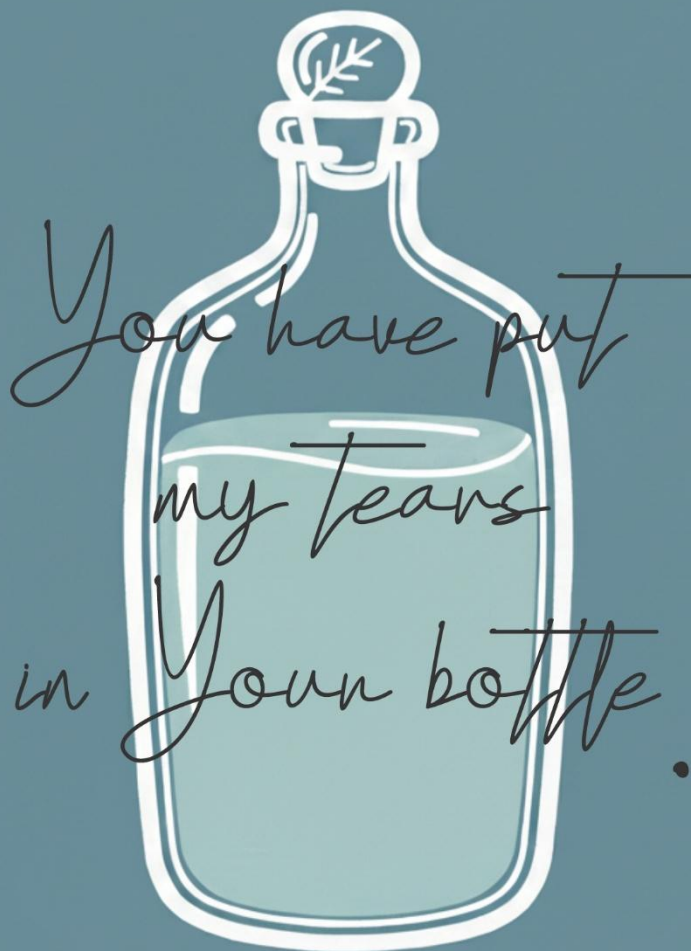


15th Sunday after Trinity

September 28th, 2025

Liturgy: WS p. 22

Organist: Kathy Lueck



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

100 W. Market St.

P.O. Box 98

Okabena, MN 56161

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #456

“Approach, My Soul, the Mercy-Seat”

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us pray.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Absolution from Our God

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response

TLH #199:4

C ♪ Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

The Introit

Ps. 28:1-2, 6-8

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.
- C** **To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.**
- P** Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.
- C** **Blessèd be the Lord! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.**
- P** The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
- C** **My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- P** O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**



James 2:1-10

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not

the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.



Mark 7:24-30

And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵ But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophoenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.



Psalm 56

To the choirmaster:
according to The Dove on
Far-off Terebinths. A Miktam

of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath. Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; ² my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly. ³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. ⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? ⁵ All day long they injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil. ⁶ They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps, as they have waited for my life. ⁷ For their crime will they escape? In wrath cast down the peoples, O God! ⁸ You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book? ⁹ Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me. ¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, ¹¹ in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? ¹² I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you. ¹³ For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

Nobody Knows but Jesus

I. He knows the torment of your enemies

II. He knows the torrent of your tears

The Offertory

WS p. 16

✪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #535:1-3,7,9 "Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

✠ The Order of Holy Communion ✠

The Christian Questions from Luther's Small Catechism

P Do you believe that you are a sinner?

C Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.

P How do you know this?

C I know this from the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

P Are you sorry for your sins?

C Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

P What have you deserved to receive from God because of your sins?

C I have deserved His anger and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.

P Do you also hope to be saved?

C Yes, this is my hope.

P Whom do you then trust?

C I trust in my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.

P Who is Christ?

C Christ is God's Son, true God and man.

P How many gods are there?

C There is only one God, but three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

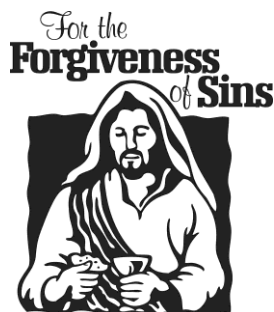
C He shed His blood for me and died for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.

P Did the Father also die for you?

C No, the Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is true God and true man; He shed His blood and died for me.

P How do you know this?

C I know this from the holy Gospel and from the words of the Sacrament and by His body and blood which are given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.



☐ These are those Words of God: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'

"In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

Distribution Hymns

TLH #342, TLH #310, TLH #312

Nunc Dimittis

To the tune of TLH #15

**☐ 🎵 "Lord, let Your servant now depart,
With peace and joy within my heart. Alleluia! Alleluia!
According to Your Holy Word,
I've seen salvation from the Lord! Alleluia! (x4)**

**The Promised One has come for all,
For Gentiles and for Isra-el, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Light to lighten all the blind,
God's glory for the heart and mind." Alleluia! (x4)**

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

☐ 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 His peace. **☐ Amen.**

Hymn: WS #784

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Joint Mission Fest – We will be hosting a joint Mission Festival for the CLC congregations in our area on Sunday, November 9th, at 4:00 pm. As hosts, we will be providing a potluck after the service. A joint choir piece is being planned. The children of St. John's will also be singing a song, "Jesus, Name Above All Names," together with visiting children from our other congregations. Pastor Emeritus Paul Nolting will be preaching and Pastor Zach Sippert will be conducting the liturgy. Please make a note of the date and time in your calendars!

Midwest Women's Retreat – Immanuel Mankato invites women of area congregations to a one-day retreat on Saturday, October 25th from 9am-4pm. The theme for the retreat is "Finding our True Identity as a Reflection of Christ's Image." Presentations will include our Identity in Christ, our Identity Reflected to the world, and Confidence in our Identity. Childcare will be available. To register go to <https://tinyurl.com/3jp5ax8y>. The cost is \$20 if you register before September 24 and is free for young girls under 19. Contact Jen Theneman (507-340-1640 / jtheneman@live.com) with any questions.

CLC Call News – Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Berea Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

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Ushers	9/28	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	10/5	Kendall B, Larry B.
	10/12	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
Cleaning		Zuehlke, Winters, Appel (wk. 2)
		Up Next – Kazemba, Thaemlitz