



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE

If God be for us,
who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
July 26, 2026



Classic infomercials famously told us, “But wait; there’s more!” in a maneuver to get us to buy. But there’s nothing wrong with you that something from an infomercial can fix. That is not to say there is nothing wrong with you; there definitely is. Your sin hurts you and others. Death is a sinner’s birthright. You are in the devil’s crosshairs. But the solution isn’t for sale. It is the free grace of Jesus Christ, won at a price as He offers His life for yours. In Him, you have victory over sin. But wait; there’s more! In Christ, death and darkness are defeated enemies. No matter the evils you face, you are more than a conqueror, held securely in the love of Christ, who conquers for you.

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

Please stand

INVOCATION HYMN

713 From God Can Nothing Move Me



1 From God can noth - ing move me; He will not step a - side
2 When those whom I re - gard - ed As trust - wor - thy and sure
3 The Lord my life ar - rang - es; Who can His work de - stroy?
4 Each day at His good plea - sure God's gra - cious will is done.



But gent - ly will re - prove me And be my con - stant guide.
Have long from me de - part - ed, God's grace shall still en - dure.
In His good time He chang - es All sor - row in - to joy.
He sent His great - est trea - sure In Je - sus Christ, His Son.



He stretch - es out His hand In eve - ning and in morn - ing,
He res - cues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me.
So let me then be still: My bod - y, soul, and spir - it
He ev - 'ry gift im - parts. The bread of earth and heav - en



My life with grace a - dorn - ing Wher - ev - er I may stand.
I leave death's fear be - hind me; His peace I have with - in.
His ten - der care in - her - it Ac - cord - ing to His will.
Are by His kind - ness giv - en. Praise Him with thank - ful hearts!

Text: Ludwig Helmbold, 1532–98; (sts. 1–2): tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–2001, alt.; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 4): tr. Gregory J. Wismar, 1946

Tune: Recueil de plusieurs chansons, 1557, Lyons, alt.

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Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
C **How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**
P The LORD set His love on you and chose you.
C **Know therefore that the LORD is God.**
P For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
C **To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

Please kneel or sit. Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** You are a people holy to the Lord your God.
C **We confess our unholy thoughts, words, and actions.**
- P** Almighty God,
C **we have not lived up to our calling as Your treasured possession. Our desires are selfish and our love is shallow. We have turned aside from doing good and chosen to treasure things of creation rather than our Creator. In our sinful state we are vulnerable to the devil, death, and darkness. And so we seek Your mercy. We surrender to Your loving kindness in Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
- P** "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
C **"He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?"**
- P** Indeed, the mercy of almighty God is displayed in the giving of His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word 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.**

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: This Is the Feast



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



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



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



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



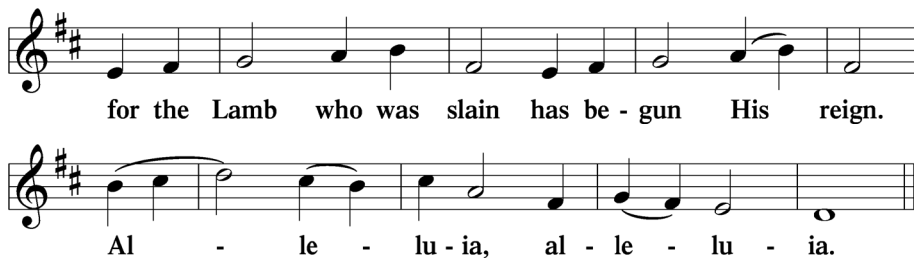
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



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



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please sit

FIRST READING

Numbers 13

A The Old Testament Reading is from Numbers, chapter 13.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, everyone a chief among them, and see what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds, and whether the land is rich or poor. At the end of forty days, they returned from spying out the land. And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.” But Caleb quieted the people

before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 125; antiphon: v. 2

A Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

C **As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.**

A For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

C **Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!**

A But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

EPISTLE

Romans 8:28–39

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 8.

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also

with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA

John 6:68



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HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

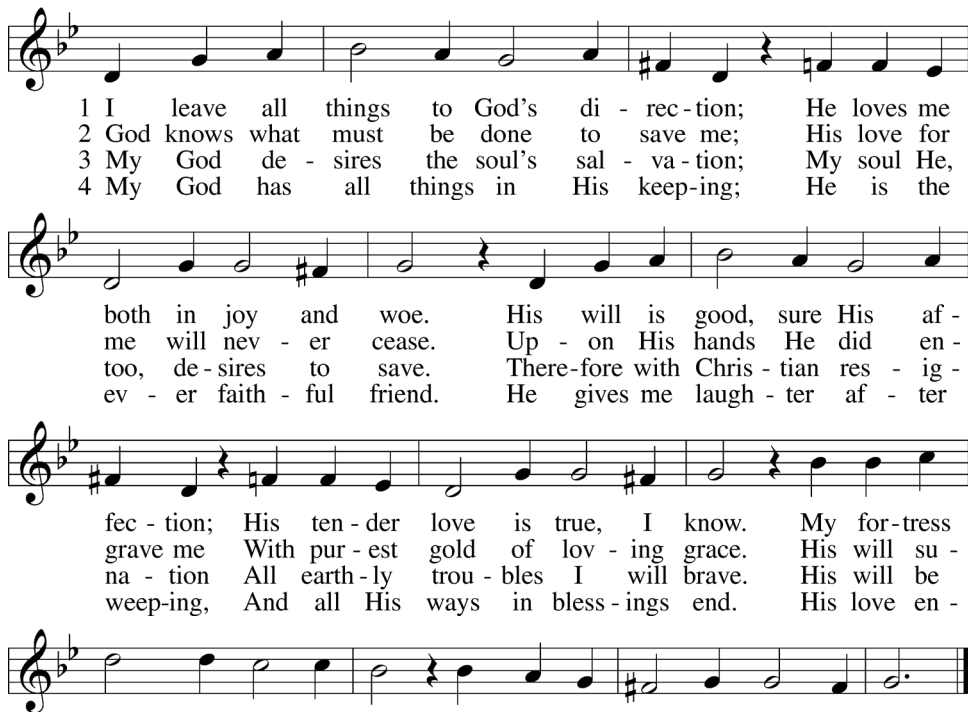
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please sit

SERMON HYMN

719 I Leave All Things to God's Direction



1 I leave all things to God's di - rec - tion; He loves me
 2 God knows what must be done to save me; His love for
 3 My God de - sires the soul's sal - va - tion; My soul He,
 4 My God has all things in His keep - ing; He is the

both in joy and woe. His will is good, sure His af -
 me will nev - er cease. Up - on His hands He did en -
 too, de - sires to save. There - fore with Chris - tian res - ig -
 ev - er faith - ful friend. He gives me laugh - ter af - ter

fec - tion; His ten - der love is true, I know. My for - tress
 grave me With pur - est gold of lov - ing grace. His will su -
 na - tion All earth - ly trou - bles I will brave. His will be
 weep - ing, And all His ways in bless - ings end. His love en -

and my rock is He: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.
 preme must ev - er be: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.
 done e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.
 dures e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.

Please stand

APOSTLES' 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.

Please 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.

Eternal Father, O God our Creator and Redeemer, we thank You that You have drawn us to Yourself by the power of Your Word and our Savior Jesus Christ, our Lord. For Your promises of life and salvation, we give You praise and adoration as our God and Lord. Keep us in steady faith in You, guide our steps in the ways of Your life-giving Word, and make us to be ever more Your people of hope, love, and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord Jesus, as You strengthened Your early apostles by Your very presence, so give strength and courage to church workers who continue in Your service to this day. Guard and protect them from the assaults of the devil and bless their service in Your Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

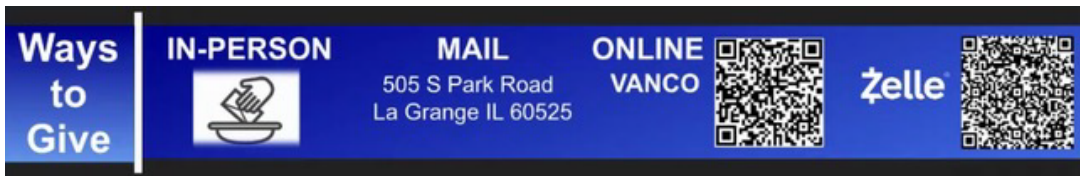
P Almighty God, give Your blessing and guidance to all in authority and the service of government in our land and throughout the world. Cause them to pursue righteousness and justice in all their dealings that we may live in prosperity and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Give healing and comfort, O Lord, to all who are in trouble, danger, or illness, [*especially . . .*]. Sustain their courage and faith in Your mighty care. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

Please sit

OFFERING

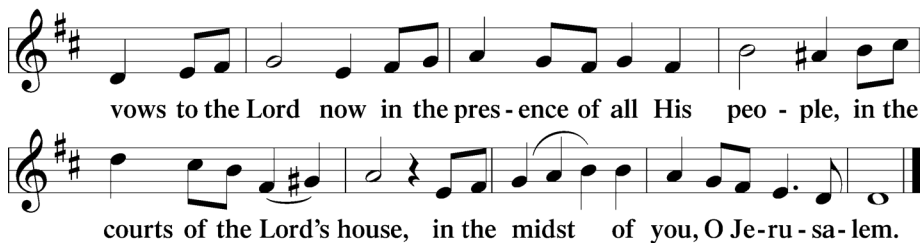


Please stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19





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.

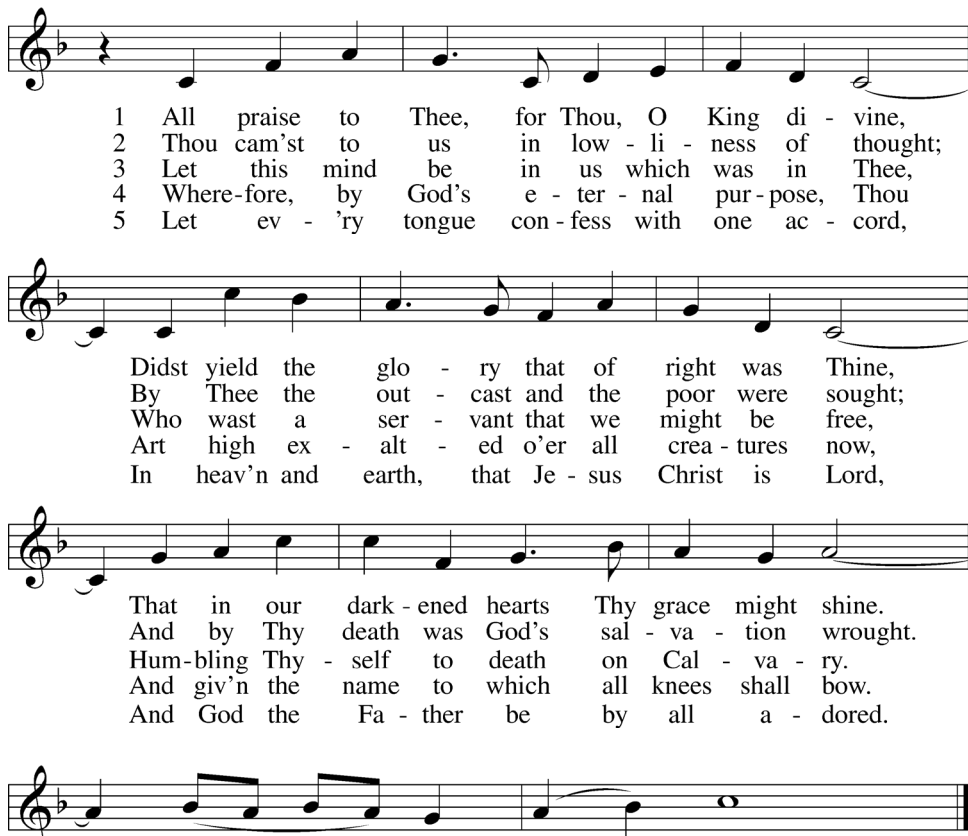
VBS COMMISSIONING (8:00am)



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.
- C** Amen.



1 All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King di - vine,
2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought;
3 Let this mind be in us which was in Thee,
4 Where-fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur - pose, Thou
5 Let ev - 'ry tongue con - fess with one ac - cord,

Didst yield the glo - ry that of right was Thine,
By Thee the out - cast and the poor were sought;
Who wast a ser - vant that we might be free,
Art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea - tures now,
In heav'n and earth, that Je - sus Christ is Lord,

That in our dark - ened hearts Thy grace might shine.
And by Thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought.
Hum - bling Thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry.
And giv'n the name to which all knees shall bow.
And God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored.

Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!

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Please sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- BED’S PLUS Ministry Update | Keri Rivera, *presenter*

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Lynne Braun, Lector | 8:00am

MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry at St. John's is entirely supported by the generosity of our congregation through contributions to the Music Fund. This fund enables us to offer uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship and glorifies God.



The three pillars of Christian stewardship—time, talent, and treasure—are essential for any music program to flourish and grow. In that spirit, the Board of Worship invites you to prayerfully consider supporting the Music Fund. White contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and online donations may also be made.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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