St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

711 & 805 W 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

"Welcome Visitors & Members!"

To those who are visiting us for the first time, we extend our sincere welcome; to our friends who know us we renew our welcome; to those who seek a church home we invite you to be part of our family and enjoy fellowship with our Savior.
For further assistance in worship and information on our church, please see the back cover.

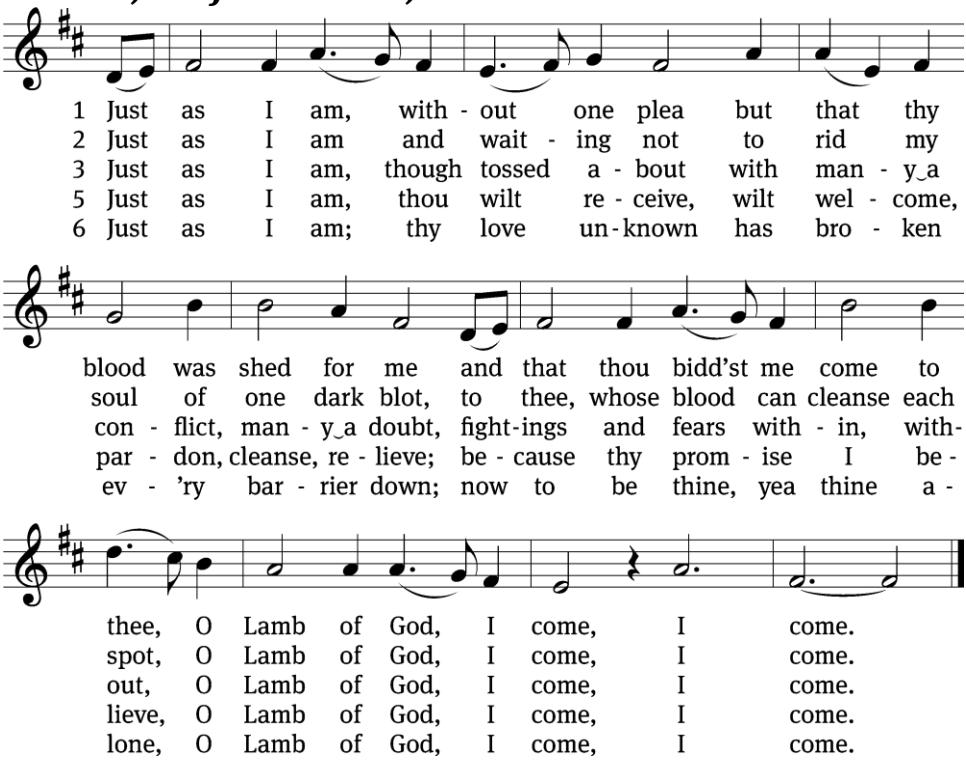
17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS-GRACE IS AMAZING

Communion: *We will celebrate the Lord's Supper today at the rail. St. John's practices "member communion." We ask, therefore, that only those who are members of St. John's or another WELS/ELS congregation partake of the sacrament.*

814:1-3, 5-6 Just as I Am, without One Plea *CW 21*



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868
Text and tune: Public domain

The Service Setting 6 CW 21

In the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

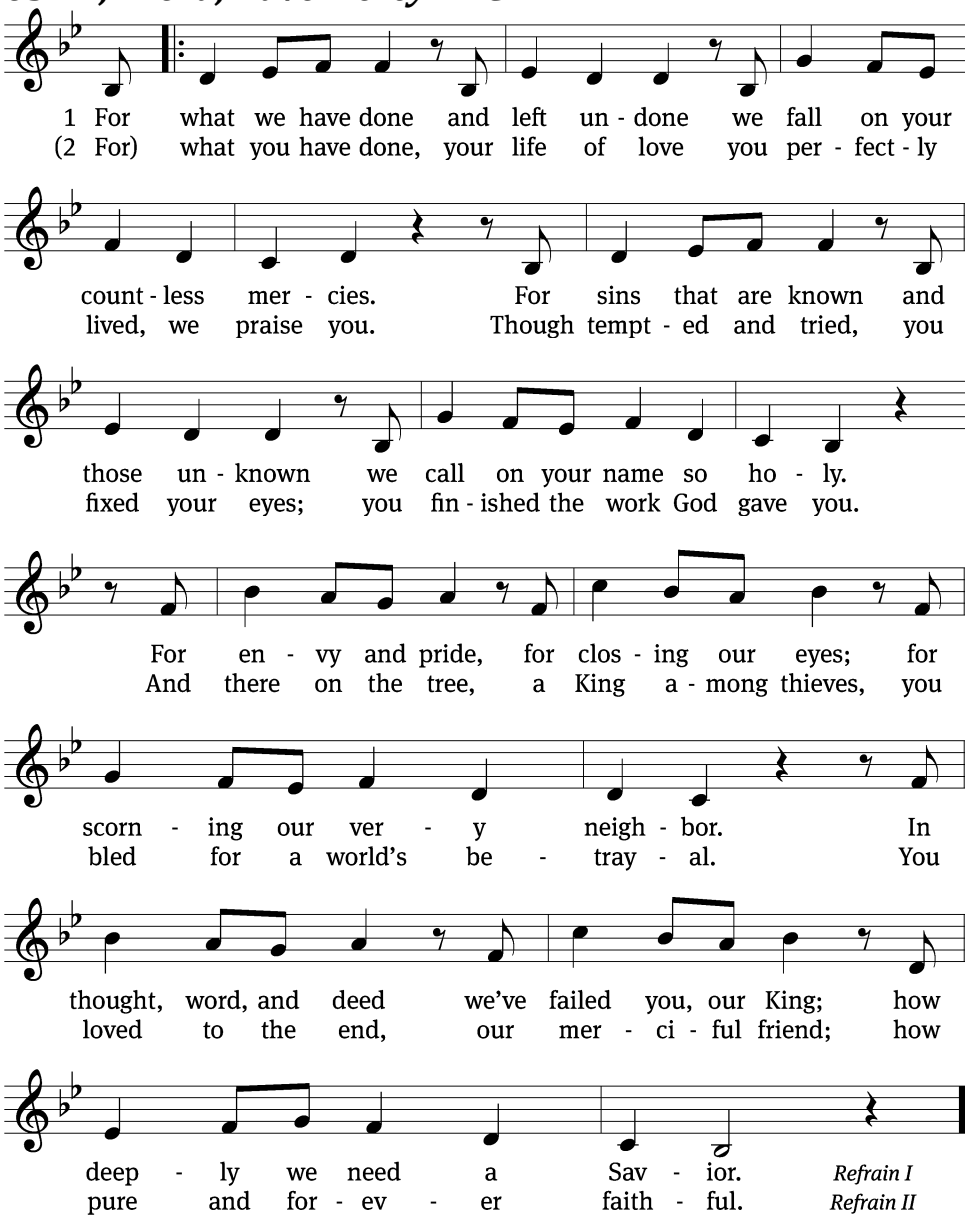
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Refrain will be sung twice after verse 2.

652:1,2 Lord, Have Mercy CW 21



Refrain is on page 5

Text: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; James Tealy, b. 1971; Matt Boswell, b. 1979
Tune: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; James Tealy, b. 1971; Matt Boswell, b. 1979
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Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to his people on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading: Psalm 115

[1]Not to us, O LORD, not to us,
but to your name give glory,
because of your mercy,
because of your truth.

[2]Why should the nations say,
"So where is their God now?"

[3]In fact, our God is in the heavens.
He does everything that pleases him.

[4]Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.
[5]They have a mouth, but they do not speak.
They have eyes, but they do not see.
[6]They have ears, but they do not hear.
They have a nose, but they do not smell.
[7]Their hands—they do not even feel.
Their feet—they do not even walk around.
They do not even make a sound with their throats.
[8]Those who make them will be like them,
and so will all who trust in them.

9Israel, trust in the LORD
—he is their help and their shield.
10House of Aaron, trust in the LORD
—he is their help and their shield.
11You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD
—he is their help and their shield.
12The LORD remembers us. He will bless.
He will bless the house of Israel.
He will bless the house of Aaron.
13He will bless those who fear the LORD
—the small with the great.
14May the LORD add blessings to you,
to you and to your children.
15May you be blessed by the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

16The heavens are heavens for the LORD,
but the earth he gave to the children of Adam.
17It is not the dead who praise the LORD,
nor any of those who go down to silence,
18but we are the ones who bless the LORD,
from now to eternity.

Praise the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Grades 3K-8th sing: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Second Reading: Romans 9:6–16

6This does not mean that God's word has failed, because not all who are descended from Israel are really Israel, 7and not all who are descended from Abraham are really his children. On the contrary, "Your line of descent will be traced through Isaac." 8This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are counted as his descendants. 9For this is what the promise said: "I will arrive at this set time, and Sarah will have a son."

10Not only that, but Rebekah also had children by one man, our forefather, Isaac. 11Even before the twins were born or did anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose in election might continue— 12not by works but because of him who calls us—it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." 13Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

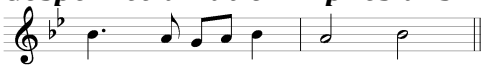
14What will we say then? Does this mean that God is unjust? Absolutely not! 15For God says to Moses:

I will show mercy to whom I show mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

16So then, it does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

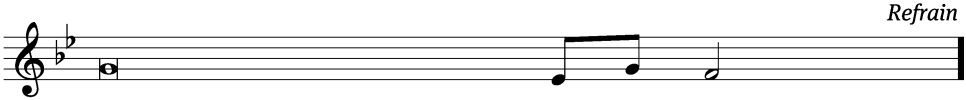
Gospel Acclamation: Ephesians 2:8



Refrain

Tone

Refrain



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Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1–16

[1]"Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. [2]After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3]He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. [4]To these he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.' So they went. [5]Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. [6]When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, 'Why have you stood here all day unemployed?'

[7]"They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.'

"He told them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' [8]When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.'

[9]"When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. [10]When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. [11]After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: [12]'Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!'

[13]"But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? [14]Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. [15]Can't I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' [16]In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

558:1-3; 5-6; 10 Salvation unto Us Has Come CW 21

6 Since Christ has full atonement made
and brought to us salvation,
each Christian therefore may be glad
and build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
your death is now my life indeed,
for you have paid my ransom.

10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
to Father, Son, and Spirit,
the God who saved us by his grace;
all glory to his merit!
O triune God in heav'n above,
you have revealed your saving love;
your blessèd name be hallowed!

Sermon Text: Psalm 115
Sermon Theme: To God Alone Be Glory

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 truly 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.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.
Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.
Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.
Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.
Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.
Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.
Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

(Prayer continues on page 13)

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.
Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

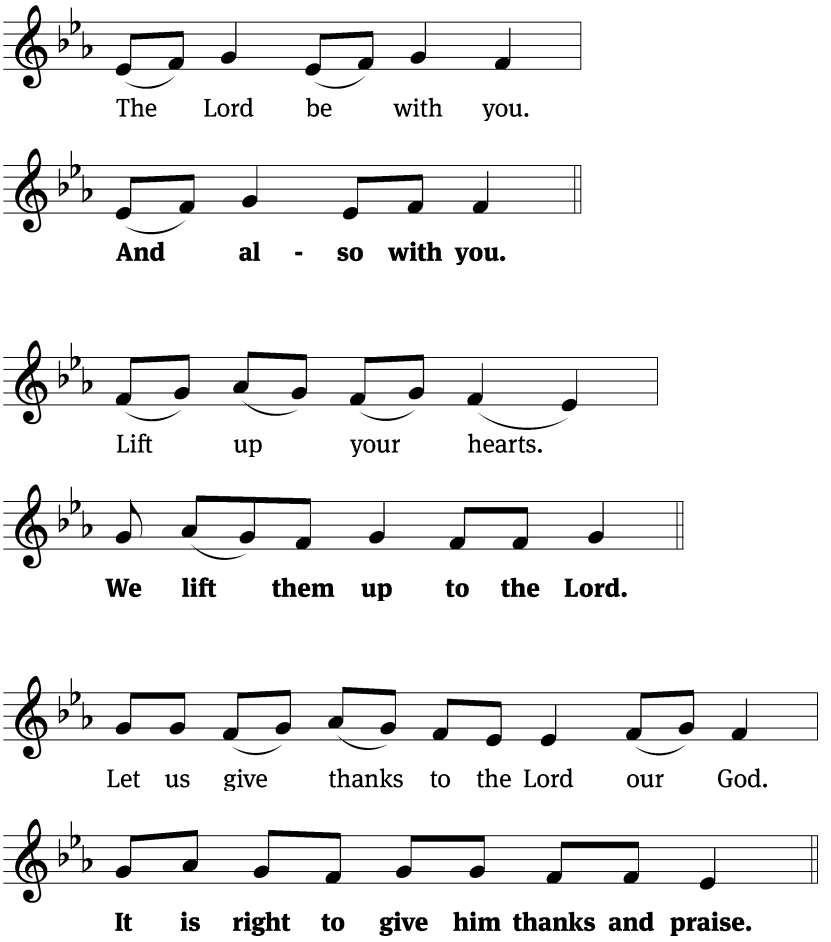
Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.
Amen.

OFFERING - *The members of St. John's have joined together, in gratitude for God's grace in Jesus, to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world and support this gospel ministry with their time, talents, and treasures. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry, but please use this QR code to fill out a short form giving us a digital record of your attendance. Visitors may also fill out our guest register by the drinking fountain in the entryway.*

Friendship Registers: *Please take a few moments before church or during the offering to mark down your attendance at worship by signing the friendship registers we have placed back in the racks at the end of each pew. Thanks!*

The Sacrament

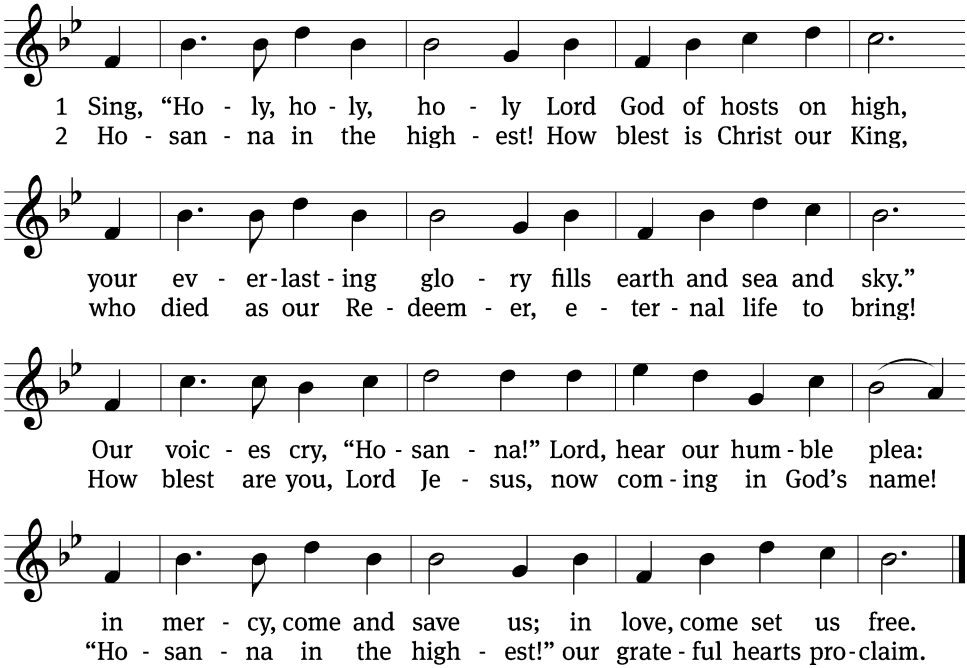
Preface



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 until 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:

1011 Sanctus *CW 21*

Tune: WEBB



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Tune: George J. Webb
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Words of Institution

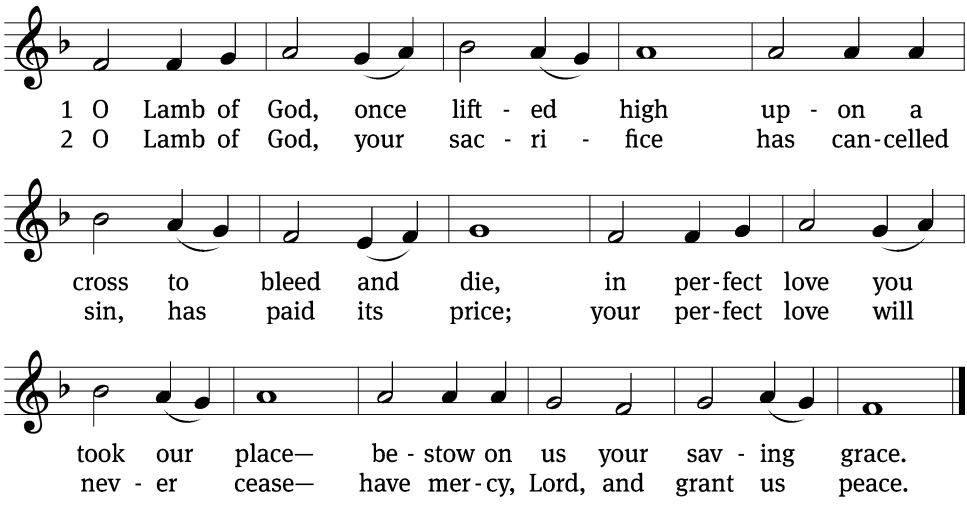
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✞ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.

1013 Agnus *CW 21*

Tune: HAMBURG



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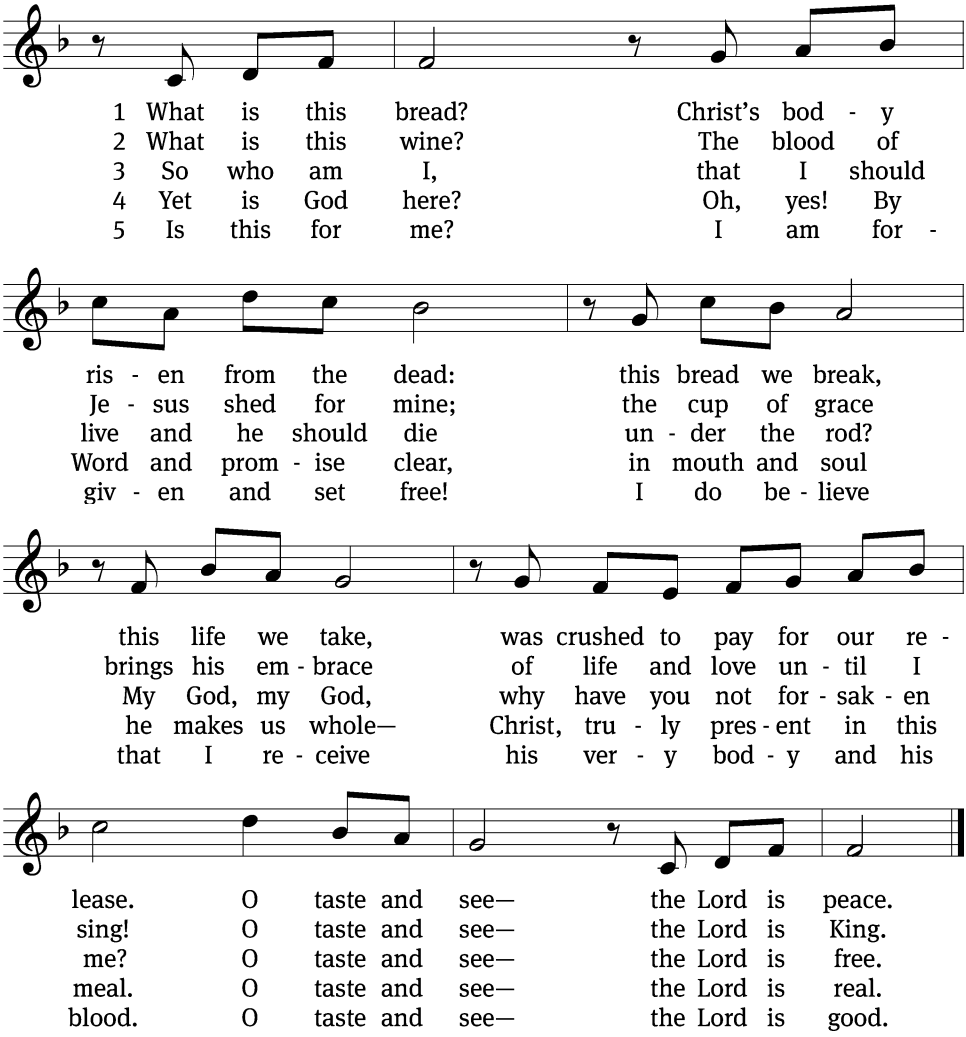
Distribution

665 What Is This Bread *CW 21*



Text: Frederic W. Baue, b. 1946
Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, b. 1951
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Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

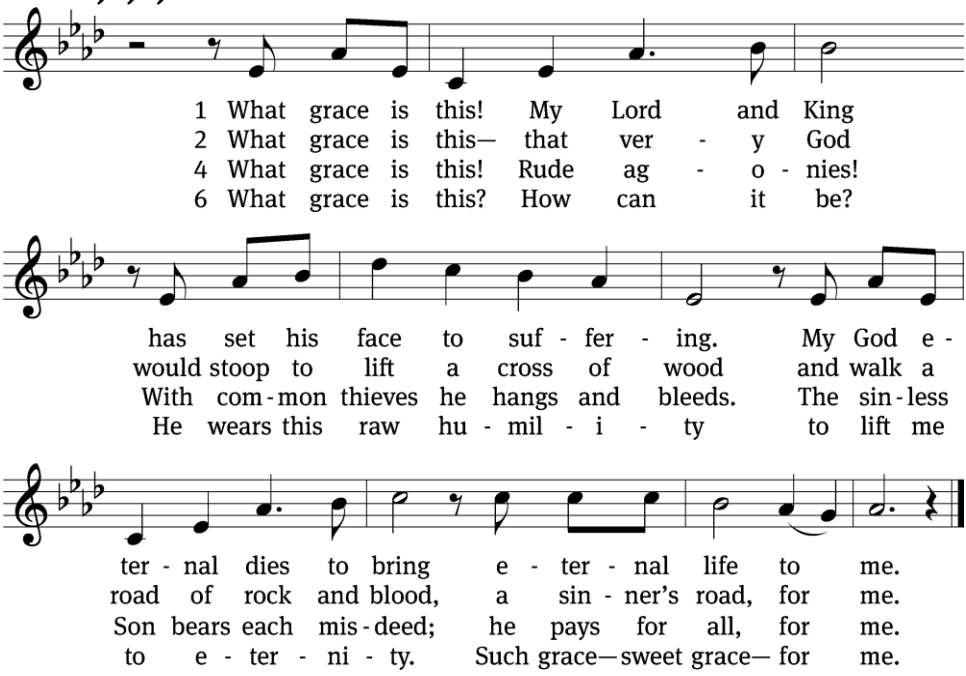
Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. 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.

Blessing

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.

395:1,2,4,6 What Grace Is This CW 21



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Setting Six (American) from Christian Worship
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This Week at St. John's: Sep 20, 2026

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Judith Quicker & Nancy Hagedorn
Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team
Altar Guild: Charlene Siebert
Bulletins: Pat Strangfeld
Sep Website: Pat & Alice Glinski for their 54th anniversary

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Donna Anding & Rosie Murphy
Ushers: Team 3-Dick Urban's team
Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Communion Service
	Gr. 3K-8 sing
	10:30 AM Sunday School
	10:30 AM Bible Study
MONDAY	6:00 PM Adult Instruction Class
	6:00 PM LIGHTS
WEDNESDAY	8:20 AM Chapel
	6:00 PM Choir
	7:00 PM Handbells
FRIDAY	3:15 PM Faculty Meeting
SUNDAY	9:00 AM Worship Service
	10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study
	6:00 PM Youth Group

Worship the Lord with Gladness:
Campout: 79
Last Sunday: 83

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:
Thankoffering Given Last Week:
$7,261.52 (Home); $294.50 (Missions)
Needed per week for Home: $9,035.00

Owed on line of credit: $47,933.66

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday Bible Study: *Sunday Bible study resumes today after church. We will be studying "Christian Doctrine Two: 8 Studies on Deeper Christian Teachings." All are invited to join us in the church basement.*

Sunday School: *Sunday School resumes today for preschool through 6th grade students. Preschool-Kindergarten students will meet in the church basement; Grades 1-6 will meet in the school. All children are invited! We encourage 7th & 8th grade students to attend Sunday Bible Study.*

LIGHTS: *Our LIGHTS group will hold their first meeting of the school year tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. in the school conference room. The purpose of the LIGHTS group is: (**L**adies **I**nreach **G**roup for **H**elp to the congregation in areas of need, **T**eaching those weak in faith, one another, all congregational members, and others the precious truth of God's Word, **S**trengthening the faith and fellowship bonds of St. John's members. If you'd like to be involved in this work, please consider yourself invited to the meeting tomorrow evening.*

School Boiler: *As we informed you in July, one of our two school boilers has developed mechanical problems and must be replaced. We decided to hire RC Heating and Cooling LLC of Neillsville to do the work. The installation will be accomplished this coming Saturday, Sept. 26th and the total cost for this work will be $13,400.00. Donations toward this project are gladly accepted. You can drop those off in the school office or put them in the offering basket marked "school boiler."*

Youth Group: *Youth Group will hold its first meeting of the school year next Sunday, September 27, at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Christie. All students in 8th through 12th grades are invited.*

We will be watching an online Teen Bible Study, "My Self-Worth," led by Pastor Jon Enter. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." That sentence is a lie. Words hurt. Mephibosheth knows your pain. His short yet powerfully personal Bible story will guide you to see yourself differently, to see yourself as God sees you: beloved, worthy, and his. We hope many 8th graders and high school students can join us!

Volunteers Needed in Grades 2 & 3: *Mr. Leiterman is looking for a volunteer or multiple volunteers who would be willing to come and listen to students read and help them read/work on assignments. The time he is aiming for is from 9:30-11:00. This doesn't need to be every day. If you're interested or know of someone who is willing to help, please let Mr. Leiterman know.*

Thanksgiving Service: *We are considering a change in our Thanksgiving worship schedule. Because a Thanksgiving Day service is currently offered at Globe/Christie, Pastor Tim and Brian Thell are considering offering a Thanksgiving Eve service at St. John's. Please share any thoughts about this proposal with them.*

Homebound Ministry: *Pastor Tim is looking for volunteers to assist in making regular visits on our homebound members. Please contact him if you have interest.*

Thrivent: *As we start another school year, we want to encourage you to consider using your Thrivent Action Teams to help provide needed school supplies and resources for our students. For those who have Thrivent, Thrivent Action Teams offer an opportunity for members to make a positive difference by organizing a service project or supporting a need within our school community. To do so, please submit an action team online and label it "Education Supplies." By working together and using these opportunities to purchase classroom supplies, educational materials, or other needed items, we can help support our school while being good stewards of the blessings God has provided.*

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Mr. Leiterman.

Fall Mission Fest: *Our Fall Mission Fest will be held on Sunday, October 18th. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Chris Christenson, who will be presenting on Home Mission work at Our Redeemer, Ladysmith, WI. In addition to preaching, he will be giving a special presentation in place of Bible Class after the worship service.*

Fall Dinner: *The Friends of St. John's will be sponsoring their annual Fall Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 18th, following our special Mission Fest presentation. Every year the Friends of St. John's*

chooses someone to be their honored guest at the Fall Dinner. This year our honorees are Henry & Julie Berry.

In addition to honoring the Berrys, we would also like to verbally recognize at the meal the previous Fall Dinner honored guests we have had over the last 30 years.

Proceeds from the Fall Dinner will go toward replacing a broken slide on the older kids' playground. (That older playground equipment was installed in 1996.)

Our Sympathies: *Our prayers go out to the family of Joyce Wetzel, who was taken home to heaven this past Tuesday. We ask God to comfort her family as they look forward to a blessed reunion in heaven.*

St. John's Neillsville

Lutheran Pioneer

Adventures

Train #680

READY FOR ADVENTURE?

Join **Lutheran Pioneers!**

Kids in grades **K–8** meet one Sunday afternoon each month to learn real-life skills like fire-starting, knot-tying, building a survival shelter, navigation, safe knife handling, and more—all while growing in faith and fellowship!

Come explore. Come learn. Come be a Pioneer!

First Meeting: Oct. 4, 6:00pm in St. John's Gym.

Leaders: Brian Thell 715-937-4024
and Jenny Shadrick 715-897-0903

To assist you in worship:

- ✞ Personal listening devices are available for anyone to use. Please talk to the ushers for assistance.
- ✞ Large-print bulletins available in the entryway.
- ✞ Personal Prayers: Red Hymnal (pp. 10-11); Blue Hymnal (inside front cover)
- ✞ Preparation for Lord's Supper: Red Hymnal (p. 156); Blue Hymnal (pp. 295-296)
- ✞ Luther's Small Catechism: Blue Hymnal (pp. 286-293)

We love seeing young children in church as we want families to worship together. We also love to hear children making a "joyful noise to the Lord." If you need some privacy for feeding an infant or changing a diaper, please make use of our parents' room off the north side of the entryway where you can still listen to the service.

***Visitors**, if you would like to know more about our church or school, please introduce yourself to our pastor. He would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way he can.*

St. John's Lutheran Church & School
711 & 805 W 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456
Contact Info

Church & School Office: stjohns1886@gmail.com
715-743-2501
Tim Walsh, Pastor: pastortim@stjohnsneillsville.com
631-901-4430 (cell)
Mike Allard, Principal: allardmj1@gmail.com
715-937-7534 (cell)
John Hagedorn, Chairman: hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com
715-743-4653 (home)

Website: www.stjohnsneillsville.com
Facebook (church): www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/
Facebook (school): www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/

Worship Schedule
Sunday-9:00 a.m.