



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
2888 W Houghton
Lake Dr

Houghton Lake, MI
48629

989-366-5164

www.stjohnhl.com

office@stjohnhl.com



September 13, 2026

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

We encourage you to stay after worship. Please introduce yourself to new people, catch up with old friends and make new friends.

May God bless your worship with us today,

Paul Kruse, Pastor

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com
matt@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Joyfully
Live, Learn, Share, and Serve'***

9:00 - Traditional

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of
Christian faith in our community, to all
generations, wherever they may be'*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service One (pp 151ff)

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" LSB 843

"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"

You taught us, Lord, to pray;

But You alone can grant us grace

To live the words we say.

How can Your pardon reach and bless

The unforgiving heart

That broods on wrongs and will not let

Old bitterness depart?

In blazing light Your cross reveals

The truth we dimly knew:

What trivial debts are owed to us,

How great our debt to You!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls

And bid resentment cease;

Then, bound to all in bonds of love,

Our lives will spread Your peace.

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

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Invocation

LSB 151

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

C Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness

- L** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- L** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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

- L** Most merciful God,
- C** **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- L** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit (Entrance)

- L** Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!
- C** **I have fled to you for refuge!**
- L** Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
- C** **In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**
- L** Enter not into judgment with your servant,
- C** **for no one living is righteous before you.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy) *(Sung)*

LSB 152

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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 mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise *(Sung)*

LSB 154

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray together...

C O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Romans 14:1-12

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is

able to make him stand.⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *Sung*

LSB 156

C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant

went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

Children's Message

Message Song

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" *LSB 845*

Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love
By love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love Him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek;
Be ours His holy peace.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

Text: © 1960 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.
110002579

Message

"Judging From the Past"

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



Offering Song - Sung

LSB 159

- ☐ **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- ☐ **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.**

Benediction (Blessing)

LSB 166

- 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.



Closing Song

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” *LSB 525 vs 1,3&5*

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.
Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond’ring eyes At mysteries so bright.
Crown Him the Lord of heav’n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

Acknowledgments

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