

Thanksgiving

Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

In peace, Lord, you let your
 ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
 eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for
 ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
 glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

And his mercy endures forever.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and [✚] give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn **"God of Grace and God of Glory" (CW 523:1,2,4)**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 6th and 7th, 2017



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church & School

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O Christ, Lamb of God.....Welcome!.....(Agnus Dei)

We extend a very warm and friendly welcome to all who've joined us for worship today. We pray that the God of grace, who sent his Son to save you and who proved his love for you by raising him from the dead, will fill your heart with joy in knowing that your salvation has been made sure through Jesus. May God bless your worship!

If you're a guest with us this morning, please sign the Friendship Register in your row, checking any applicable boxes. If you need assistance of any kind, don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers. If you'd like to learn more about St. John congregation or the Bible's teachings, please speak with Pastor Mike Gehl. And if you don't already have a church-home, feel free to return and worship with us again at your earliest convenience.

Our restrooms are located downstairs (through the entryway). Activity bags to help keep children occupied are on a hanger in the entryway. We love having your children sit with you during the service, but if you feel that your infant or toddler is getting a little too fussy, you may briefly step out of the sanctuary until they're ready to come back in.

Today's order of service is displayed on the screen and printed out in the worship folder (with music notes) for your convenience. Hymns are found in the red book in front of you.

St. John also operates an all-day preschool and a full-day kindergarten through eighth grade Lutheran Elementary School. We're a member of the Fox Valley Lutheran High School federation. If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities for Christian education, please speak with Pastor Gehl or Principal Tim Raddatz.

Distribution

At Your Service Today:

	<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>
Greeters:	Lois Baumgartener Jean Brandt – Diane Laabs Marna Johns – Pat Vickman	
Ushers:	Loree Baumgartener Gary Brandt Dale Laabs Bernie Vickman Steve Wierschke	
PowerPoint:	Lou Ann Beard	Carol Just
Altar Guild:	Lou Ann G, Janet W, & Courtney S	

Mission and Purpose

St. John Lutheran Church exists as part of the Holy Christian Church on earth. We engage in the continuing development of disciples of Jesus Christ by **GATHERING** for worship, education, and fellowship in order to **GROW** in faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. By God's **GRACE** we **GO** to proclaim Christ and his Word with our lips and lives. We realize that it's only through the **GOSPEL** in Word and Sacraments that one can be equipped for discipleship and bringing **GLORY** to God.

O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy..... (Sanctus)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
 God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
 ry. 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. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Service Theme for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: The Christian lives as wheat among weeds as he waits for the harvest. In the Prayer of the Day we ask for the spirit to live like wheat—to think and to do what is right—even while we live in this sinful world. Living with an eye on the coming harvest gives us encouragement, comfort, and hope.

Divine Service I

Opening Hymn..... "To Your Temple I Draw Near" (CW 226:1, 3, 5-7)

Greeting

In the name of the Father and of the Son [✠] and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession of Sins

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, Have Mercy.....(Kyrie)

C Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son [✠] and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer and Praise

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory to God..... (Gloria in Excelsis)

C Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on
earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. You are
seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re -
ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or
take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Thank-Offering

*These offerings are used to support the ministries of our church, both locally and worldwide.
Our guests should not feel compelled to give an offering, but may do so if they desire.*

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day..... *“Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”* (CW 541:1-3,5,6)

SermonMatthew 13:24-30,36-43

What Should We Do About the Weeds?

Recognize
their source

Accept
their presence

Be assured of
their destiny

Create in Me

C Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on
earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on
earth. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Word

First Lesson Joel 3:12-16 (EHV)

The book of Joel foretells the coming of the Day of the Lord. Here in chapter 3, Joel pictures the judgment of the nations as a day of harvest. The day is coming when the sickle will swing and the harvest will begin. Can you imagine the terror that will strike the unbelieving heart when the sun is darkened and the moon and stars fail to shine? Can you imagine the fear when he hears the roaring and thundering of the LORD? Yes, we live as wheat among weeds, but the harvest is coming. When it does, there will be no need for God's people to fear. He is their refuge and stronghold.

¹²Let the nations be roused. Let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations. ¹³Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow, because their wickedness is so great! ¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the Valley of Decision! For the Day of the LORD is near in the Valley of Decision. ¹⁵The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars will stop shining. ¹⁶The LORD will roar from Zion and shout from Jerusalem. The sky and the earth will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

Second Lesson 1 Peter 4:1-8 (EHV)

Living as wheat among weeds means leaving our lives of sin behind and living for the will of God with an eye on the coming harvest. Although righteousness and wickedness must coexist until the judgment, Peter reminded his readers that they had spent enough of their lives living in sin. The time had come for a clean break with the world. Just because we have to live in the world, doesn't mean we have to be of it. Yes, this break with the world will lead to our persecution. When it happens, fix your eyes on the coming harvest. As you bear up under suffering, take heart and know that all mankind will be judged. The end of all things is near, so live like wheat among the weeds of this world by loving each other deeply with that forgiving love found only in Christ.

¹Therefore, because Christ suffered in flesh, arm yourselves with the same mindset, because the one who has suffered in flesh is done with sin. ²Do this so that you no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh for human desires but for God's will. ³Indeed, you have already spent enough time in the past doing what the Gentiles want to do: living in unbridled immorality, lusts, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and disgusting idolatry. ⁴For this reason, they are surprised that you do not plunge into the same overflowing river of filth with them, and they slander you. ⁵They will have to give an account to the one who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶In fact, it was for this reason that the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, so that they might be judged the way people are judged in flesh and that they might live the way God lives in spirit. ⁷The end of all things is near. So have sound judgment and be self-controlled for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, love each other constantly, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Verse of the Day Isaiah 55:11b (EHV)

Alleluia. "My Word will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it." Alleluia.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (EHV)

God intended to have a weed-free field of wheat. From the beginning, however, the enemy thwarted his intentions with temptation and sin. How many Christians have seen the evil all around them and pondered the servants' question, "Didn't you sow good seed?" How many churchmen have tried to separate the wheat and weeds in the kingdom with rules or monasteries, with inquisitions or Pharisaical laws? Anyone who tries only succeeds in ruining wheat along with the weeds. They uproot the faith of the weak who fall into sin; they trample the faith of the strong by feeding their pride. The Lord most certainly has a plan to separate the wheat and weeds—just not yet. He has servants standing by to do the work—they're just not us. Instead, God urges his people to live with their eye on the coming harvest. God doesn't want us to try and separate wheat from weeds before then. Christ tells us to live as wheat among the weeds of this world and wait expectantly for the harvest when the angels will sort it all out: weeds to fire, and wheat to shine as the righteous sons of God in the kingdom of their Father.

Today's Gospel reading is recorded in the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the twenty-fourth verse.



²⁴He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. ²⁷The servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy did this.' The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?' ²⁹'No,' he answered, 'because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn.'"³⁶ Then Jesus sent the people away and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." ³⁷He answered them, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One. ³⁹The enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will pull out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and those who continue to break the law. ⁴²The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

...this is the Gospel of our Lord.

