelman 10:45 Paul DeRocher/6:30 Bruce Bergo
Usher Team:	8:00 Jeff Rasmussen/9:30 Mark Young 10:45 Craig Pauling
Welcome Team:	8:00 Gayle Degler/9:30 Matzke Family 10:45 Jenny McCarty
Tech Crew:	8:00 Zach Brooks, Andy Erdmann, Daniel Schlueter 9:30 Julie Bruce 10:45 Ryan and Rylee Koepsell
Coffee Hour:	DeWaard Family
Banner & Paraments:	Joan Bode

Today at St. John's
8:00/9:30/10:45 AM | Traditional Worship with Communion
9:00 AM | Coffee Hour
9:30 AM | Education Hour and Sunday School
6:00 PM | Youth Night
7:00 PM | Sunday Night Basketball

Upcoming Week	
Monday, November 16	6:30 AM Monday Morning Men's Bible Study
	5:30 PM Monday Night Meal
	6:30 PM Monday Night Worship
	7:00 PM AA
Tuesday, November 17	6:30 PM Executive Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 18	9:30 AM Moms in the Word
	4:00 PM Operation Christmas Child Packing
	6:00 PM Confirmation Public School
	7:00 PM Rehearsal: Advent Choral Vespers
Thursday, November 19	9:30 AM LifeLight Bible Study
Friday, November 20	6:30 PM AA
Saturday, November 21	7:00 AM Bible and Bacon
Sunday, November 22	8:00 AM Traditional Worship
	9:30 & 10:45 AM Blended Worship
	9:30 AM Education Hour/Sunday School
	6:00 PM Youth Night
	7:00 PM Sunday Night Basketball

Thank you for worshiping 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.



This Thanksgiving, St. John's is helping provide complimentary Thanksgiving meals to members of our community, with generous support from Bountiful Basket. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the meals before they're delivered on Tuesday, November 24. Whether you're able to help for a morning or an afternoon, your time and willingness to serve are appreciated. Thank you for helping us share God's love with our neighbors this Thanksgiving!



Our final Monday Night Worship service of the season will be Monday, November 23 at 6:30 PM. Stay tuned for more information about its return in late spring. In the meantime, join us for Sunday morning worship at 8:00, 9:30, and 10:45 AM, and midweek Advent worship beginning Wednesday, December 2nd at 4:15 and 6:30 PM!

St. John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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