



**Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Sunday, August 17, 2025 * Back 2 School Blessing**



Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church

www.stjohnwilliston.org 419-836-5514

10th Sunday after Pentecost August 17, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Beckie Goldstein, Organist

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.

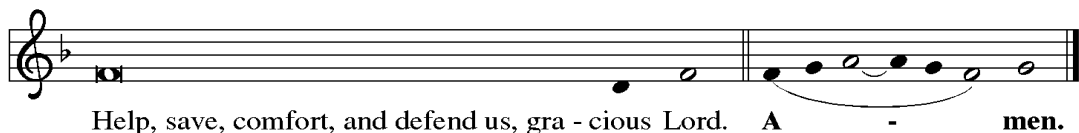
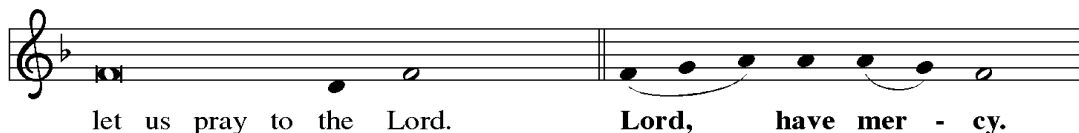
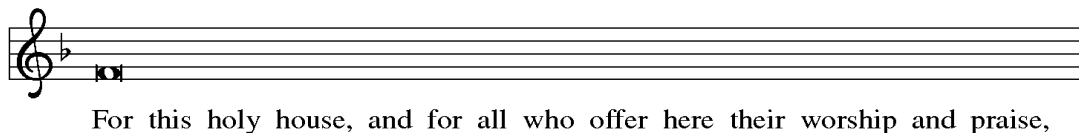
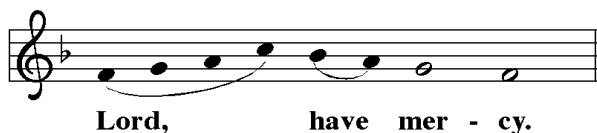
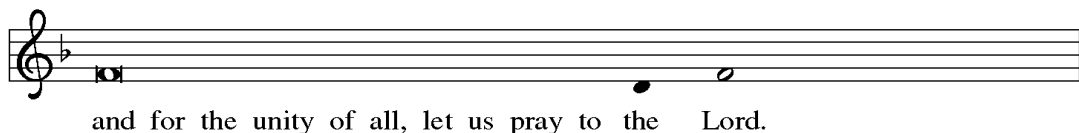
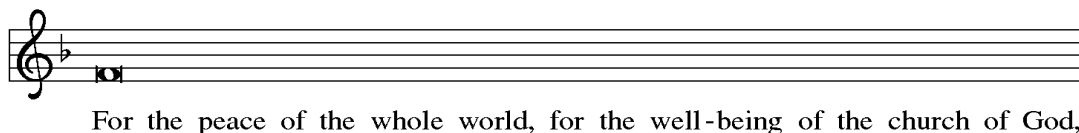
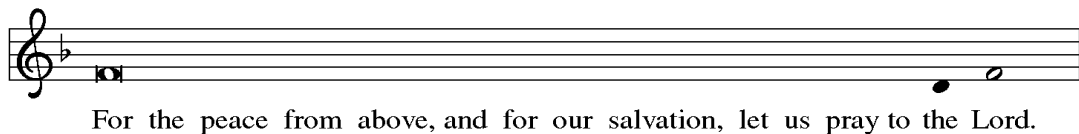
GATHERING SONG

Faith of Our Fathers

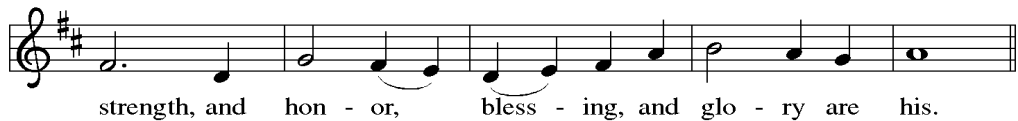
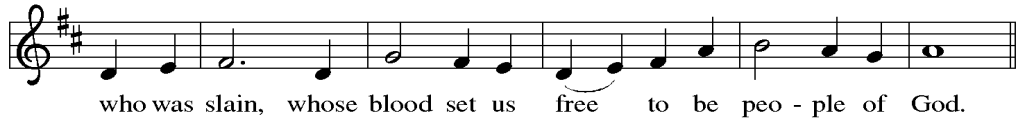
Hymn # 812
3 verses

GREETING AND KYRIE

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.**



This Is the Feast



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

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

P: The Lord Be With You. **C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The Word of the Lord.... **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 12:49-12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord.... C: Thanks be to God.



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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:49-56

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Hymn # 517
3 verses



Charge to the Parents

Leader – Parents, may the Holy Spirit remind you that as covenant partners, our faith community is here for you and your children.

As you send them to be molded and shaped in knowledge, may you remember they are gifts from God. Know that God's blessing is with you to help them reach their potential because they are made in the image of God. As you prepare clothes, lunches, and backpacks....

People – May you be filled with peace.

Commissioning of Teachers/Professors

Leader – Educators, may God's blessing, protection, and Spirit be upon you as you guide, lead, serve, and even comfort students. You have been called by God to be ambassadors for Christ, living out God's love in your daily work. As you educate God's children of all ages...

People – May you be filled with mercy and wisdom.

Leader – As you encounter challenging situations and challenging students,

People – May you love and serve as Christ, in the strength of the Spirit.

Prayer for Students

Leader – Students, may God surround you with blessings and protection as you carry these backpacks for this new school year. As you carry notes, books, and assignments, know that you also carry the love of Christ to see everyone around you as someone loved by God....

People – May you be filled with God’s grace.

Leader – As you grow in wisdom and knowledge,

People – May you grow in compassion.

Prayer for College Students

Leader– Lord, bless and protect these women and men as they begin another school year. Watch over those who are moving away and grant safe travels to those who will commute. Remind them of the lessons they have learned in this community of faith. Fill them with good judgement, that they may remain focused in their studies, open to learn new things, and far from foolishness.

People- Grant these students the mind of Christ- that they may grow in your wisdom and truth. And whatever their field of study, that they may serve you with compassion and carry your light throughout their campuses.

Blessing

Leader: Lord, We thank you for each student, their life among us, and the future before them. Lead them in your way, your truth, and your life. Let each classroom they enter be a place of life and light, warmth and welcome, discovery and growth. Give them good friends and let be good friends for others. Set them at tasks which demand their best efforts, and lead them to accomplishments which satisfy and delight. Let them not take failures and disappointments as a measure of their worth but as opportunities for new learning and new beginnings. Open their hearts to life and their minds to learning. Let Holy Wisdom be their companion.

Send your holy angels to guard and protect all students and teachers. Let their names be always on the lips of your saints in prayer. Bless and keep them. Let your face shine upon them. Be gracious to them. and give them peace.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Hear Us, O God: **C: 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 hand shake, a fist bump or simply a smile..)



OFFERING PRAYER

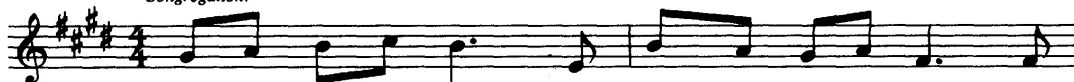
P: Creator God,

C: 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. Amen.

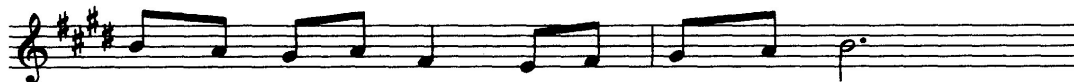
AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain

Congregation:



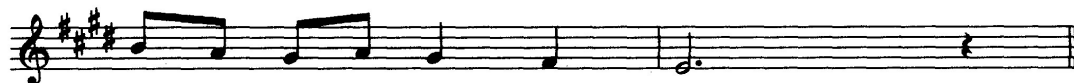
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be



gath-ered in-to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst, _____
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

To refrain



may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

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.

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:

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

**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.

THE DISTRIBUTION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: P: God of Fullness,
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.

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG

On Our Way Rejoicing

Hymn # 537
2 verses

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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.