

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
Last Sunday
After
PENTECOST
10:00 AM
November 26,
A.D. 2017



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

Rev. David Riley, Pastor

125 Glenwood Drive

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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 another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

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.

AS WE GATHER

"To be continued . . ." Those simple words sometimes show up on the screen at the conclusion of a television show, announcing that something is yet to come to complete what has already been presented. The theme of the Last Sunday of the Church Year is that sort of message. Over the past Church Year, the history of salvation in Christ has been presented, and the work of the Holy Spirit through the Church has been celebrated. Now, the return of Christ the King is awaited, when the divine plan is unfolded. To what has been, what is now, and what will be in God's design, we add our joyful "Amen!"

† PRELUDE

† ANNOUNCEMENTS

† OPENING HYMN NO. **548**: *"Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious"*

† INVOCATION, CONFESSION, and ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,

C: who was and is and is to come!

P: Worthy are You, our Lord and God,

C: to receive glory and honor and power,

P: for You created all things,

C: and by Your will they existed and were created.

P: Beloved in the Lord, sheep of the Good Shepherd, we know of His abiding goodness and mercy. With confidence, let us come before our Lord to confess our sins and to find the forgiveness we seek.

C: Almighty God, we admit our sinfulness, both that which is within us from the beginning and that which continues to occur in our lives through our transgressions in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, renew us, and create in us clean hearts so that we may serve You as Your redeemed people, now and forever.

P: God hears our cries for mercy, and because of the sacrifice of His beloved Son for the sins of all people, He grants forgiveness. 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. May you live confidently in this life as you await the joy of life everlasting. Be at peace!

C: Amen.

✠ COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the Kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through 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 READING: Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

(The Lord will search for His sheep.)

“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 15:20–28 *(All will be made alive in Christ.)*

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The

last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31–46 *(The sheep and the goats are separated.)*

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY NO. **348**: *"The King Shall come When Morning Dawns"*

✠ SERMON: *"A Vision of Life"* Matthew 25:31-46

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

✠ OFFERTORY HYMN No. **781**: *"We Give Thee But Thine Own" St. 6*

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the whole Christian community around the world that, as people united in faith, we may witness to the good news that is ours in Christ Jesus. Together we say:

C: Amen and amen.

P: We pray for all nations of the earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule, there may be peace. And we pray for our own nation, that it may seek to bring that which is good and God-pleasing about in every global situation. Together we say:

C: Amen and amen.

P: We pray for all those who labor in the fields of the Lord, that the Good Shepherd would lead them to pleasant pastures and give them joy in their callings. And we pray that the God of all grace would continue to raise up men and women to serve in vocations of service in the Church. Together we say:

C: Amen and amen.

P: We pray for our lives and for the situations in which we are placed day by day at home, in the workplace, in schools, or wherever our paths lead us, that we may be peacemakers and peace bringers, carrying out the command to love one another as our Lord has loved us. Together we say:

C: Amen and amen.

P: We pray for the special needs of this day, including health and family concerns, joys and sorrows, and all that is on our hearts. Together we say:

C: Amen and amen.

P: With gratitude, we remember all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith, whose witness remains to bless and inspire us. May we with confidence follow in their footsteps and be led by the Holy Spirit. Together we say:

C: Amen and amen.

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

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: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, heavenly Father, because You are with us to bless us for time and for eternity. With goodness and mercy You provide for all our wants of body and soul. May Your Holy Spirit guard, guide, and comfort us throughout the days of our journey on earth, while we live to Your glory as Your pilgrim people. Keep us focused in faith as we journey toward our final goal, Your everlasting kingdom, where with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have promised that in Your Son, Jesus, our Lord, we will not perish but will have everlasting life. We bless You for claiming us as the sheep of Your hand, and we ask that we may firmly take to heart the words with which we are assured of our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Graciously gather us together, receive our prayers, and deliver and preserve us as we receive His body and blood as a guarantee and pledge of salvation. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: 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."

✠ PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when Assistant comes to you and he will hand you a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray carried by the acolyte.

✠ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS NO. **623**: "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

NO. **837**: "Lift High the Cross"

✠ POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Gracious God, heavenly Father, again You have welcomed us to Your Table and have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. Adding our amens to those of the saints and angels around Your throne, we thank You and ask that we may rejoice in Your presence and hold fast to Your promises. Grant Your Holy Spirit to enlighten us with His gifts so that we may live out our days in hope, eagerly awaiting the return of Christ in justice and glory. We ask this in the blessed name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

✠ 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. **525**: *“Crown Him with Many Crowns”*

† SILENT PRAYER

† POSTLUDE:

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Assistants – Paul Brose & William
Schneeloch

Lay Reader – Robin Greenspan

Music Director – Paul Domaingue

Altar Care – Matt & Ali Talmadge

RADIO MINISTRY: There are many Sundays coming up that are available for sponsorship to help in the continuing outreach mission project of our Radio Broadcast of Sunday morning Worship. Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the program is now \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door.