# Thirtheenth Sunday after Pentecost Kickoff Sunday – A New Year of Christian Learning

September 7, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Four



### **Prayer before Worship**

As we come into your presence, O God, bless this time of worship. Unite our prayers and praises with your whole Church on earth and in heaven. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to worship you in spirit and in truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ + +

#### Welcome

#### **Pre-Service Music**

"Pastorale" (Don Michael Dicie)

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

**P** In the name of the Father and of the 

→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G Amen.**Matthew 28:19b [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**G** who made heaven and earth.

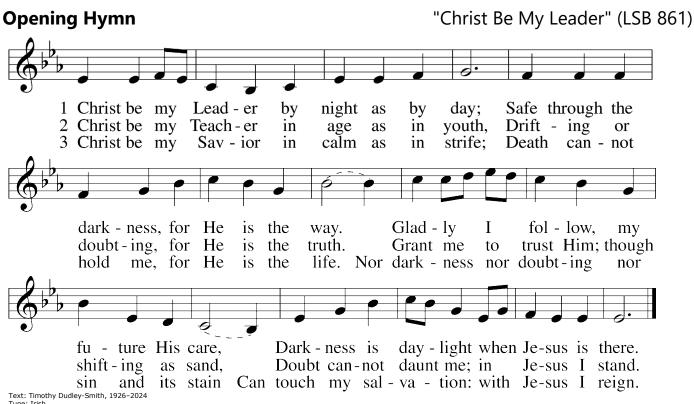
Psalm 124:8

- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Psalm 130:3-4*
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [Luke 18:13]

Please kneel or be seated for a time of silent prayer and confession, as able

- P Almighty God,
- have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. [John 20:19-23]
- C Amen.





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## Greeting

- **P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **C** And also with you.

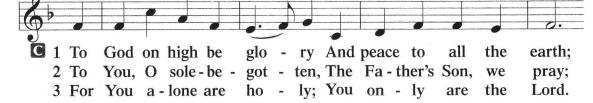
Kyrie Mark 10:47



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

#### Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14, John 1:29





Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing— Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

## C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

#### **Installation of Church and ECEC Leaders**

### **Old Testament Reading**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

<sup>15</sup>"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>Ioving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

**I** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm (read responsively)

Psalm 1

- L Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
- **©** but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
- L He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
- The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
- L Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Epistle** Philemon 1-21

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup> and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, <sup>6</sup>and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup>For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup>yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup>I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. <sup>15</sup>For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel Luke 14:25-35

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

# **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

<sup>34</sup>"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

Sermon "Count the Cost"

## Hymn of the Day

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" (LSB 685)



**Profession of Faith**The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

## **Prayer of the Church**

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

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

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. During the season after Pentecost each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy."

Please respond by saying "Hear our prayer."

The prayers end with the words:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## C Amen.

Following the prayers, the people may stand and greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,

"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

(Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

#### **Announcements**

## **Offertory Prayer**

- **I** Merciful God,
- We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

#### **Preface**

**P** The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

- **C** And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

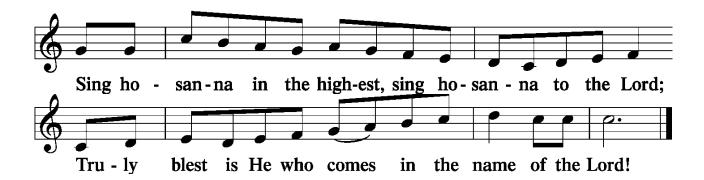
It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

### Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

**©** 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,

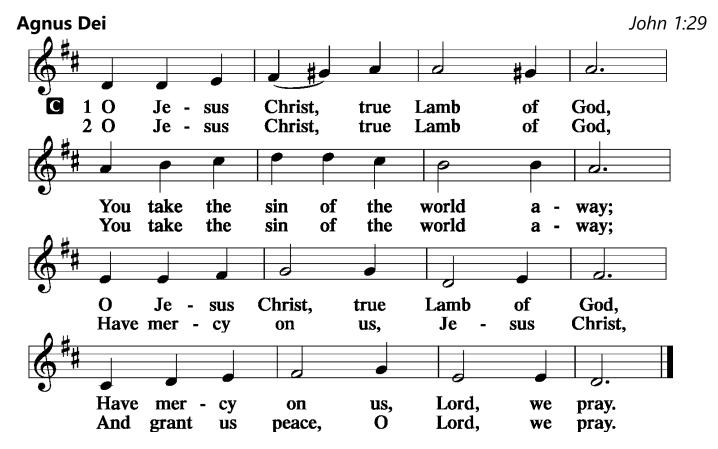
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- 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 ⅓ 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 John 20:19

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



#### Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

#### Please be seated

#### Music at Distribution

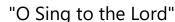
Choir Anthem

"Be Thou My Vision – 'Slane'" (Martin Shaw)

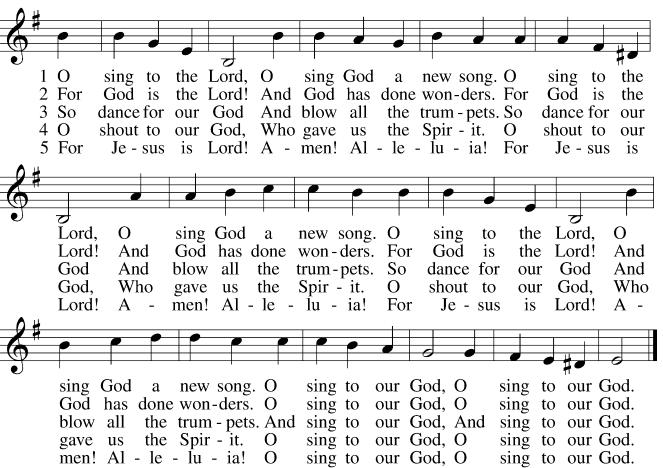
Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art. Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

High King of Heaven, my victory won, May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.



(LSB 808)



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#### **Dismissal**

Nunc Dimittis Luke 2: 29-32



#### **Post-Communion Collect**

**L** Let us pray:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## **Sending of Lay Eucharistic Ministers**

#### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

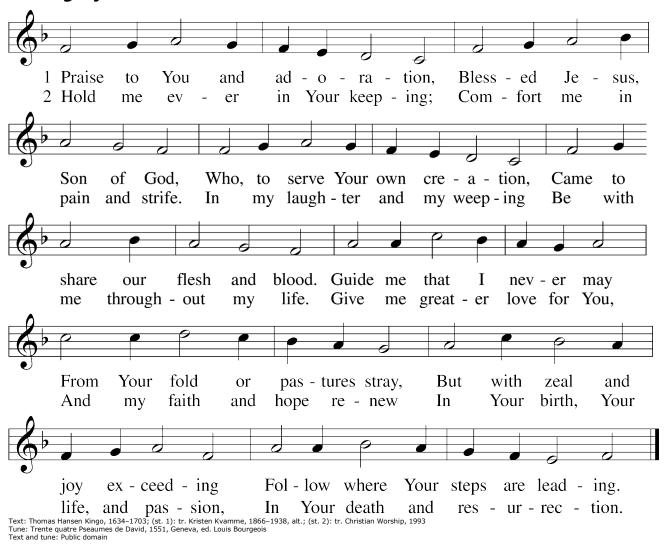
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

C Amen.

## **Sending Hymn**

"Praise to You and Adoration" (LSB 692)



**Postlude** 

"Fanfare" (John Cook)

Please join us our Kick-off Sunday potluck lunch after the worship service in Fellowship Hall.

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# **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher Rev. John Meehan

Welcome Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Mark Guilfoil
Communion Lay Assistant Rich Keppers

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Charlotte Hills

Crucifer Sofi Hills

Usher Andrew Ehlers

Barbara Pate

Altar Care Karen Kemmet
AV Operator Scott Budzien

Jurgen Gobien

Welcome Host Jan Swicord Nursery Angie Vazquez

Barbara Gilliland

+ + +

#### SCAN HERE TO



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Request for prayers

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## **Acknowledgments**

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# St. John's Lutheran Church 5952 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

#### St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor Rev. John Meehan

Director of Discipleship Jennifer Hills, DCE

Director of Music David Leahey

Office/Facilities Administrator Michelle May

Finance Administrator Jennifer Smith

# **Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff**

Director of ECEC Amanda Parks

ECEC Administrator Kari Wells

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