

Sunday Worship  
Bulletin  
**SEVENTEENTH  
SUNDAY**  
after **PENTECOST**  
10:00 AM  
September 27, 2020



## Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA  
(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Pastor  
125 Glenwood Drive, Westfield, MA 01085  
Cell phone # 870-814-4828

Website: [stjohnswestfield.org](http://stjohnswestfield.org) E-mail: [info@stjohnswestfield.org](mailto:info@stjohnswestfield.org)  
**Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM 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 one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35***



## The Order of Holy Worship

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

✠ OPENING HYMN NO. **903**: *"This is the Day the Lord Has Made"*



1 This is the day the Lord has made; He calls the  
2 To - day He rose and left the dead, And Sa - tan's  
3 Ho - san - na to the a - noint - ed King, To Da - vid's  
4 Bless - ed is He who comes to us With mes - sag -  
5 Ho - san - na in the high - est strains The Church on



hours His own. Let heav'n re - joice, let  
em - pire fell; To - day the saints His  
ho - ly Son! Help us, O Lord; de -  
es of grace; He, in the Lord's name,  
earth can raise. The high - est heav'ns, in



earth be glad And praise sur - round the throne.  
tri - umphs spread And all His won - ders tell.  
scend and bring Sal - va - tion from Your throne.  
comes to us To save our fall - en race.  
which He reigns, Shall give Him no - bler praise.

✠ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

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

**C: 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.  
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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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: 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 Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

***(Be Seated)***

† OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

*(The Lord desires all people to turn to Him and live.)*

The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† EPISTLE: Philippians 2:1–18

*(Every knee should bow and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.)*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.                   **C:     Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand )*

† HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23–32

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So, they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.                   **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

† STATEMENT of FAITH: 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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke 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.

† SERMON HYMN NO. 696: "O God, My Faithful God"



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
 2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing  
 3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;  
 4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
 What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;  
 Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;  
 And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in  
 That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless  
 But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,  
 Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.  
 The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.  
 Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.  
 And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.





5           **Let me depart this life   Confiding in my Savior;  
By grace receive my soul   That it may live forever;  
And let my body have    A quiet resting place  
Within a Christian grave;   And let it sleep in peace.**

6           **And on that final day   When all the dead are waking,  
Stretch out Your mighty hand,   My deathly slumber breaking.  
Then let me hear Your voice,   Redeem this earthly frame,  
And bid me to rejoice   With those who love Your name.**

**(Be Seated)**

† SERMON: *“Which of the Sons Are You?”*           Matthew 21:23–32

**(Please Stand)**

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: O Lord, we are Your people, chosen by Your grace to be Your own possession, and granted mercy upon mercy. Hear Your people who cry to You in need, and remember us according to the favor You have shown to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Make us to know Your ways, O Lord, that we may walk in the path of salvation made known in Your Word. Hear our complaints and quiet them by Your merciful deliverance, that we may respond with trust and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Encourage us, O Lord, by Your Holy Spirit, that we may not lose heart but, being of one mind and one will, may serve You with gladness, doing the works of Your Kingdom and speaking Your Word of witness throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Help us, O Lord, to hold fast to Your Word and bless us with faithful pastors who will preach and teach Your eternal Gospel, that we may rejoice in doing Your will. Guide those considering church-work vocations, and bless them as they are formed for Your service. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Shine Your light upon us, O Lord, that we may do what is good and right and live as faithful citizens in our nation. Bless our president; our governor; and all those elected and appointed to make, administer and judge our laws. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Enlighten us with godly knowledge and wisdom, O Lord, and bless those who pursue science to improve our lives and the lives of those in greatest need. Bless all honorable vocations and all honest labor, and lead the unemployed to good jobs and noble work not only for their own interests but for the good of us all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**



P: Show us Your compassion, O Lord, and in Your mercy grant healing, comfort and peace to all those who suffer. Deliver them from all their afflictions, pain, sorrow and fear. We especially pray for all those we name in our hearts before You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Unite us, O Lord, that we may be of one mind and one will in doctrine, witness and service. Bless us as we come at Your bidding to receive the body and blood of Your Son at His table. Grant that what we receive in this Holy Communion we may keep in holy hearts and holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Help us, O Lord, to remember the faithful who loved and served You and who now rest from their labors. Bring us with them to that most blessed day when together we shall dwell in Your presence on high forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Grant to us all good things needful for this body and life and profitable for our salvation, and keep from us all things harmful, that sustained in time of want and guarded in time of prosperity, we may endure to the day of our Lord's coming and be judged worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

## ***Service of the Sacrament***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

† WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

(Please Sit)

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN NO. **559**: "Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion"



1 Oh, how great is Your com - pas - sion, Faith - ful Fa - ther,  
 2 Your great love for this has striv - en That we may, from  
 3 Firm - ly to our soul's sal - va - tion Wit - ness - es Your  
 4 Lord, Your mer - cy will not leave me; Ev - er will Your



God of grace, That with all our fall - en race  
 sin made free, Live with You e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Spir - it, Lord, In Your Sac - ra - ments and Word.  
 truth a - bide. Then in You I will con - fide.



In our depth of deg - ra - da - tion You had mer - cy  
 Your dear Son Him - self has giv - en And ex - tends His  
 There He sends true con - so - la - tion, Giv - ing us the  
 Since Your Word can - not de - ceive me, My sal - va - tion



so that we Might be saved e - ter - nal - ly!  
 gra - cious call, To His sup - per leads us all.  
 gift of faith That we fear not hell nor death.  
 is to me Safe and sure e - ter - nal - ly.

**5 I will praise Your great compassion,  
 Faithful Father, God of grace,  
 That with all our fallen race  
 In our depth of degradation  
 You had mercy so that we  
 Might be saved eternally.**

**(Please Stand )**

✠ THE BLESSING

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

**C: Amen.**

P: 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 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.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

✠ 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 NO. **813**: "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"



1 Re - joi - ce, O pil - grim throng! Re - joi - ce, give  
 2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's  
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the  
 4 Yet on and on - ward still, With hymn and  
 5 Still lift your stan - dard high, Still march in



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner  
 surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy  
 saints on earth Pour out the strains of  
 chant and song, Through gate and porch and  
 firm ar - ray, As pil - grims through the



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.  
 hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.  
 joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.  
 col - umned aisle The hal - lowed path - ways throng.  
 dark - ness wend Till dawns the gold - en day.



Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!

**6 At last the march shall end;  
 The wearied ones shall rest;  
 The pilgrims find their home at last,  
 Jerusalem the blest. Refrain**

**7 Praise Him who reigns on high,  
 The Lord whom we adore:  
 The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
 One God forevermore. Refrain**