



“Forgive your
brother or sister
from your heart.”

M A T T H E W 1 8 : 3 5 , N R S V

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Saturday September 12, 2026 16th Saturday after Pentecost

Saturday September 12, 2026 5:00 PM Pentecost 16

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

Rise and Sing

Rise and sing praises to the Father.
Rise and sing praises to the Son.
Rise and sing praises to the Spirit,
Give thanks in all you do
For what God's done for you.

(Repeat)

Rise and sing.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we don't always live the way you have called us to live. We have taken more than we need and forgotten our responsibility to care for your creation. We have let jealousy, anger, and bitterness get in the way of our relationships.

We have seen injustice and chosen silence because it was easier than speaking up. We have allowed our differences to divide us instead of looking for the love we share in you.

Forgive us, God. Turn our hearts back toward you. Heal what is broken in our lives, in our relationships, and in your world.

Give us courage to seek justice, compassion to love our neighbors, and grace to follow the way of Jesus. Amen.

P: Hear the good news:

God does not hold our sins against us. We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only the promise of kingdom life. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's grace is yours—not because you have earned it, but because God loves you.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING:

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

SECOND READING:

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

SERMON

Rev. Shawn O’Brien

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**All: We believe in God—the Maker of all things,
seen and unseen, who breathed life into dust and called it good.
A God whose love has no limits,
whose mercy stretches beyond the stars.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ—
God from God, Light from Light, Love made flesh.
He came as one of us, walked among the broken,
blessed the forgotten, and showed us the heart of God.
He suffered under the weight of the world,
was crucified and laid in the grave.
But love cannot be buried.
On the third day, he rose—alive, breaking the grip of death.
He ascended in glory, and he will come again
to restore all things and set creation free.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit—
God with us, now and always.
The Spirit breathes in us, stirs us to courage,
gathers us into community, and leads us into truth.
We believe in grace that never runs dry,
in hope that will not let go,
in life that breaks through death. Amen.**

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

P: Hear Us, O God

ALL: Your mercy is great.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Please offer those around you a sign of peace as you are comfortable.. this can be a handshake, a thumbs up, a fist bump or simply a smile...)



OFFERING SONG

Thy Word

Chorus

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path**

When I feel afraid, Think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear, As long as You are near,
Please be near me to the end.

Chorus

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of creation,

C: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

..... Holy Communion



COMMUNION LITANY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Holy and loving God, Jesus Christ our Savior overcame death and the grave, and opened for us the way to new and everlasting life.

With all creation, and with your people throughout the ages

C: We praise you, O God.

P: The heavens and the earth declare your glory. Your faithfulness carries your people through every generation.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Above all we give you thanks for Jesus, who came to us, who walked among us, who stood with those who suffered, and who continues to abide with us.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: In the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat.

This is my body, given for you.

Do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them 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 to remember me.

Send your Spirit among us, O God, and into this holy meal.

Make us one in Christ, called, forgiven, and sent into the world to love and serve our neighbors as you have loved us.

ALL: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: 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 DISTRIBUTION



Welcome!

St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the Pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the Pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the Pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Sustaining God,

C: with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of love bring us together in love and unity, as the body of Christ.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope give you strength and joy, in whatever you face, through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace bless you and be with you, now and always.

ALL: Amen

SENDING SONG

Go In Peace and Serve the Lord

Go in peace and serve the Lord. God is calling you today.
Go and tell Gospel news everywhere. Go in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today to bring truth and love to every nation.

Go in peace and serve the Lord. God is calling you today.
Go and tell Gospel news everywhere. Go in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today to bring truth and love to every nation.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

POSTLUDE