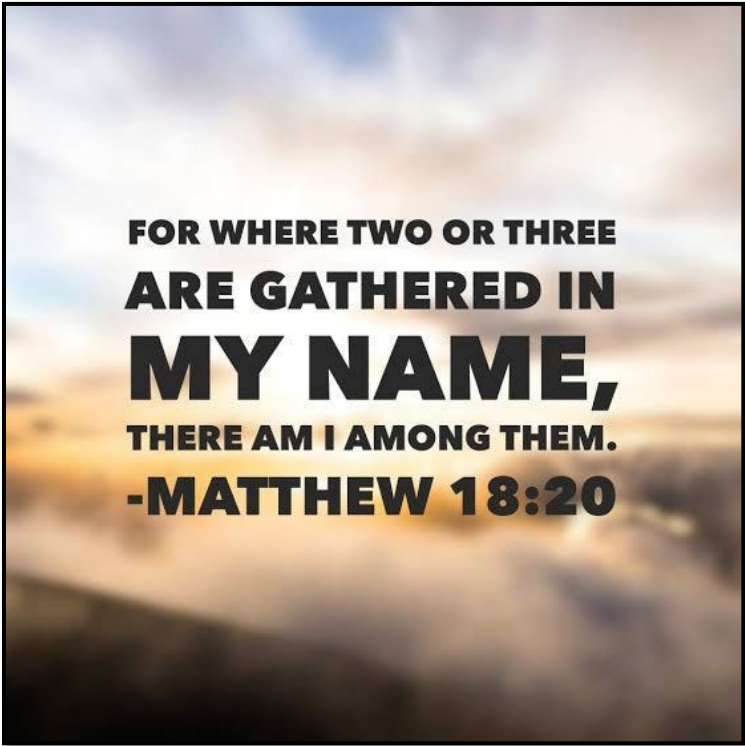




ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



**FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE
ARE GATHERED IN
MY NAME,
THERE AM I AMONG THEM.
-MATTHEW 18:20**

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

WELCOME! TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S HOLY COMMUNION



For baptized Christians (Matthew 28:19) who have been instructed in the faith (Galatians 6:6), The Lord's Supper is our participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16), as the one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17), to receive forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28) and to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

So that those who partake of the Lord's Supper do so in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27) and not to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:29), let us each examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28):

- Do you believe that you are a sinner? That you have sinned in thought, word and deed?
- Are you sorry for your sin?
- Do you trust that Jesus Christ gives forgiveness of sin through His Supper?
- Do you believe that the body and blood of Jesus are present in, with and under the bread and wine?
- Do you seek to lead godly lives by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Please speak to a pastor or usher if you have questions. Gluten-free wafers are provided upon request. Non-alcoholic grape juice is provided in the center of each communion tray. Those who are not communing may come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

AS WE GATHER



Although the attention of many is distracted on this Labor Day weekend, the focus of the Readings is clear. We have a Savior who has come to find the lost and restore them through forgiveness, and we have a purpose in speaking this Gospel to the whole world. This is not an easy calling. The lost often do not want to be found, and the wicked are content in their ways. We act not as self-appointed guardians of the truth but as instruments of God, through whom He speaks His Word of love to the lost and erring and by whom they are saved. The most difficult application is always to those who have fallen from the faith into error or sin. Our greatest temptation is to surrender them to their error or sin. Our greatest calling is to address them with the voice of God's Word through whom the Spirit works to restore the lost. Today we pray that we will not be distracted from this goal and purpose.

THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Please stand

INVOCATION HYMN

686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
Bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
How I'll sing Thy won-drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Ghost.

G Amen.

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

Please Kneel/Sit

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

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

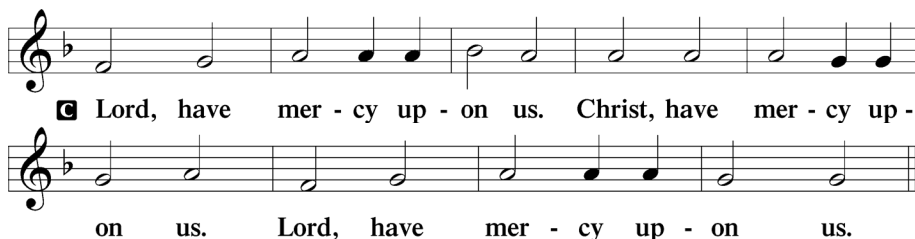
- C** O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Ghost.
- C** **Amen.**

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

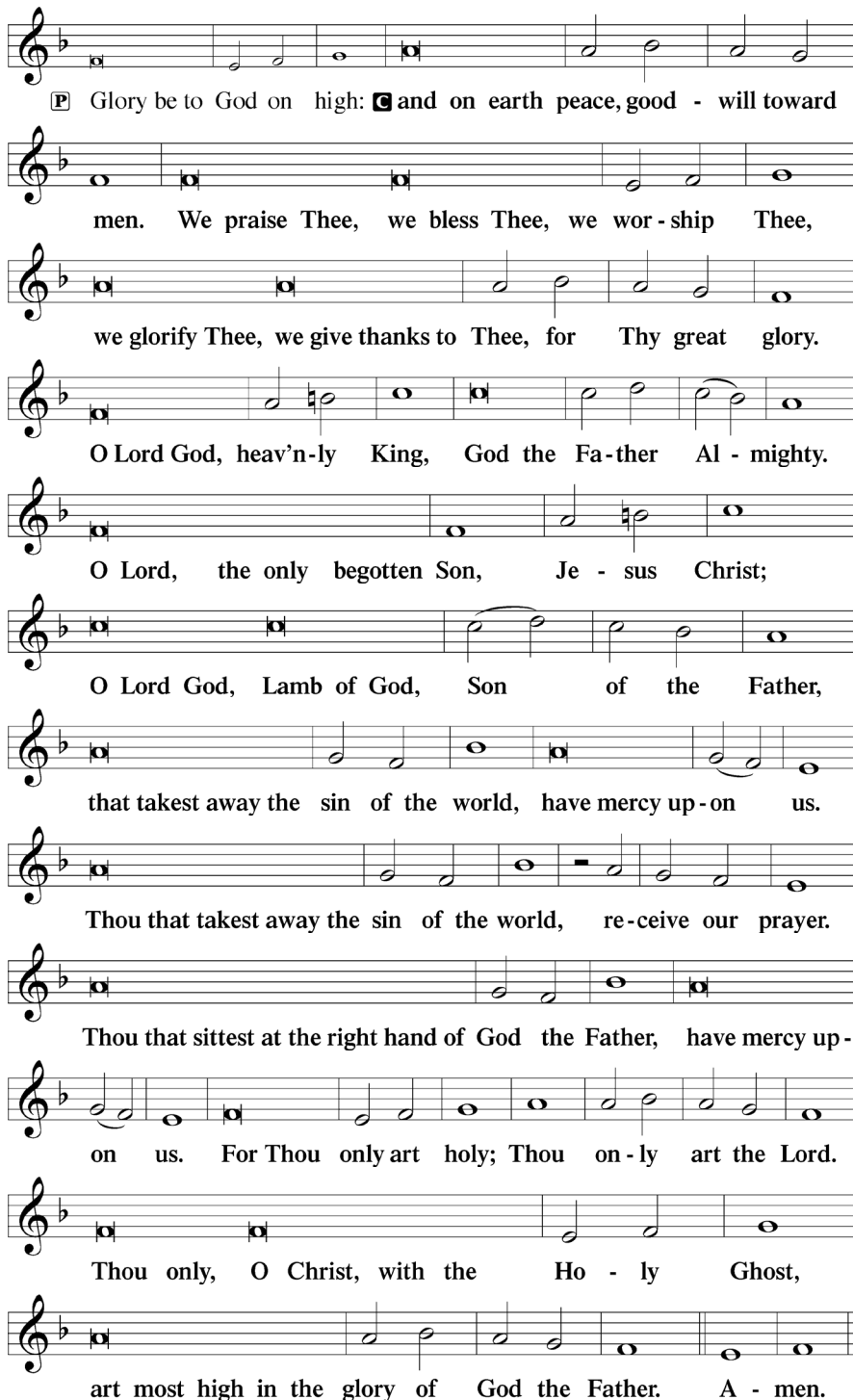
KYRIE

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please sit

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7–9

A The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 33.

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32:1–7

A Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

- A** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- C** **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- A** I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- C** **Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**
- A** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

EPISTLE

Romans 13:1–10

- A** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 13.

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

Please stand

ALLELUIA

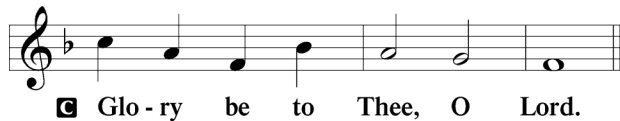
John 6:68



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1–20

[P] The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen,

take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.

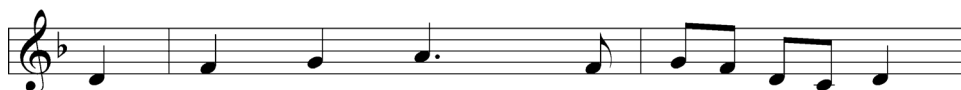


[C] Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Please sit

SERMON HYMN

843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"
 2 How can Your sins - don reach and bless
 3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can
 The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
 The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
 And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us, How great our debt to You!
 bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt.

Tune: A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony, 1820, Harrisonburg

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Please stand

NICENE CREED

**☐ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God, begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,
By whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost,
The Lord and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come.**

Amen.

Please kneel or sit

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Dear heavenly Father, You desire that all people are saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Send out messengers and missionaries to every corner of the earth that people from every tribe, nation, and language would hear the saving mercy of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, send Your mercy to all who are struggling financially, the homeless, the poor, the unemployed, the underemployed, and those dealing with unexpected situations. Lead them through this challenging road and provide people and systems to help them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, walk with all those who are grieving in the shadow of death. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, You invite us into holy conversation with You through prayer, but we often neglect this invitation. Help us to speak to You more frequently and more fervently. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, You sent Your Son to be the mediator between God and humanity. Grant us peace and reconciliation in our homes, our congregation, our community, our country, and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer. Amen.**

Please sit

OFFERING

Ways to Give	IN-PERSON	MAIL	ONLINE		zelle	
		505 S Park Road La Grange IL 60525	VANCO			

Please stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



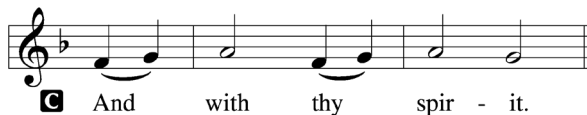
C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

After the same manner also, He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

John 20:19

c A - men.

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Please sit

DISTRIBUTION

866 Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the chil - dren's friend, To each of
2 In Chris - tian homes, Lord, let them be Your bless - ing
3 That car - ing par - ents, gra - cious Lord, And faith - ful
4 For by Your Word we clear - ly see That we have
them Your pres - ence send; Call them by name and
to their fam - i - ly; Let Chris - tian schools Your
teach - ers find re - ward In lead - ing these, to
sinned con - tin - ual - ly; But show us too, for -
keep them true In lov - ing faith, dear Lord, to You.
work ex - tend In liv - ing truth as You in - tend.
whom You call, To find in Christ their all in all.
giv - ing Lord, Your sav - ing Gos - pel's great re - ward.

5 That all of us, Your children dear, 6 Then guard and keep us to the end,
By Christ redeemed, may Christ revere;
Lead us in joy that all we do
Will witness to our love for You. Secure in You, our gracious friend,
That in Your heav'nly family
We sing Your praise eternally.



1 Shep - herd of ten - der youth, Guid - ing in
 2 You are the ho - ly Lord, O all - sub -
 3 You are the great High Priest; You have pre -
 4 O ev - er be our guide, Our shep - herd,
 5 So now, and till we die, Sound we Your



love and truth Through de - vious ways; Christ, our tri -
 du - ing Word, Heal - er of strife. Your - self You
 pared the feast Of ho - ly love; And in our
 and our pride, Our staff and song. Je - sus, O
 prais - es high And joy - ful sing: In - fants and



um - phant king, We come Your name to sing
 did a - base That from sin's deep dis - grace
 mor - tal pain None calls on You in vain;
 Christ of God, By Your en - dur - ing Word
 all the throng, Who to the Church be - long,



And here our chil - dren bring To join Your praise.
 You so might save our race And give us life.
 Our plea do not dis - dain; Help from a - bove.
 Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.
 U - nite to swell the song To Christ, our king!

Please stand

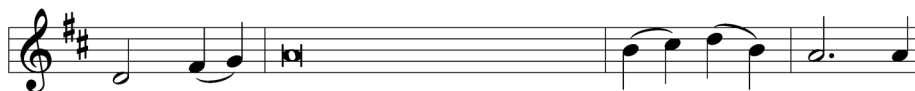
THE DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

G Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29-32



G Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre-pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

[P] O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

[C] and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

[A] Let us pray.

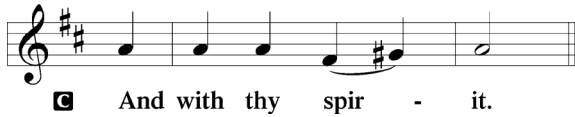
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.



BENEDICAMUS

P Bless we the Lord.



BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

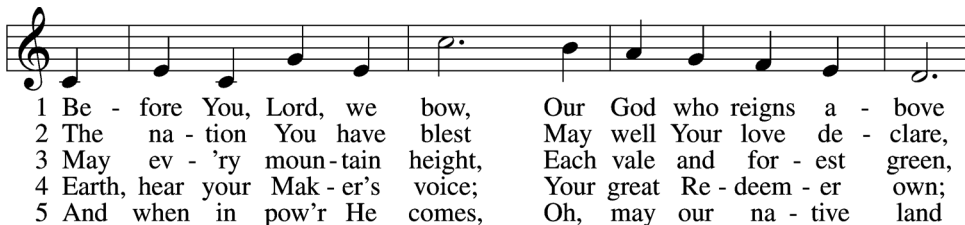
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

966 Before You, Lord, We Bow





And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor-ship Him a - lone. Cast down
From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo-rious band, A count -



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
less throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Liturgist

Rev. Ron Weidler, Homilist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Bonnie Kane, Lector | 10:45am

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the altar today are dedicated by Gary and Nancy Mayor to the glory of God, and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the terror attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C., on September 11, 2001, in memory of the nearly 3000 innocent victims who lost their lives. We also remember all those who have sacrificed and served for our freedom.

This Friday, Patriot Day, (National Day of Service and Remembrance), may we all find ways to serve others in need, and pray that God will bring peace and healing to this world. We will never forget.



JOIN THE
CANTATA CHOIR
Lift Your Voice in Praise
Share the Gift of Sacred Music

The Cantata Choir is St. John's principal choral ensemble, offering beautiful sacred music that enriches worship throughout the church year.
New singers are welcome!

FIRST REHEARSAL

When: September 9
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Choir Room

EMAIL DR. MARC BRUNELLE AT M.BRUNELLE@STJOHNSLAGRANGE.ORG | ALL VOICE PARTS WELCOME

EQUIPPING • ENGAGING • ENCOURAGING



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
— La Grange, Illinois —

