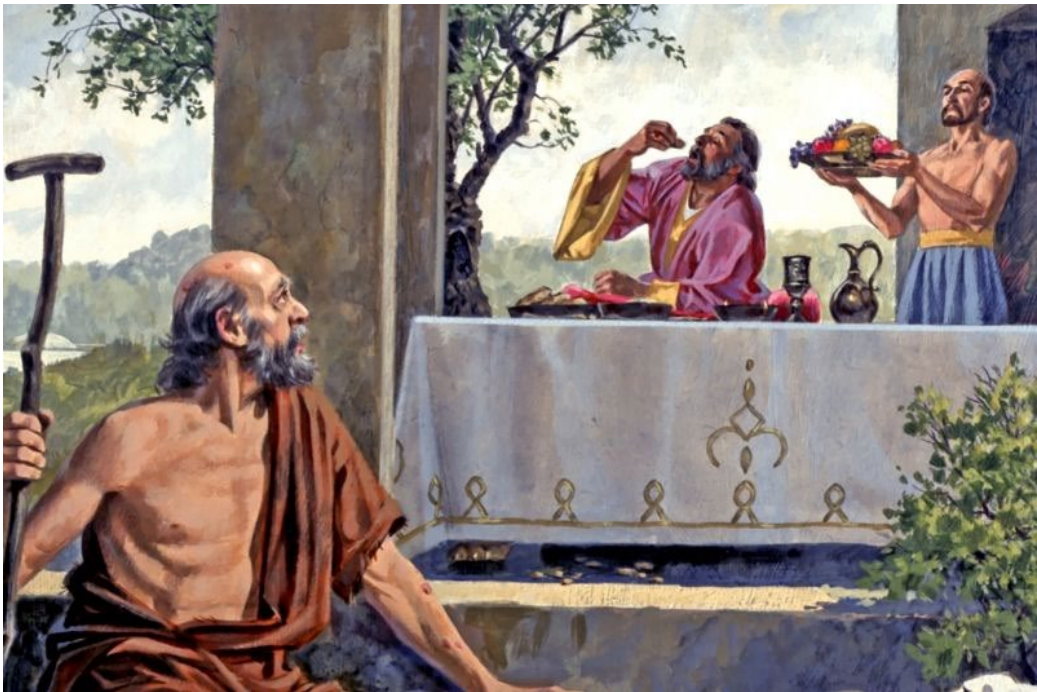




ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

AS WE GATHER



Though it sounds like a contradiction, the “poor rich man” in today’s parable of Jesus apparently never really heard or just ignored the dire warning of God’s prophets like Amos against trusting in earthly gain and riches to the exclusion of trusting faith in the merciful promises of God. The temptation of earthly wealth infects all people throughout history to this day, regardless of outward circumstances, rich and poor alike. Paul sums up the challenge for faith as he contrasts the “great gain” (or profit) of godly faithfulness and the temptations (or pitfalls) of temporary riches. We all know the sentence of Paul, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10), which is so often misquoted as only “money is the root of all evil.” Money is not the problem. There’s no sin in possessing earthly riches. The deeper question is what or who is the object of our love and trust. The Christian’s true riches are in Christ Jesus, namely, the new life we have been given through our baptismal faith. It is the life we can take with us through and beyond the grave and gate of death. “Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live” (Psalm 146:1–2), which will be forever!

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION HYMN

802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
 All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish—but naught chang - es Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy 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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

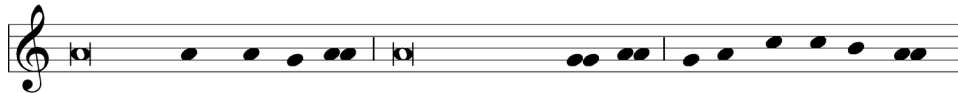
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



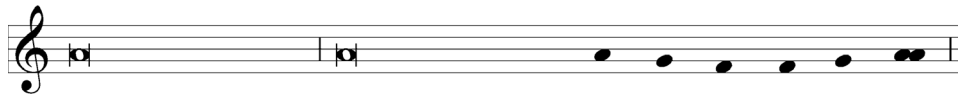
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



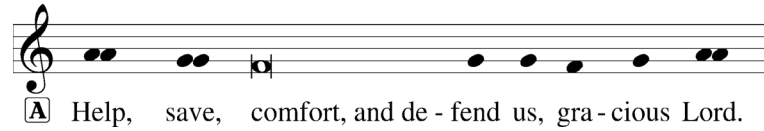
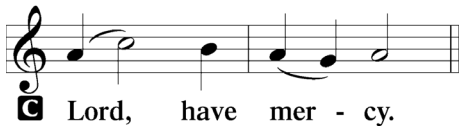
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



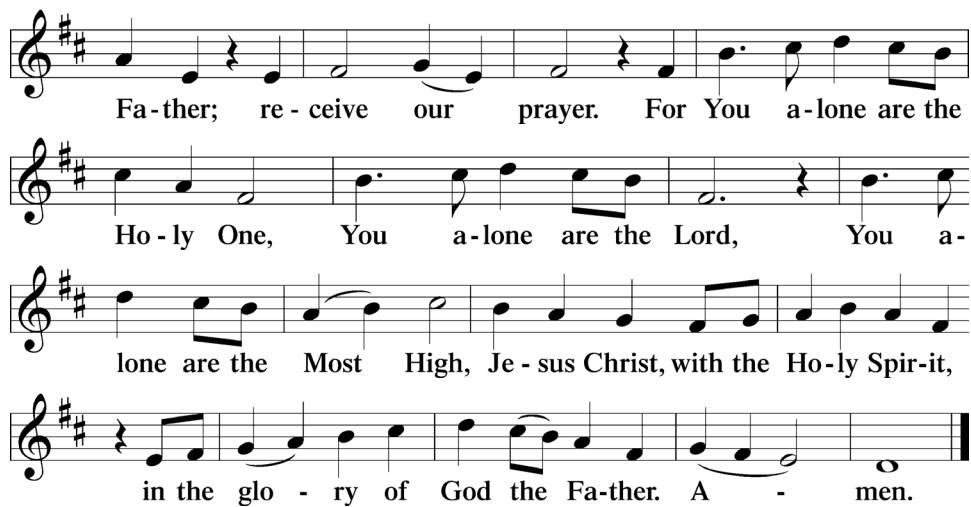
let us pray to the Lord.



FESTIVAL CANTICLE | Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

THE FIRST READING

Amos 6:1–7

L The Old Testament Reading is from Amos, chapter 6.

“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel comes!
Pass over to Calneh, and see,
and from there go to Hamath the great;

then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your territory,
O you who put far away the day of disaster
and bring near the seat of violence?
“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and stretch themselves out on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the midst of the stall,
who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,
who drink wine in bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,
and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 146; antiphon: v. 2

L Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

C **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

L Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

C **When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**

L Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

- C** The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
- L** The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
- C** The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- L** The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

EPISTLE

1 Timothy 3:1–13

- A** The Epistle is from 1 Timothy, chapter 3.

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from
3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om



me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth
bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And



has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were
in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in



void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my
peace - ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from



heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.
death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious
O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior




blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -



Lord, my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust Thy Word.
tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

Stand

APOSTLE'S 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.

Kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For pastors, missionaries, teachers, and all who proclaim Your Word, O Lord, that the sinfulness of their tongues may not hinder Your message of grace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For all those who celebrate the good news of births and birthdays, weddings and anniversaries, [*especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For all those who grieve, that they find hope in the resurrection, which brings us eternal life and defeats the enemy of death, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** For all those who govern in this nation and throughout the world, that their tongues would be kept from lying and slander, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** For all those who struggle with spiritual oppression, that God would deliver them from evil and restore them body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** For all those who have wandered from the Church, that the Holy Spirit would call them by the Gospel and gather them back to Your flock, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** For all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*], that God would grant them healing according to His good and gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, hear our prayer.
- P** Lord, we offer all these prayers, knowing that You hear us and bless us with what we need.
- C** Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE



Use this QR Code to give a one-time or recurring donation to the fund of your choice, by credit/debit card, or checking account.

CHOIR ANTHEM | 8:00am

How Lovely are the Messengers *from St. Paul*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

How lovely are the messengers that bring us the Gospel of peace.



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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.


CANATA CHOIR BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING | 8:00am

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.

CLOSING HYMN


664 Fight the Good Fight



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your
 3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; His bound - less
 4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He chang - es



strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
 eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way be -
 mer - cy will pro - vide. Trust, and en - dur - ing
 not who holds you dear; On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 fore us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.
 you will see That Christ is all e - ter - nal - ly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Cantata Choir of St. John's | 8:00am

Dana Shinneman, Piano | 8:00am

Sue Kunz, Lector (8:00am)

Mary Grether, Lector (10:45am)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers at the altar are given in thanksgiving to God for many blessings received and in celebration of grandson Trevino Fukar's birthday on 9/28. Love from Grandma Fukar.

MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry at St. John's plays a vital role in enriching our worship through sacred vocal and instrumental music that uplifts, inspires, and brings us closer to God. This ministry is made possible entirely through the generosity of our congregation via contributions to the **Music Fund**. As we reflect on the three pillars of Christian stewardship—time, talent, and treasure—we recognize that all are essential for a vibrant and growing music program. Your financial gifts help sustain this ministry and allow it to flourish. The Board of Worship invites you to prayerfully consider donating to the **Music Fund**. White envelopes are available in the pews for your convenience, or you may give online. Thank you for supporting this important part of our worship life.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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"WE WILL MAKE
THE EPHAH
SMALLER." *THAT*
DOESN'T SOUND
GOOD.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

IT WASN'T



THE 'EPHAH' WAS A UNIT
OF DRY MEASURE. THEY
ARE CONSPIRING TO SELL
LESS FOR MORE MONEY.



SHRINKFLATION
IS AS *OLD* AS
THE *BIBLE*!



AMOS 8:4-7

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BIBLE PASSAGE

Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely, I will never forget any of their deeds

LAUNDRY DRIVE



"Thank you to all who donated laundry detergent pods, fabric softener sheets, bags, and quarters. Thank you to the youth groups for helping with the assembly of the kits. You were all very generous, but we could certainly use more quarters. Please continue to drop off loose change (quarters only) in the clear jar marked for BEDS. The assembled kits were dropped off this week, and BEDS staff were very appreciative and thankful."

EQUIPPING † ENGAGING † ENCOURAGING

St. John's Lutheran Church and School
505 S. Park Rd. La Grange, IL 60525

www.sjlagrange.com

708-354-1690

