

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
**Fourteenth
Sunday
After Pentecost**

10:00 a.m.

August 26, A.D. 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

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Music Ministry Site: stjohnsmusic.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35



AS WE GATHER

They're perfect! "Stain-resistant! Wrinkle-free! Easy-care!" Not only are the pants good-looking, but they're also functional. While store catalogs may use these terms to grab your attention and sell their products, the Bible uses similar words to proclaim the wonderful news of God's free grace for you! Jesus has redeemed you by His blood in order to "present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27). Like a bride beautifully adorned and awaiting her bridegroom, we anticipate the final coming of our Lord Jesus, even as we today receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood. Let us join together and give praise to the One who has declared us to be spotless!

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ OPENING HYMN NO. **566**: *"By Grace, I'm Saved"*

✠ INVOCATION, CONFESSION, and ABSOLUTION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Brothers and sisters, let us together acknowledge that we have turned away from our faithful God. None of us is good, not even one. We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Therefore, let us come before our Father in heaven in repentance and faith, seeking His pardon and restoration for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In silent prayer, we bring our sins to the foot of the cross.

L: With humble hearts, let us pray.

C: Faithful Father, have mercy upon us. We have failed to obey Your commands. Loving Savior, have mercy upon us. Wash us clean in Your saving blood. Comforting Spirit, have mercy upon us. Restore us to be Your own. Amen.

L: Because of God's mercy and grace, salvation has come to you! You are forgiven in your Father's eyes, washed spotless by the washing of water with the Word. You are united to Christ, so rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Holy Church, which You have made spotless with the blood of Your Son, that we hold fast to Your Word and rejoice in all of Your goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 29:11–19
(The Lord will again do wonderful things with His people.)

And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot read.”

And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”

Ah, you who hide deep from the Lord your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?” You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, “He did not make me”; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?

Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: Ephesians 5:22-33

(Christ, the Bridegroom, makes the Church His Bride and gives Himself up of her.)

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:1–13

(Jesus rebukes those who reject God’s commands in order to establish their own traditions.)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)— then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Apostles Creed

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.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY NO. **555**: "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" (Sts. 1-4, 8-9)

✠ SERMON: "Flowing From the Heart" Mark 7:1-13

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

(Please Stand)

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

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

For the Christian Church, both here and throughout the world, that, united in the redeeming blood of Christ, we share the saving Gospel wherever we are and to whomever we meet, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, send us forth to share Your Word.

L: For the living out of our vocations, that all who are blessed with callings in our homes, in our workplaces, in our larger society, and in the Church faithfully represent our Savior by what we say and do, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, help us to serve You by serving others.

L: For husband and wife, child and family, widowed and single, that all who receive God's grace in their various vocations know contentment in their estate and live noble, upright, and holy lives in, but not of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, grant Your blessing.

L: For all public servants who selflessly serve others, including the members of our armed forces, that they would be defended by our mighty God and take refuge in His merciful care, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, be their shield and defense.

L: For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body, that they receive healing mercies from above, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, restore and heal those we name before You.

L: For these and all other concerns that are upon our hearts and minds, that our gracious Father answer us for the sake of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, we ask for this grace in Jesus' name. Amen.

† THE LORD'S PRAYER

† BENEDICTION

L: 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 NO. **565**: *"Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ"*

† SILENT PRAYER

† POSTLUDE

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Assistants – Tom McClure & William Schneeloch

Lay Reader – Rebecca Conroy

Acolyte – Daniel Provost

Music Director – Jeffrey Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory Mr. & Mrs. Frederick and Erna Musterait from their children: Rudolph, Edie, and Diane and their families and in loving memory of Merry Fisher from her husband, John; her children Kathy, John Jr. & Jean and their families

REFLECTION for the WEEK

Isaiah 29:11–19, Ephesians 5:22–33, Mark 7:1–13

The true tradition of the Church is the Gospel, which is the preaching and administration of Christ Jesus. Other traditions, although not commanded by God, may serve and support that sacred tradition of the Gospel. But the Church dare not “[reject] the commandment of God” in order to establish or hold to “the tradition of men” (Mark 7:8–9). Sinful people attempt to draw near to the Lord “with their mouth” and to honor Him “with their lips,” while their hearts are far removed from Him (Isaiah 29:13). Yet, He is “the Holy One of Israel,” Who brings about salvation by His cross. Therefore, “the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,” but “the deaf shall hear” and “the eyes of the blind shall see” (Isaiah 29:14–19). This mystery of Christ is profound, for He is the husband of the Church, and He is her Savior. Not because of any works that she has done, but solely for the sake of His great love, He “gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word” (Ephesians 5:25–26).

RADIO MINISTRY: There are many Sundays coming up that are available for sponsorship. Please help in the continuing outreach mission project of our Radio Broadcast of Sunday morning Worship. Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the program is now \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door. Donations of any amount are welcome.

ALTAR CARE: A sign-up sheet is located in the foyer for those who are willing to volunteer to clean our church altar during the month of October or December. Please consider helping. If you are unable to do a full month, two weeks would be fine. All are encouraged to help with the task. Training will be provided if needed.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Riley is beginning a Midweek Bible Study open to all St. John’s members and the surrounding communities. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. The study will last about 1 hour. Come to know the person and the works of Jesus better through the unique eyes of this Gospel writer. Mark witnesses for us Christ’s life from birth to death and resurrection. He also gives us insights into all the miracles – great and small – which were a part of His life here on earth.

“How from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” – 2 Timothy 3:15