



THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 30, 2026



Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Will You Come and Follow Me

text/tune John Bell

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P The Lord is near the brokenhearted; He delivers those who are discouraged. Therefore, let us go to our God and confess our sins knowing that,

C **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

C **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**

P God's saints lack nothing. God's people are delivered from all their afflictions. In mercy, Almighty God has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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

C Amen.

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Service of the Word

Gathering Hymn: LSB 718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand
To our fatherland.

If the way be drear,
If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many_a woe
To our home we go.

When we seek relief
From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore
Where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won.
Heav’nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand
In our fatherland.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.
Text: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 15:15–21

A The Old Testament reading is from the fifteenth chapter of the book of Jeremiah.

¹⁵ O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹

Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 26

L Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

G Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind.

L For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

G I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites;

L I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.

G I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord,

L singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

G O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.

L Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty,

G those in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

L But as for me, I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

G My foot stands on level ground; in the great congregation I will bless the Lord.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

G as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle

Romans 12:9–21

A The Epistle reading is from the twelfth chapter of the book of Romans.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

L Fear the LORD, you his saints,

G for those who fear him lack nothing!

L Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

G but the LORD delivers them out of them all.

Gospel Acclamation

G Halle, halle, halle_lujah!

Halle, halle, halle_lujah!

Halle, halle, halle_lujah!

Hallelujah! Halle_lujah!

Text: arr. Mark Sedio

Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: onelicense.net no. #A-724537

Verse

- P** Alleluia. Whoever would save their life will lose it,
C but whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:21–28

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day 531 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

Hail, Thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior,
Bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merit we find favor:
Life is given through Thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed,
Thou hast full atonement made.
All Thy people are forgiven
Through the virtue of Thy blood;
Opened is the gate of heaven,
Reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory,
There forever to abide;
All the heav'nly hosts adore Thee,
Seated at Thy Father's side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading;
There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding
Till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing
 Thou art worthy to receive;
 Highest praises, without ceasing,
 Right it is for us to give.
 Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
 All your noblest anthems raise;
 Help to sing our Savior's merits,
 Help to chant Immanuel's praise!

Text (sts. 1, 3–4): Hymns Addressed to the Holy, Holy, Holy, Triune God, 1757, London, alt.; (sts. 2–4): A Collection of Psalms and Hymns, 1760, London, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

- L** We make confession of our faith together in the words of the creed.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- L** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Loving and Gracious God, you have gathered us together to be your people in this world. You give us your Holy Spirit, your word, and the sacraments. Work through Your means of grace to transform our lives, so that they would always show your love and forgiveness and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- L** God of all Justice, teach Your faithful ones to trust so fully in Your tender loving care that we seek not vengeance but mercy. Grant us grace to bless those who curse us, and not to seek revenge. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, You have enabled us to feast on Your Word to the delight of our hearts. Keep us from despising Your Word, and inspire the pastors of Your Church to boldly proclaim what is precious: the Gospel of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- L** Gracious God we pray for our partners in ministry in this community, for Gathering Lambs, Luther Towers, and Interfaith Housing Alliance for the Poor, bless them and the good work they do in our community. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, open wide the hearts of Christians to one another, especially within the home and between neighbors. Let love be genuine, speech truthful and patience constant. Let us commend ourselves in everything as those known by God's love and, therefore, unashamed to serve one another. Give us joy and zeal for living as your disciples who join you in your work in this world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

L Preserve our nation, its leaders and those who serve for the good of our people and for their protection. Grant peace in our time, O Lord, for You alone fight for us. Allow justice, mercy, peace, and compassion to grow and increase in us, among us, and through us. And heal our world from the evils of injustice, prejudice, inequality, and hatred. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Great Physician, You heal and restore. *[We especially remember before you this morning, those whom we love, who need your healing and care, that we name before you now out loud or in our hearts_____.]* Give them Your holy care and strength to bear their crosses, that they may endure to see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

L O Lord, we humbly come before you in faith, not trusting in our own works and good deeds, but setting our hearts and minds on the things of God. Prepare us to receive the blessed gifts of our Lord's table, by which You preserve us holy and blameless in Christ until He comes again. Work through your means of grace to strengthen our faith and to increase our love and service to you, to one another, and to our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Rise up, O Lord, and rescue those who are persecuted for the name of Your Son, Jesus. In communion with all Your saints, grant us endurance to bear our crosses as Christ bore His for us. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

L All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Offering

C **Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,
"Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."
Time to share our gifts and say,
"Thank you Lord for each new day."**

Offertory Prayer

L Giving God, You provide us with all we need to support our bodies and lives. Your abundance and provision will never fail or leave us lacking. Allow Your generosity to inspire our generosity. Accept the offerings that we give in the various ways that we give them throughout the week. Increase and grow our trust in You through the giving of our offerings. Be glorified in the giving of them as we give them in thanksgiving and with gratitude for all Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name we pray,
C **Amen.**

Offertory

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** 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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** 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."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Lord's Prayer

- P** God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

- C** **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.**

Distribution Hymn: LSB 722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

Lord, take my hand and lead me
Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me
From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor
I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior,
And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages,
Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding,
In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen
And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen
My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000779

Distribution Hymn: LSB 851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the _unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.
Text: Public domain

The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.
C Amen.

Thank the Lord

- C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

- L** Let us pray.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Benedicamus

- L** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
- L** Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.
- L** As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service.
We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.
C Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.
- L** We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.
C Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.

- L** We have received the gifts of God given in Holy Communion.
- C** **As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.**
- L** As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and who engage in service.
- C** **We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.**
- P** As you go, receive the blessing of our God:
 The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: LSB 696 O God, My Faithful God

O God, my faithful God,
 True fountain ever flowing,
 Without whom nothing is,
 All perfect gifts bestowing:
 Give me a healthy frame,
 And may I have within
 A conscience free from blame,
 A soul unstained by sin.

Grant me the strength to do
 With ready heart and willing
 Whatever You command,
 My calling here fulfilling;
 That I do what I should
 While trusting You to bless
 The outcome for my good,
 For You must give success.

Keep me from saying words
 That later need recalling;
 Guard me lest idle speech
 May from my lips be falling;
 But when within my place
 I must and ought to speak,
 Then to my words give grace
 Lest I offend the weak.

Lord, let me win my foes
With kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends
For counsel and correction.
Help me, as You have taught,
To love both great and small
And by Your Spirit's might
To live in peace with all.

Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.

And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the NRSV® Bible (The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version®), copyright © 1989 by Thomas Nelson Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. And from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

St. John's Lutheran Church + 113 Lotus Street + 302-734-7078 + sjldover.com
St. Johns is a congregation in the Southeastern District of the LCMS