

15th Sunday after Trinity

September 13th, 2026

Liturgy: WS p. 22

Organist: Lana Strike



**BE KIND TO ONE
ANOTHER
TENDERHEARTED,
FORGIVING
ONE ANOTHER,
AS GOD IN
CHRIST
FORGAVE YOU.**



ST. JOHN'S

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #439

"O God of Mercy, God of Might"

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

C Amen.

P Pastor

Confession of Our Sins

C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us pray.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

The Gloria Patri

TLH #39:5

C ♪ *Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before
Him! Let the Amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.*

The Introit

Ps. 143:1-2, 9

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge!
- G** **Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**
- P** Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.
- G** **Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge!**

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- P** O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** **Amen.**



Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that

Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.



Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building

up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. ^{5:1} Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

☐ I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn: TLH #412

"May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"



Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me,

and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him

ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Mercy Received? Mercy Given.



The Offertory

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✠ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #403

"Savior, Thy Dying Love"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: Below (LSB #843)

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"
2 How can Your par - don reach and bless
3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls

You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can
The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
The truth we dim - ly knew; What triv - ial debts are
And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in

grant us grace To live the words we say.
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owed to us, How great our debt to You!
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.



Mission Fest – Next weekend we will be having our fall Mission Festival here at St. John's. Pastor Drew Naumann from Messiah EC will be our Mission Festival preacher, and Mr. Andrew Lau from Messiah EC will be giving a presentation for Bible Class on this past summer's Mission Helper Trip to Zambia. (Pastor Rodebaugh will be preaching at Messiah EC.) We will be having a **potluck next Sunday** for Mission Fest. So please be sure to bring a dish to pass!

A Joint Reformation Service will be hosted by Faith in New Ulm, November 1, at 4:00 pm, with a meal to follow. If you are interested in singing in the joint Reformation Choir and would like a copy of the music, please reach out to Phil Strike.

Bible Class – With the beginning of the regular Bible Class and Sunday School schedule, and having finished our study of the Gospel according to Mark earlier this year, we began a new study today on the Book of Acts. Once we arrive at the accounts of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys, we will be taking brief hiatuses from Acts to look at his letters to the various churches, whenever we are first introduced to them.

While it is certainly preferable for you to attend Bible Class in person to be able to join in that fellowship hour with your fellow Christians and have the opportunity to ask questions, Bible Class is now being live-streamed on our church YouTube page: www.youtube.com/@St.JohnsLutheranOkabena

ManUp! Weekend – 2026 is the 10th Anniversary of the ManUp! Weekend, to be held September 24-27 at Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. The facility is set up for 108 men, and currently 105 have registered. Typically, there are a couple of cancellations, and there are some attendees that said they will be staying off site. That means there is still room for around 5-8 more men - like YOU and/or that friend you have been meaning to ask. The plan is to slightly over-book the weekend, like an airline. Then you can be "on call" on a waiting list if you choose. If you register after we reach 108, you will be contacted by someone on the Planning Committee to see if you would like to be on a waiting list. Register here: www.manup.clclutheran.org. Join us for encouragement, fellowship, worship, team building, and more! The \$150 registration fee covers all meals, lodging, and activities. Sign up today!

Ushers	9/13	Phil S, Nathan V, Daniel R.
	9/20	Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	9/27	Kendall B, Larry B, Caleb E.
Cleaning		This Week – The Ruthenbecks (wk. 4)
		Next – The Boernsens

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

September 14th - 19th, 2026

Mon Matthew 6:24-34 The danger of material possessions, whether we have them or want them, is that they can distract us from the kingdom of God and His righteousness. He is the One who provides for us.

Tues Galatians 5:25-6:10 Walking by the spirit means loving one another (Jn15:12), bearing one another's burdens, rather than provoking and envying one another. Let us not become weary of doing good (v9).

Wed Deuteronomy 6:4-7 The Lord seeks the hearts of His people, wherever they may be, whatever they may be doing, parents and children, day and night. Christ showed such love to us when He died for our sins.

Thurs Psalm 34:1-10 When David found himself in a life-threatening situation, he called upon God and God delivered him. He speaks not of his part in the escape, but of God's hearing and delivering. Call on Him!

Fri Psalm 34:11-22 Being close to the Lord brings deliverance in distress (v17) and joy in sorrow (v18). This does not mean that believers never have troubles, but that the Lord delivers us from them all (v19).

Sat Psalm 119:113-120 The Psalm tells evildoers to get away (v115), for they are against the word and commands of God, and in that word is life, hope, salvation (v116-117). Therefore, I love your testimonies (119).

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