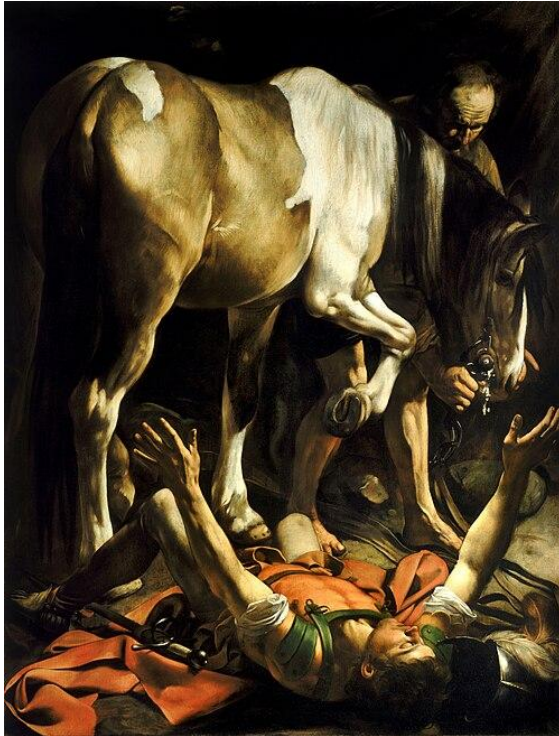


Salem Lutheran Church and School

Established 1849 Black Jack, MO

October 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Lutheran Church



Missouri Synod

Rev. Dr. Martin Dressler, Pastor

828-206-4556

mdressler@salembjmo.org

Church Office: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Monday-Thursday 314-741-6781

5180 Parker Road; Florissant, Missouri 63033 Fax 314-741-1797

School Office: 7:45 AM - 3:45 PM -Marc Debrick, Principal 314-741-8220

5190 Parker Road; Florissant, Missouri 63033 Fax 314-741-7242

Website: www.salembjmo.org

Church Email: salemchurch@salembjmo.org

Divine Services:

Sunday 10:00 AM; Wednesday 7:00 PM

WELCOME to the Lord's House today! May God help us to worship Him in spirit and in truth! Before you leave, guests are requested to sign the guest book, which is located in the narthex. Both guests and members are asked to fill out an attendance card, located in the pews, returning it as you leave. We invite you to return and worship with us again. If you do not have a regular church home, then we invite you to join our family. May this celebration of the mercy of God enrich your spiritual life and be uplifting for each one of you.

INDIVIDUAL HEARING ASSISTANCE SETS are available for those with impaired hearing. Please ask an usher for assistance.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS and **PRINTED COPIES OF THE SERMON** are available in the narthex.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS are available in the narthex. The bags contain a coloring book, drawing paper, reading books, crayons, and a pencil. Parents are welcome to grab a bag for their children to use during the service. Please remember to replace the bag following worship.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS are available on the table in the narthex. These feature a coloring sheet and activities for children based on the Scripture readings of the day. Please help yourself.

DOORS ARE LOCKED after the service begins. If you need to exit the building, please let an usher know, and they'll wait at the door to let you back inside.

TO GIVE ONLINE, head to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZXSD/campaign/C-162XV>. There, you can set up your account. If you have any questions, please speak to Lisa Briggs, Elin Hogan-Gomez, or Nancy Joy.

*On the cover: The Conversion on the Way to Damascus;
Caravaggio (1601)*

*We are Salem, a family nurturing God's children
to live loving lives in faith.*

HOLY COMMUNION

In accordance with the historic practice of the Christian Church, our congregation practices close communion, meaning that normally our members and members of our sister (LCMS) congregations commune here. Please speak to the pastor about exceptions to this general practice. Please also note that this practice in no way intends to comment on the state of anyone else's faith: we simply understand our communing together is also a public profession of unity in doctrine, which not everyone shares. Those who do not commune here may come forward for a blessing (simply fold your arms over your heart to indicate that you are not communing) or remain in the pew during communion and pray.

LIFE THOUGHT

The master sent servants to harvest, and the tenants beat them and treated them harshly. Even worse, they killed the son. We too can treat the messengers of the Gospel harshly, especially when they speak the truth of God's Law to us. And yet, the Son of God went to the cross for us who are wicked and sinful (Matthew 21), and the vineyard of the Lord will yield good grapes on the last day (Isaiah 5). So, we press on toward that goal of everlasting life and share the Gospel with others, knowing that it is only by the grace of God that we are counted as perfect (Philippians 3).

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

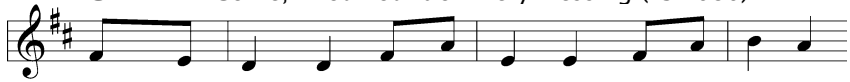
Preacher:	Pastor Martin Dressler
Fieldworker:	Nick Vukalovich
Organist/pianist:	Elin Hogan-Gomez
Greeters:	Sandy Niehaus and Rita Hall
Prayer Team:	Bruce Pursley

(Please silence your cell phones)

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (LSB 686)



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.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-90, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg



INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

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

C: Amen.

P: For forty days,

C: it rained upon the earth in the days of Noah.

P: For forty years,

C: the Israelites wandered in the wilderness.

P: For forty days,

C: Elijah traveled to Horeb, the mount of God.

P: In each of these occasions,

C: God was stripping His people of their idols, their false trust.

P: In each of these occasions,

C: God was teaching His people to leave their sin behind, and to trust in Him alone.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Throughout our lives, God aims to strip us also of our idols and to turn us to Him alone in faith. Together, let us confess our sin, and turn in trust to our God who is faithful and just to forgive

Silence to reflect on how you have wandered away from God.

P: Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I confess that I have wandered away from You. Countless false gods, false trusts, and false loves have accumulated in my heart. And so, I have not always obeyed Your will or kept Your Word. I have not always loved my neighbor. Yet I know that only *You* are worthy of trust. Only *You* can preserve my life. Almighty God, destroy my idols. Forgive my sin. Unite my heart to fear, love, and to trust in *You* alone. Amen.

P: We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous One. He alone followed the Father's will perfectly. He alone trusted the Father even to the point of death on the cross. That righteousness, God has given to *you* in your baptism. Therefore, 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.

+++

KYRIE (This Far By Faith)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
Refrain

P: 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. **Refrain**

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

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Refrain**

Refrain:

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer-cy on us, O Lord.

+++

THIS IS THE FEAST (This Far By Faith)

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia.

Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briers and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



PSALM 80:7-19



L: Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

C: **You brought a vine out of | Egypt;*
you drove out the nations and | planted it.**

L: You cleared the | ground for it;*
it took deep root and | filled the land.

C: **The mountains were covered | with its shade,*
the mighty cedars with its | branches.**

L: It sent out its branches | to the sea*
and its shoots to the | River.

C: **Why then have you broken | down its walls,*
so that all who pass along the way | pluck its fruit?**

L: The boar from the forest rav- | ages it,*
and all that move in the field | feed on it.

C: **Turn again, O | God of hosts!*
Look down from | heaven, and see;**

L: have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right hand | planted,*
and for the son whom you made strong | for yourself.

C: **They have burned it with fire; they have | cut it down;*
may they perish at the rebuke | of your face!**

L: But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,*
the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!

C: **Then we shall not turn | back from you;*
give us life, and we will call up- | on your name!**

L: Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts!*
Let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

EPISTLE

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain

Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

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.

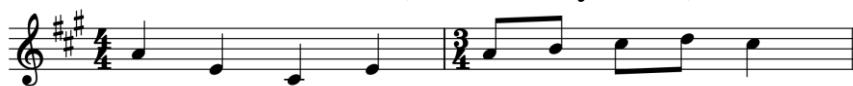
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



SERMON HYMN: Christ Is with Me (One and All Rejoice 276)



1. We were bur - ied with Him in - to death,
 2. I have now been graft - ed to the vine,
 3. I have now been cru - ci - fied with Christ.



That as He was raised by God's glo - ry,
 Draw - ing life from roots rich in mer - cy,
 I no long - er live; Christ lives in me.



We might walk in life made new by grace.
 Bear - ing fruit as I a - bide in Him:
 Now I live by faith in God's own Son,



Hav - ing died with Christ, we shall live with Him.
 Fruit for - ev - er fresh, glo - ri - fy - ing God.
 One who loved me so, gave Him - self for me.



Christ is with me ev - 'ry - where I go.



Nev - er to leave me, this I know.

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SERMON: "Releasing and Reaching" Philippians 3:7-8a

Pastor Dressler

OFFERING (prayer requests)

STEWARDSHIP VERSE - "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Shine on Us"

Michael W. Smith, Deborah D. Smith

Arr. Bryce Inman

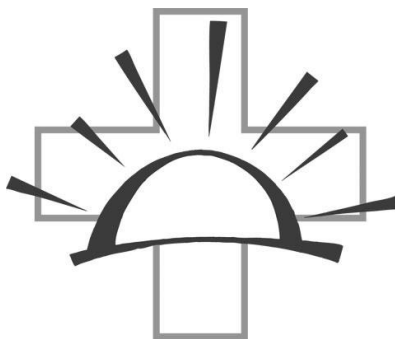
*Lord, let Your light
Light of Your face
Shine on us*

*That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way
In the darkest night
Let your light shine on us*

*Lord, let your grace
Grace from Your hand
Come over us*

*Lord, let Your love
Love with no end
Come over us*

*That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way
In the darkest night
Let Your love come over us
Let Your light shine on us*



(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please see communion information in the front of the bulletin.
Follow the direction of the usher to approach the altar.
Gluten-free wafers are available by request.*

PREFACE

LSB 160

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

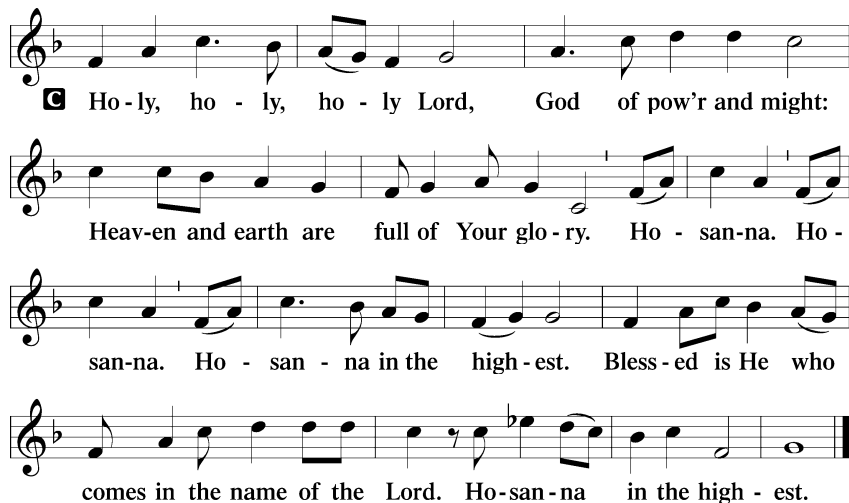
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is truly good, 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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh

to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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."

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing (LSB 691)

1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow-ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch-es free - ly bear-ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas-ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend-ing, May we grow till
and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow-ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,
Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

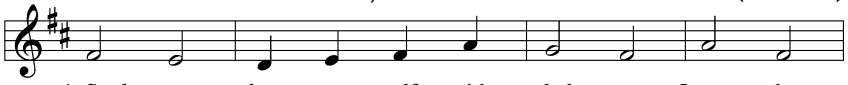
Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932–2024

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Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (LSB 636)



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day-light's
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
 mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

Hymn continues on following page.

5 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, Tru - est
6 Je - sus, sun of life, my splen - dor, Je - sus,
7 Lord, by love and mer - cy driv - en, You once
8 Je - sus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me

friend, and dear - est trea - sure, Peace be - yond all un - der -
friend of friends, most ten - der, Je - sus, joy of my de -
left Your throne in heav - en On the cross for me to
glad - ly here o - bey You. By Your love I am in -

stand - ing, Joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:
sir - ing, Fount of life, my soul in - spir - ing:
lan - guish And to die in bit - ter an - guish,
vit - ed, Be Your love with love re - quit - ed;

Hum - bly now, I bow be - fore You; Love in - car - nate,
At Your feet I cry, my mak - er, Let me be a
To fore - go all joy and glad - ness And to shed Your
By this Sup - per let me mea - sure, Lord, how vast and

I a - dore You; Wor - thi - ly let me re -
fit par - tak - er Of this bless - ed food from
blood in sad - ness. By this blood re - deemed and
deep love's trea - sure. Through the gift of grace You

ceive You And, so fa - vored, nev - er leave You.
heav - en, For our good, Your glo - ry, giv - en.
liv - ing, Lord, I praise You with thanks - giv - ing.
give me As Your guest in heav'n re - ceive me.

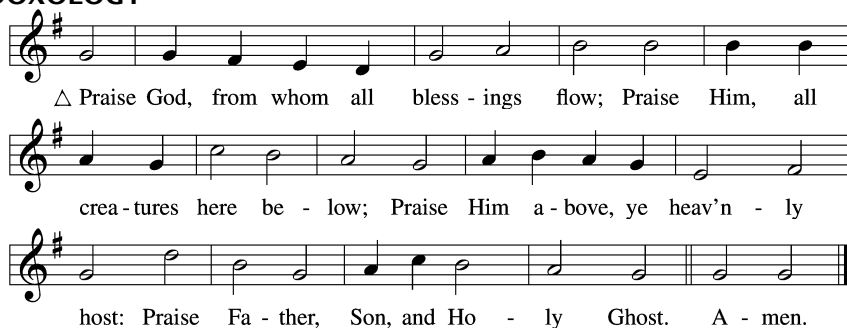
Text: Johann Franck, 1618-77; (sts. 1, 4-5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2-3, 6-8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

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(Please stand)

DOXOLOGY



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C: Amen.

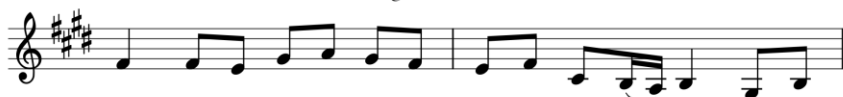


CLOSING HYMN: Hear the Call of the Kingdom

(Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend)



1. Hear the call of the king-dom, lift your eyes to the King; Let His
2. Hear the call of the king-dom, to be chil-dren of light with the
3. Hear the call of the king-dom to reach out to the lost with the



song rise with-in you as a fra-grant of-fer-ing of how
mer-cy of heav-en the hu-mil-i-ty of Christ; Walk-ing
Fa-ther's com-pas-sion in the won-der of the cross; bring-ing



God, rich in mer-cy, came in Christ to re-deem all who
just-ly be-fore Him, lov-ing all that is right, that the
peace and for-give-ness, and a hope yet to come: Let the



trust in His un-fail-ing grace.
life of Christ may shine through us. King of
na-tions put their trust in Him.



heav-en, we will an-swer the call. We will fol-low, bring-ing



hope to the world, filled with pas-sion, filled with



pow-er to pro-claim sal-va-tion in Je-sus' name.

Please turn in your attendance card as you leave.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK –"Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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MISSOURI AMENDMENT 3

Life is a gift from God.

Scripture clearly states that God is the Creator of all human life (Job 10:12) from the moment of conception (Ps. 139:13–14).

Life has value.

Human life, though marred by the fall, has a unique and valued place in God's creation (Gen. 9:6; Ps. 8:5).

Life is God's intention.

God sent His Son to die and redeem all human life (John 3:16). Jesus came that you may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

As we prepare for election day,
we are wise to consider
the values above from Scripture.

While the church is not a political entity
and not in the business of endorsing candidates,
it is our Christian responsibility and privilege
to take part in civic action to care for our neighbors –
especially those who cannot speak for themselves
(Prov. 31:8–9).



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

WHAT WOULD AMENDMENT 3 CHANGE?

Missouri Amendment 3 will appear on the Nov. 3, 2026, general election ballot. It would repeal Article I, Section 36, of the Missouri Constitution and replace it with new constitutional provisions addressing abortion, parental consent for minors, and gender transition procedures for minors.

A “yes” vote would:

- Allow legislation to regulate abortion providers and facilities.
- Require informed and voluntary consent, including parental, or judicial consent for minors.
- Allow abortion to be restricted to medical emergencies, rape, or incest under 12 weeks’ gestation, and fetal anomalies.
- Prohibit public funding of abortions except in limited circumstances.
- Prohibit gender transition procedures for minors, with specified exceptions.

A “no” vote would:

- Leave Article I, Section 36, in place.
- Leave abortion access from conception through fetal viability.
- Allow gender transition procedures for minors.

Questions?

For questions specific to Amendment 3, contact Missouri District Life Coordinator Rev. Dr. Jason Wagner at pastorwagner@email.com.

OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS
For the week of October 4 through October 11

TODAY: *Deuteronomy 4:21-40; Matthew 8:1-17*
Bible Study and Sunday School 8:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE with Communion 10:00AM
Applebutter pickup 11:30AM-12:30PM

MONDAY: *Deuteronomy 5:1-21; Matthew 8:18-34*

TUESDAY: *Deuteronomy 5:22—6:9; Matthew 9:1-17*

WEDNESDAY: *Deuteronomy 6:10-25; Matthew 9:18-38*
School Chapel 8:45AM
Walking in the Word 6:00PM
DIVINE SERVICE with COMMUNION 7:00PM

THURSDAY: *Deuteronomy 7:1-19; Matthew 10:1-23*

FRIDAY: *Deuteronomy 8:1-20; Matthew 10:24-42*
Book of Luke Bible Class 10:30AM-12N

SATURDAY: *Deuteronomy 9:1-22; Matthew 11:1-19*

NEXT SUNDAY: Bible Study and Sunday School 8:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE with Communion 10:00AM
Elders 11:15AM

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A MEASURE OF LOVE FOR OUR LORD –Week of September 27, 2026
Sunday School 11 students, 2 teachers

Worship Service Attendance
Sunday, September 27 – **88**
Wednesday, September 30 – **16**

Online views
Sunday, September 27 – **13**

Tithes and Offerings (Weekly Budget: \$8,200.00)
September 27: Physical-\$3,902.25; Online-803.68
Total-\$4,705.93

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. BIBLE STUDY Join us next week as our seminarian, Nick Vukalovich, walks us through what it means for Jesus to be "Lord of the Sabbath." What is the Sabbath for us?

To access by phone: 312 626 6799. Follow the prompts once you dial in to enter the Meeting ID when asked (271 170 8930 #). When asked to enter participant code hit the # key, and then it will ask for the password (523312#).

To access online: Go to Zoom.com. Click "join a meeting" at the top of the page, and enter 271 170 8930 in meeting ID box. The passcode is sPzuL5. Questions? Call the office! 314-741-6781.

WALKING IN THE WORD WEDNESDAYS

Join us this fall for Walking in the Word Wednesdays, a special five-week educational series designed to deepen our understanding of God's Word and strengthen our walk with Christ.

Together we will read and discuss *The Quiet Ambition: Scripture's Surprising Antidote to Our Restless Lives* by **Ryan Tinetti**, professor at Concordia Seminary. In a world that constantly urges us to strive for more, this book invites us to discover the peace, purpose, and contentment that God gives through His Word. We are especially excited to welcome **Professor Ryan Tinetti** as our guest instructor for the final session on **Wednesday, October 28**, where he will share additional insights from the book and lead our concluding discussion—and he has offered to sign your copy of the book! How neat!

Weren't able to make it for our first week? Guess what—that's totally okay. Join us next week!

2. LADIES AID - Just a reminder! Our annual outing in October this year is lunch at Gingham's Restaurant in St. Charles on Wednesday, October 14th. We will meet at the old schoolhouse at 11:00 and carpool. Please call Myrna at 314-570-2700 to make your reservation, and so we know we're not leaving you behind when we leave at 11:00. All the Salem ladies are welcome to join us for a delicious lunch and fellowship. Looking forward to sharing an enjoyable afternoon with everyone.

3. LASE SPECIALIZED EDUCATION invites you to support our ministry to children with unique learning needs through your attendance at our upcoming Merry Mingle event on November 7, from 9:30am-12:30pm. We would love for you to join us in celebrating 70 years of God's faithfulness through LASE, and look ahead with us to the next 70 years.

Registration details can be found on our website: <https://lutheranspeciald.org/merry-mingle/>

4. TODAY is the Life Chain! Please meet with Lutherans for Life for one hour. We silently stand or sit for one hour for LIFE. Meet us on Lindbergh across from Handyman Hardware. We park in the Dairy Queen parking lot, and we'll be gathered from 2-3PM.

5. OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH, and this year, we will celebrate our clergy and future clergy on Sunday, October 25. The meal will be provided, and we will once again be gathering a freewill offering to bolster our Benevolent Fund.

The Benevolent Fund has become even more critical, as other organizations who have historically been in positions to help members of the community who are in need no longer receive the funding necessary to do so. Baskets will be available for this, and there will also be a designated spot to place any small gifts or cards you may wish to bring in for our guests of honor: Pastor Dressler, Pastor Briggs, Rev. Thur, and Nick Vukalovich.

6. SALEM SAUSAGE AND KRAUT Mark your calendars for Salem's sausage dinner for November 8th. Yes, we are going to have a sit-down meal once again, served buffet or cafeteria style (we're still deciding which). Advance ticket purchases online **are required** and will go on sale beginning October 5. There will be two seating times available: 11:30AM-1:00PM and 1:30PM-3:00PM. Please visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/salem-lutheran-church-sausage-dinner> for more details and to purchase tickets.

Note: Carry-outs will be available, as well as raw and cooked sausage, and cooked sauerkraut to go. For questions or assistance purchasing tickets, please call Keith at 314-541-5878. If you are interested in volunteering to help and you haven't yet been asked, call Keith about that as well.

7. THANK YOU to everyone who helped with applebutter! To those who cooked breakfast and lunches, provided snacks, picked up the apples, set up the bus barn, helped with setup and cleanup, prepared the kettles, peeled and cored the apples, helped with orders, and did everything else to make this a success—THANK YOU!
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8. APPLEBUTTER is now available for pickup in the Old Schoolhouse. The last pickup window is today from 11:30AM-12:30PM.

If you can't make it today, give Elin a call in the church office (314-741-6781) to make an appointment. *Reminder: cash or check only, please.*

9. TRUNK OR TREAT On Thursday, October 29, we'll have a Trunk or Treat in our parking lot. It will be open for trunk-or-treaters from 4-5pm, and, as with all projects, we cannot do it without YOUR help.

We will need people to:

- +sign up to bring their vehicle to pass out candy/small gifts
- +help us manage parking and our waiting area
- +bring in candy/small items to pass out to the trunk-or-treaters
- +come in your costume to have fun with us

This will be rain or shine! If shine, we'll be outside. If rain, we'll shift gears and set up in the gymnasium. What a blessing to have such a facility!

Please consider how you can help, and if you have any questions or want to be assigned an area to assist, call Susan in the School Office (314-741-8220) or Elin in the Church Office (314-741-6781) and they'll put you to work ☺

10. ALTAR GUILD HELP NEEDED: Would you like to be directly involved in fulfilling Jesus' command to us all to eat His body and drink His blood in the Lord's Supper? The Altar Guild needs your help! We need help with Communion set-up and Communion clean-up. Your commitment is only 1 time per month, OR only 12 times per year.

This is not a major time commitment, but it is an important one! The Altar Guild is essential in the life of God's Church. You will be trained and given written instructions. Retired and love to travel? Not a problem as we are more than happy to trade spots with each other. Remember the words of Isaiah's commission from the Lord: "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

See Ginger Sorensen with any questions or interest. Find her in-person or give her a call at 314-583-7445.

