

Saint John Lutheran Church

We love because He first loved us

August 10, 2025

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Setting Three – Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)

PRELUDE

Tessa Dorsett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER

THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

- P Today, we have before us youth who have brought the backpacks that will be carried to and from school. At home, children join us virtually with their backpacks as well, as all of these young people seek the blessings of God for the upcoming school year.
- P These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, tools to complete homework. Notebooks, pencils, pens, protractors, compasses, crayons, rulers, scissors, glue sticks and other items used for school work will find their way in and out of these backpacks. Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty.
- P But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.
- P Let us pray. Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students. They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit

themselves to studying and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them.

P Further, we ask for your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

C We pray for our teachers and the administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning, and surrounds them with love and care as well. Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share God's peace with one another.

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying "Peace be with You."

INVOCATION

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at Baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #624 "Jesus, Still Lead On"

1 Jesus, still lead on,
till our rest be won;
and, although the way be cheerless,
we will follow, calm and fearless;
guide us by your hand
to the promised land.

2 If the way be drear,
if the foe be near,
let no faithless fears o'ertake us,
let not faith and hope forsake us;
safely past the foe
to our home we go.

- 3 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.
- 4 Jesus, still lead on,
till our rest be won;
heav'nly leader, still direct us,
still support, console, protect us,
till we safely stand
in the promised land.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Pg. 138-139

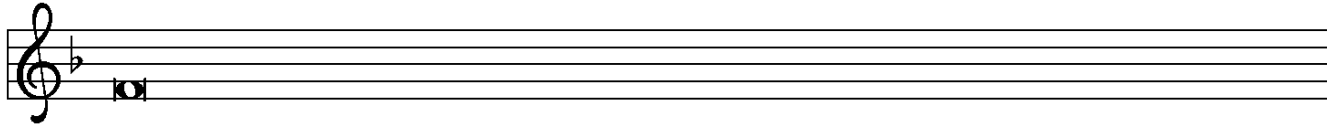


The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics "In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." The second staff contains the lyrics "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord." The third staff contains the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests.

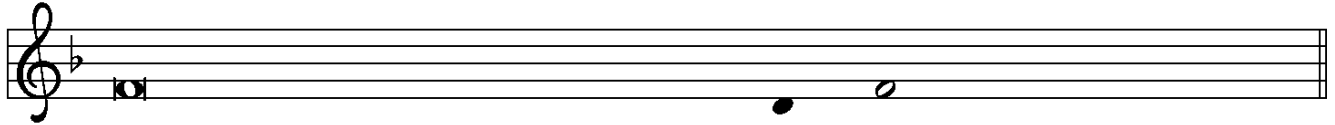
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



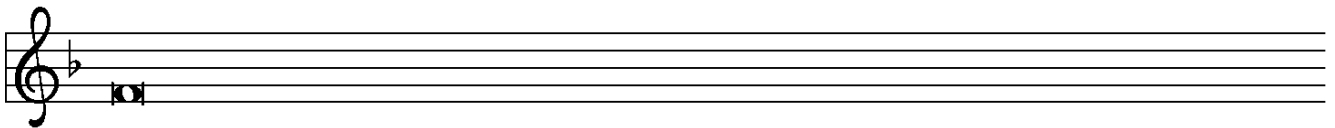
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

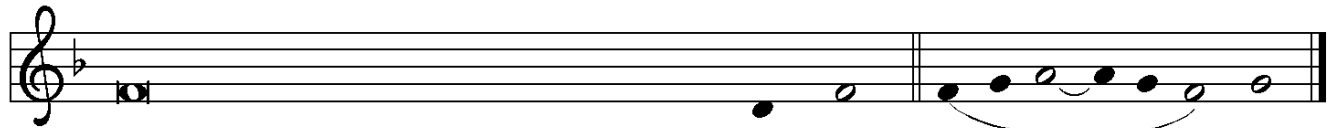


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Glory To God"

Pg. 139-140

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

You may be seated.

THE HOLY WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 33:12-22



¹² Happy is the nation whose God ¹ is the Lord!
Happy the people chosen to ¹ be God's heritage!

**13 The Lord looks | down from heaven,
and sees all | humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly en- | throned and watches
all who dwell | on the earth.

**15 God fashions | all their hearts
and observes | all their deeds.**

- ¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size ¹ of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by ¹ their great strength.
- ¹⁷ **The horse gives vain ¹ hope for victory;
despite its great strength it ¹ cannot save.**
- ¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear ¹ you, O Lord,
upon those who wait for your ¹ steadfast love,
- ¹⁹ **to deliver their ¹ lives from death,
and to keep them alive in ¹ time of famine.**
- ²⁰ Our innermost being waits for ¹ you, O Lord,
our helper ¹ and our shield.
- ²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoic- ¹ es in you,
for in your holy name we ¹ put our trust.**
- ²² Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, ¹ be upon us,
even as we place our ¹ hope in you.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as

many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Pg. 142

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Pete

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #764 "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!

- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!

APOSTLE'S CREED

Pg. 105

C 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened (*places may be named*). Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need (*especially*). Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

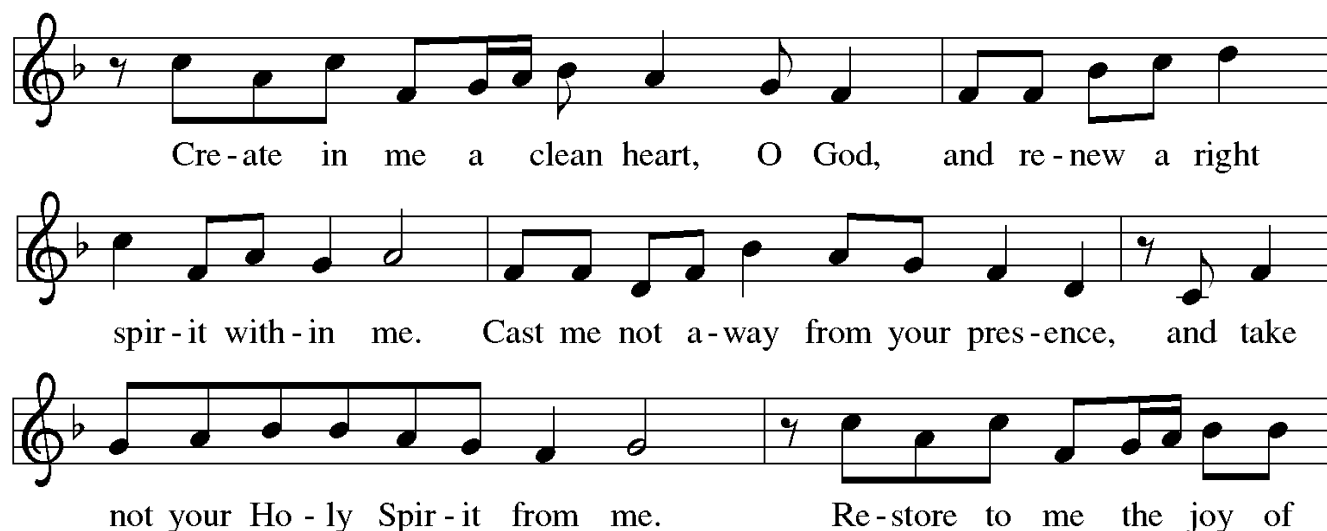
We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance (*especially Lawrence, deacon and martyr*). Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES & OFFERING

OFFERTORY CANTICLE *ELW #186 "Create in Me"*



The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the canticle, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of'.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take

not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

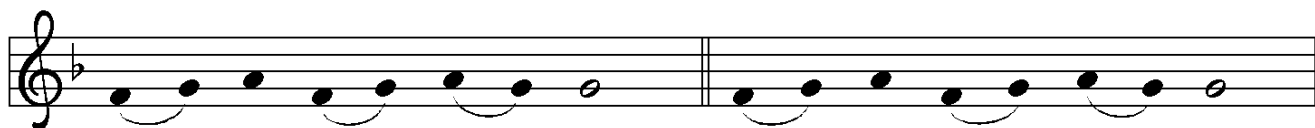
A Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pg. 144



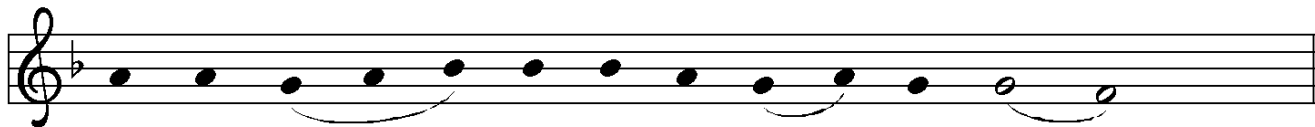
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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.

THE PROPER PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

Pg. 144

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

LAMB OF GOD

Pg. 146

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.

HOLY COMMUNION OF GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE

We are celebrating Holy Communion during the service this morning. We believe that Christ is truly present in this meal of bread and wine. All are welcome at table. Small children who have not yet received communion instruction are welcome at the table to receive a blessing. Those who prefer not to receive wine may take white grape juice supplied in the inner circle of the communion tray, gluten free wafers are available, just let your server know you wish to receive gluten free.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Instrumental

TABLE DISMISSAL

P Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

ELW #856 "How Great Thou Art" vs. 1 & 4

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Tessa Dorsett

Thank you to those serving today:

READER

Ruth Brown

ASSISTING MINISTER

Matt Hughes

CANTOR

Amanda Boykin

USHERS

Richard Kolonko & Pat Patterson

ACOLYTE

Christ Magwe

COUNTERS

Richard Kolonko & Becky Branch

SUNDAY SUPERVISOR

Tessa Dorsett

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Abigail Boykin

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2227 North Downing Road, Angleton, Texas 77515

(979) 849-7253 e-mail: office@st-john.org

Pastor Pete cell: (979) 848-7155

website: www.st-john.org