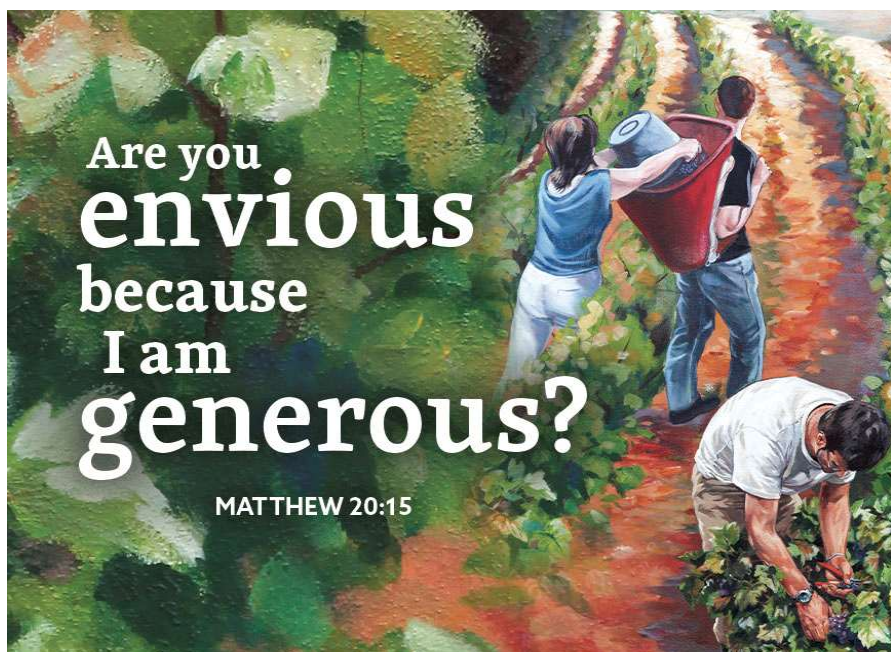




Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
Rev. Dr. Tim Jordan

Church 740-574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



St. John Lutheran Church

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September 20, 2026

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.

Prelude

+ Confession and Forgiveness

Stand

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

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

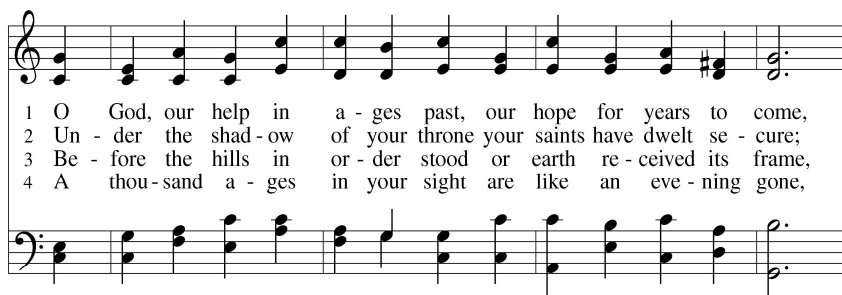
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

+ Entrance Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

#320



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 soon bears us all away;
 we fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 still be our guard while troubles last
 and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

+ 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

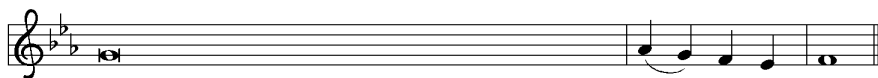
(Luke 17:13)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



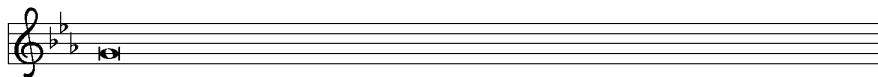
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



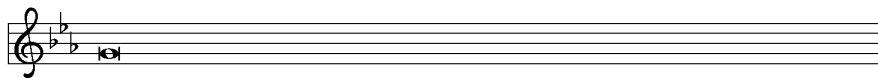
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

+Hymn of Praise*Glory to God*

Luke 2:14, John 1:29 & Rev. 15:4

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo and mood are indicated by a common time signature (C) and a series of eighth and quarter notes, suggesting a steady, reverent pace. The melody is composed of simple, flowing lines with various rests and ties. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The text is in a mix of bold and regular fonts, with some words in italics. The overall structure is a single, continuous piece of music.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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,

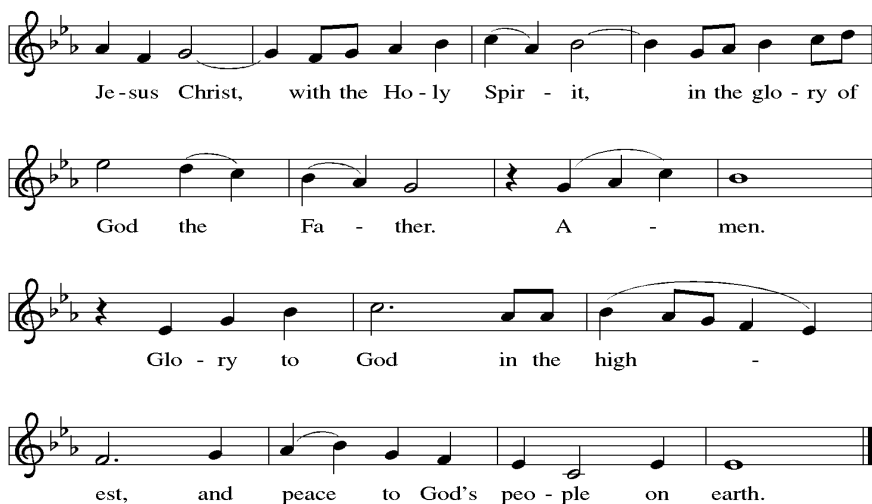
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

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,



+ Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . . **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not

be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

+ Alleluia Verse

John 6:68

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

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

Repeat alleluia

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

+ The Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came,

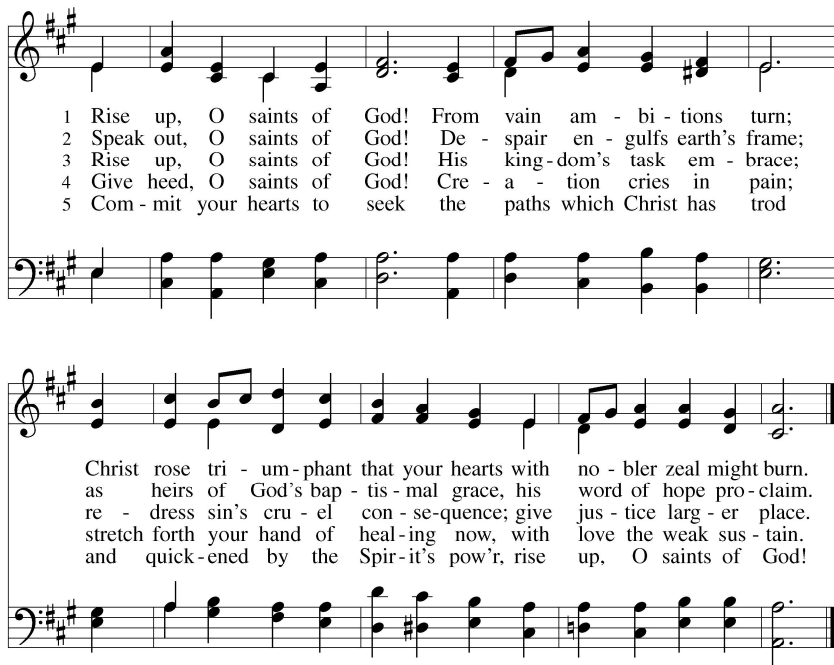
each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon **Fairness, Generosity, and Life Abundant** Pastor Jordan

Silence For Reflection

Hymn of the Day *Rise Up, O Saints of God* **#383**



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace;
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his word of hope pro - claim.
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
 and quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Let us pray.

P Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

P Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (*especially*). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

+ The Peace

[shared among the congregation]

P The peace of the Lord be with you always

C And also with you.

The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you

R Peace be with you.

Parish Announcements

Offering

+ **Offertory** *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful* 1 Corinthians 10:16 & John :35



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

+ The Prayer

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

+ The Great Thanksgiving

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.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through 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. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Isaiah 6:3 & Matthew 21:9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

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

Matthew 26:26-28, Luke 22:17-20
Mark 14:22-24, 1Corinthians 11:23-26

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P 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.

+The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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

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, grant us peace.

The Holy Communion

As the minister gives the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: **Amen**

Music during the Communion:

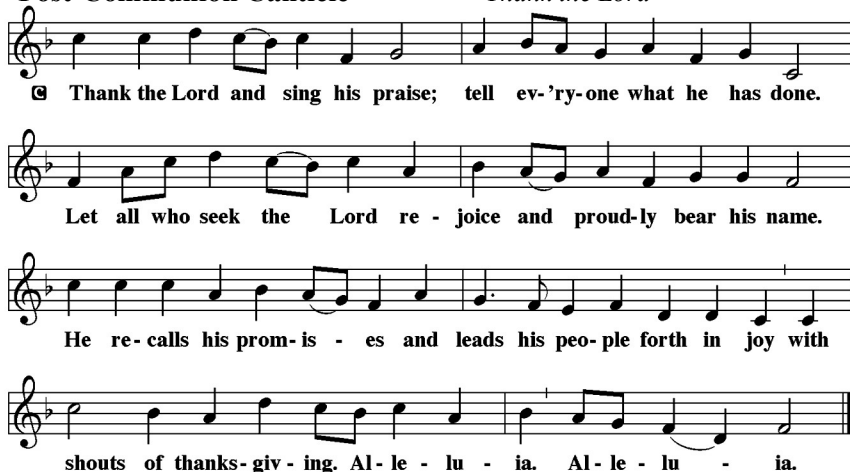
Stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

+ Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord



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

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice 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 Prayer

Romans 5:5

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

+ The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

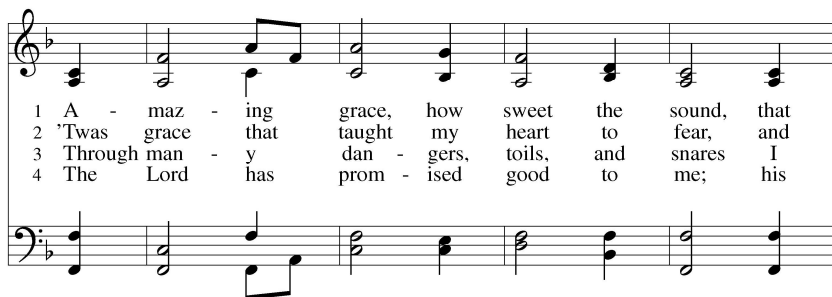
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
+In the of the Father , and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

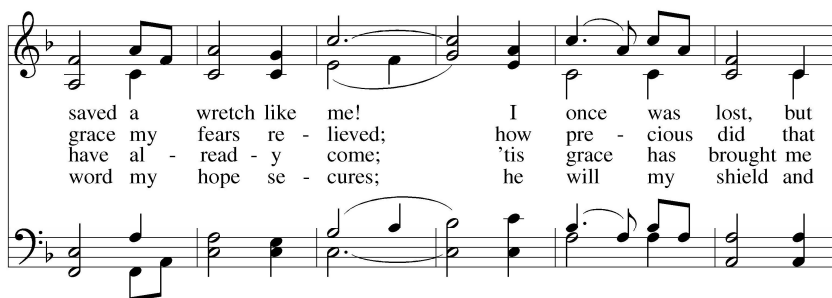
+ Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace

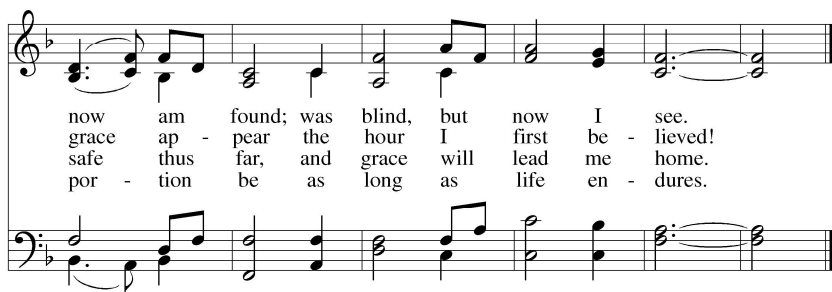
#448



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

+ Dismissal

P Go in peace.
Children Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist
Worship Assistant
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Greeter
Acolytes
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Vivian Riffel
Vivian Riffel
Sherry Mullins
Vivian Riffel

Sherry Mullins, Brenda Moore, Vicki Nye-Titus
Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION. St John observes open communion. Christians of all Churches and all denominations are invited and encouraged to join us at our Lord's table. Grape juice is offered as an alternative to wine for those who wish it. Young children who have not yet gone through Preparation for Communion may be brought forward for a blessing.

These are the words of Martin Luther from The Small Catechism:

*The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** The words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.*

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Bill Murphy, Linda Martin, Melanie Hawk, Nicholas Young, Rod Schneider, Brenda Moore, Ken Staker, Greg Piguett, Mary McQuay, Chris Parish, Tom Bussler, Luke White, Jack Clevenger, Bob Rase, Glenn Rase, Jim Webb, Leah Willis, Dennis Klaiber, Cheryl Crank, Judy Buknis, Shanna Garrett, Belford Sexson, Linda Sexson, Derrick Gleim, Dorrita Gleim, Mackenzie Gleim, Owen Wilburn, Wendi Waugh, Carol Easter, David Otworth, Ed Hughes, Brandon Cline, Colton Snyder, Deacan Kidd, Paul Christian, Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts

BLANKET PROJECT GROUP will meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

CHOIR will practice each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY meets each Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

JOIN PASTOR TIM for Coffee Hour on September 26 at 10:30 a.m. at Adam's Flying Pig.

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY MORNING for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Crean Hansen, Kelly Skipworth, Leigh Ann Henry, John Mullins, Brenda Gleim

BAPTISMS: Dustin Williams, Avery Miller, Pierson Neal, J.C. Goodwin, Patty Staker, Don Gleim, Jr.,

ANNIVERSARIES: Terry & Lacy Stevenson,
Chris & Stephanie Clevenger

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

Attendance

2026 Average	61
2025 Average	62

Serving Next Sunday, September 27

Organist	Leigh Ann Henry
Lay Reader	Brian Oakes
Prayer Leader	Brian Oakes
Greeter	
Acolytes	
Altar Committee	Sherry Mullins, Brenda Moore, Vicki Nye-Titus
Council President	Rick Williams

Happening This Week at St. John

Today—Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study

Saturday

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour with Pastor Tim at Adam's Flying Pig
4:30 p.m. Yard Games

Next Sunday—Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship

Special Events This Week

Saturday, September 26

Yard Games at 4:30 p.m.

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, October 11

Honoring Our First Responders

Saturday, October 17

Fall Festival at 3:00 p.m. at St. John

Friday, November 13

Game Night at 6:30 p.m. at St. John

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville

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Rev. Dr. Tim Jordan

Church 740-574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com