

St. John Lutheran Church

My beloved had a
vineyard

ISAIAH 5:1

Cover: Red Primitivo grapes near Salento, Italy. Photo by Cosimo Calabrese. Copyright © 2025 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images/Moment Collection. Used by permission.

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20261004-LEC27 ITEM014776 ELCA-K

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • OCTOBER 4, 2026

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

- P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. Most merciful God,
- C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
- Amen.**
- P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth (#879)

Apostolic 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 p. 147

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

- 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.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

- P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
- C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.
- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

- ¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
- ² 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; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.
- ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
- ⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness heard a cry!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:7-15

Response: "Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine."

- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**
- ⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs. R**

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

¹⁵ behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted. R

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

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

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴² 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 amazing in our eyes'?"

⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children's Sermon

Anthem

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church (especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society). Inspire us to follow their example in our own day.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation (especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones (regions in crisis may be named), and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering (especially).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith (congregational formation ministries may be named). Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you (especially).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Great Thanksgiving p. 152

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 our thanks and praise.**

Preface p. 153

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns: I Come With Joy (#482)
Here is Bread (#483)
Let Us Break Bread (#471)

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Sending Hymn: All Creatures Worship God Most High (#835)

Dismissal

Postlude

ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th

Dedicated by Cathy Torbik in honor of our Sunday School Students.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service
	After Worship Service	Coffee Hour
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA)
	After Worship Service	Band Rehearsal
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection
		Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
		Bosco's Friends Helping Friends Coupons (Oct. 21st 8am-11pm)
Sunday, October 4th	1:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals
Tuesday, October 6th	7:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parish House
Saturday, October 10th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building
Monday, October 12th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Wednesday, October 14th	2:00 pm	Halloween Tea in the Parish House Tea Room
Saturday, October 17th		Monroe Township Halloween Parade \$5 Parking in Church Lot
Sunday, October 18th	10:45 am	Hearts & Hands: Growing Together Crafts
Sunday, October 18th	11:30 am-12:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Wednesday, October 21st	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Friday, October 23rd	6:30 pm	Story Time "The Pumpkin Story" by the fire (Church Grounds)
Saturday, October 24th	4:30 pm-6 30 pm	St. John's Annual October Fest in the Ed. Building

Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Helen Dominic	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Melanie Miles	Meilani Showell
Krystal Booras	Frank Donovan	Valerie Hoffmann	Sue Murphy	Frank Siderio III
Michael Botti	Marie Lentine Douglas	Makenzie Jack	Bill Murray	Maryann Smith
Brian Byrnes	Tracey Drew	Ed Kagen	Renate Murray	Bill Steel
Barbara Cadwallier	Indie Fisher	Tracey Kelly	Erica Polito	Carol Taylor
Meadow Cantoral	Kayla Friant	Carl Knopp	Samantha Reed	Henry Tesone
Randy Cantoral	Stephanie Friant	Deb Kuhn	Ashley Rosser	George Vaneman, Sr.
Debbie Capasso	Rhea Fryor	Donna Leek	Dorcas Schellhas	George Van Wagner
Janet Cappuccio	Ashley Fuhrman	Doug Levandowski	Jean Schlotz	Beverly Warming
Joe Condoli	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Finn Schureman	Mary White
Sandra DeRitis	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Gladys Sheppard	

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please leave payment in the Church Office.



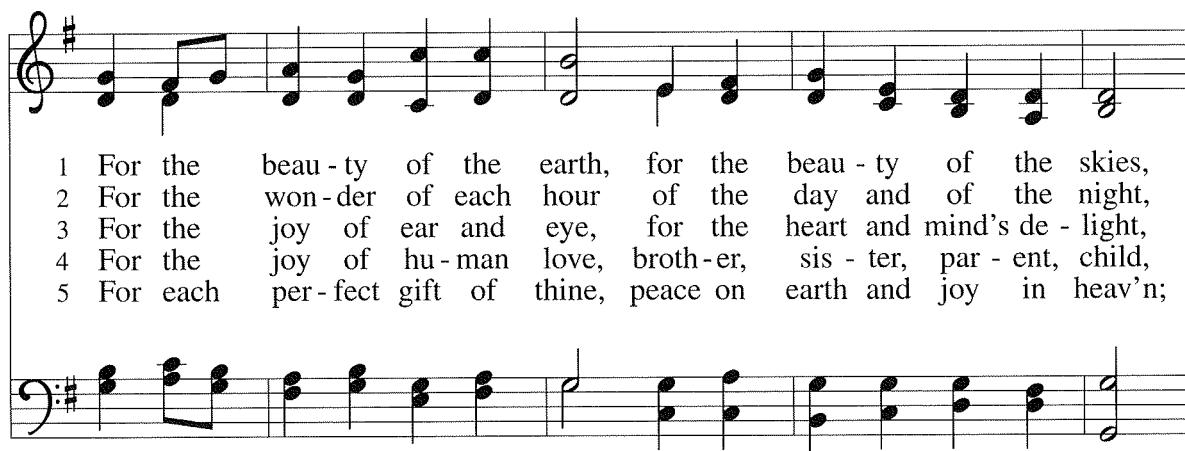
GOOD NEWS!

COFFEE HOUR

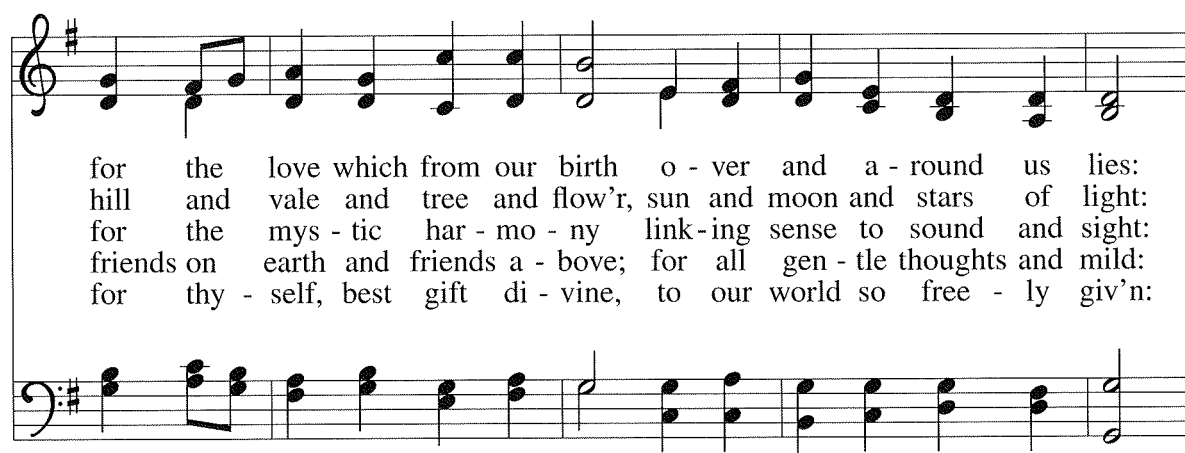
Sunday after the Worship Service
(unless otherwise announced)

Join us for food, beverages and fellowship!

For the Beauty of the Earth

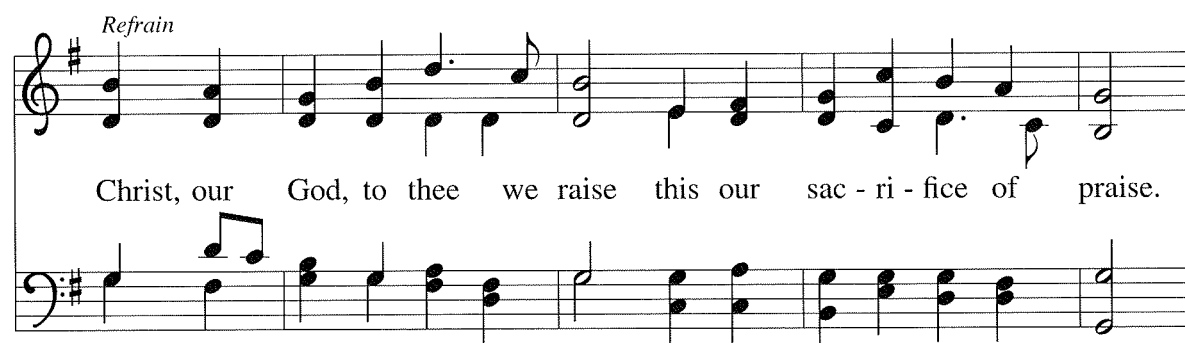


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

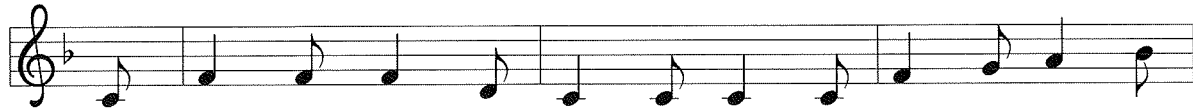


6 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 7 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 8 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 9 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 10 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

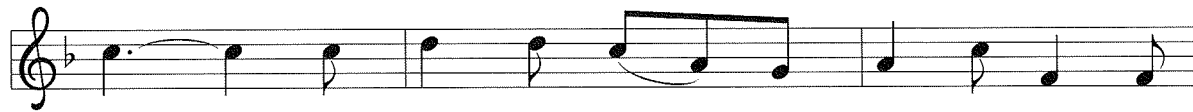
Refrain



11 Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



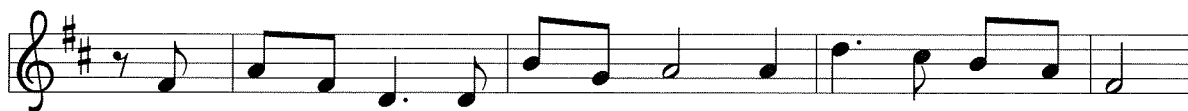
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
 Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
 We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
 that you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav'n-ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

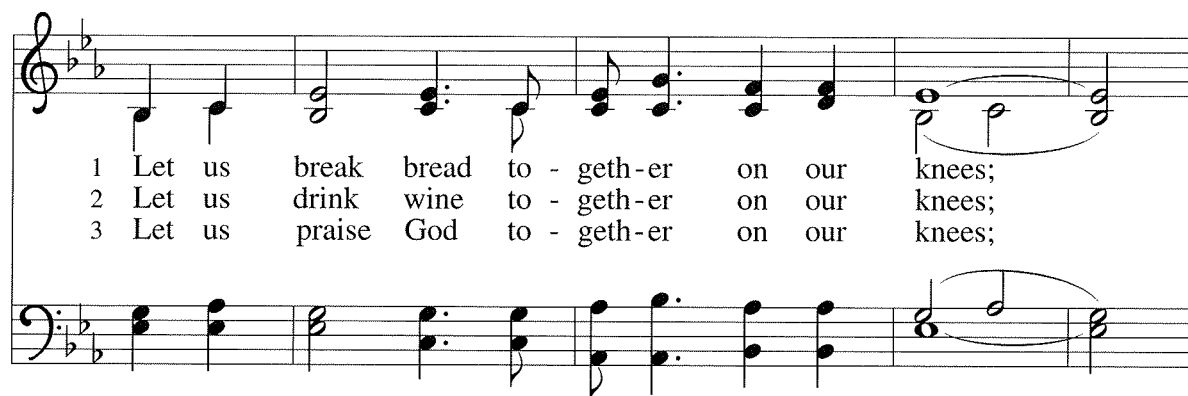
Text and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

HERE IS BREAD

3 3 4 4 3 3 5 and refrain

Let Us Break Bread Together

471

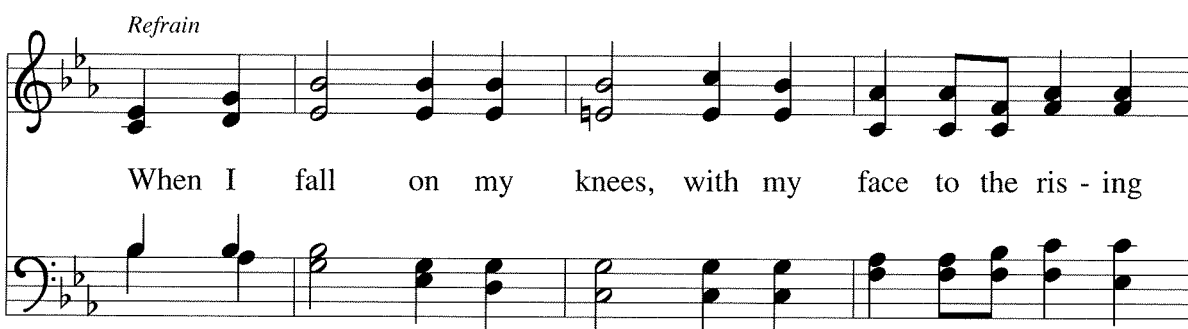


1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

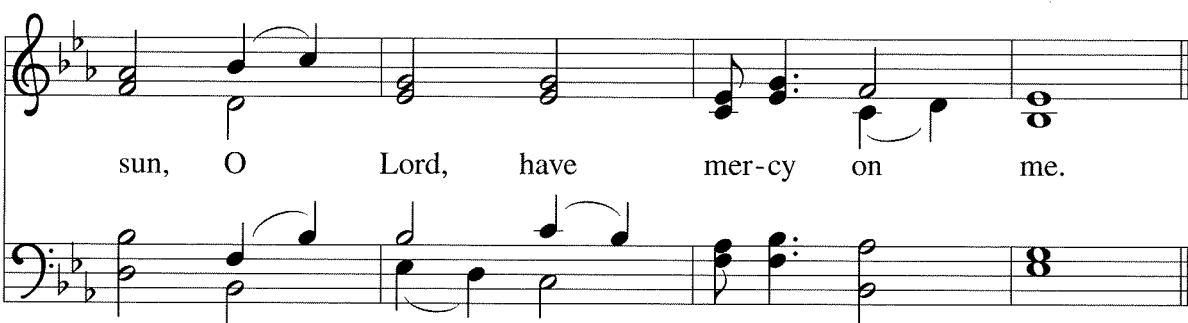


let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

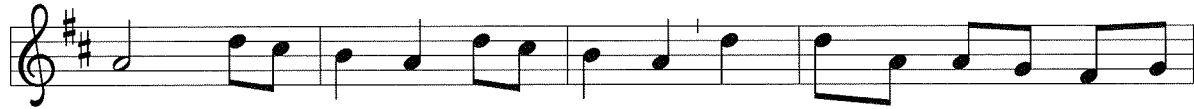


sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th at 1:00 pm
 Paper towel donations for Animal Shelters will be greatly appreciated.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS




**Tuesday,
 October 6th
 7:00 pm
 in the Parish House**

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Saturday, October 10th
 11:30 in the Ed. Building



**ALL
 ARE
 WELCOME!**



**Monday, October 12th
 7:00 pm in the Parish House**

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**St. John's Church
 Halloween Tea**

Wednesday, October 14th at 2:00 pm
 in the Parish House Tea Room
 All are welcome!



**MONROE TOWNSHIP
 HALLOWEEN PARADE**

Featuring ...
 St. John's Little Big Band



Parking available on the
 Church lot **\$5 Donation**

On Main Street, Williamstown • October 17th • 7:00 pm



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday, October 18th
11:30 am–12:30 pm
In the Parish House



GRIEF GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
7:00 PM IN THE PARISH HOUSE TEA ROOM
ALL ARE WELCOME!



STORY TIME & S'MORES BY THE FIRE

Friday, October 23rd at 6:30 pm on the Church Grounds

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL

Saturday, October 24th

4:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Ed Bldg.

Join Us for Fun, Food, Fellowship & Music

Please reserve tickets in advance.
Call or Text Gail at 609-313-0800.



Holy Communion Lutheran Church of Berlin Baby Pantry need:



BABY DIAPERS
(especially larger sizes)

Collection is in the Narthex.



Please help us . . .

Donate Shelf Stable Milk for
Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.

Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.



Hearts & Hands: Growing Together at St. John's

Our children are blessed to have so many important people in their lives, including their families and teachers. But their circle of caring adults can be even bigger through their church family!

We are looking for adults within our church family who would be willing to serve as mentors and build meaningful connections with our Sunday School children through a special craft activity led by our Sunday School teachers.

The goal is simple: to give our children the opportunity to build relationships with caring adults beyond their own family and teachers. We hope these connections will help our children feel even more loved and connected to their church family.

2026 Mentor Craft Dates

Sunday, October 18th

Sunday, December 27th



St. John's Lutheran Church



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 - SHOP 8AM - 11PM

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*

**REGISTER TO WIN A
\$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD**

One Winner at every Bosco's store

**100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

**For Shopping Passes or information contact the Church Office (856-875-8742),
leave a message, ATTENTION: Janice Stronski or contact any Council Member.**

**Exclusions apply. For more details visit boscovs.com/category/friends-helping-friends-event*

SAVE TIME . . . no need for checks or envelopes

ELCA-Endorsed Tithe.ly giving platform enables you to tithe online or using the app.

- From your checking account or using your debit/credit card
- One-time donation or set up for recurring giving
- Designate specific ministry for your donation
- Scan the QR code to get started
- For assistance or questions, contact Tom Schofield or Henry Fickenscher



CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursday at 7:00 pm!

All are welcome to join!

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer

Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com

Website: www.stjohnselc1002.org

ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Deacons: Betsey Eley/Ken Weaver

Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher

Music Director/Choirmaster: Janice Smith

Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver

Head Usher: Ted Adams

Sexton: Betsey Eley

Webmaster: Tom Schofield

Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher