

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores...”

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 25, 2016

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Rev. Marcella Esseck, Guest Pastor

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*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 25, 2016

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

PRELUDE: *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* – Aaron David Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the only Sovereign, who dwells in light;
Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners;
the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

God of overflowing grace,

we come to you with repentant hearts.

Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.

Forgive us for passing by the ones in need.

Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures.

Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness.

Bring us home from the wilderness of sin,

and strengthen us to serve you

in all that we do and say;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents.

By the grace of God in † Christ Jesus,

who gave himself up for us all,

your sins are forgiven and you are made free.

Rejoice with the angels and with one another!

We are home in God’s mercy, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG #729:*The Church of Christ, in Every Age

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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.



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.



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. A - men.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, rich in mercy,
you look with compassion on this troubled world.
Feed us with your grace,
and grant us the treasure that comes only from you,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

FIRST READING: Amos: 6: 1a, 4-7

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

- ^{1a}Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
- ⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
- ⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
- ⁶who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
- ⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146

1. Come praise the Lord with all our lives, sing thanks and praise each day.
2. How blest are those who hope in you, Cre - a - tor of all things.
3. The blind find sight, the fal - len hope, you set the pris' - ner free.
4. Your reign, O Lord, will nev - er end. How can we count its days?

No oth - er one is worth our hope, for God a - lone can save.
You heal the sick, you feed the poor, your pre - sence jus - tice brings.
You give the home - less liv - ing space, but fell the proud like trees.
All gen - e - ra - tions young and old shall live to sing your praise.

SECOND READING: 1Timothy 6:6-19

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.

¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:]¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen

to them.’³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY #712:** *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

*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

Rejoicing in the Spirit’s work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God, we thank you for the church, its mission, and its ministry. Help us to be examples of the faith and to pursue righteousness in all we say and do. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the well-being of all creation. Make us wise stewards of your rich and beautiful world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the nations, we pray for peace in places of conflict and war. We pray for exiles, refugees, and those far from home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are lonely or homebound, those who are trapped in any kind of prison of body, mind, or spirit, and for those who are sick or injured. We pray especially for Wanda Jean, Jim & Davena, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those injured in the bombings in New York and New Jersey, grant them comfort and healing. We pray for the people of Charlotte, North Carolina. May they find peace and reconciliation. We pray for unity, understanding, and justice and an end to violence. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God who sits high but looks low, we pray for our brothers and sisters who struggle to make ends meet. Provide for all of our physical and spiritual needs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember and give thanks for all your saints in light and for those who have recently died. Thank you for the good foundation of their lives and witness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN #461: All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly**

All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
were gathered together to become one bread,
so let your church be gathered together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

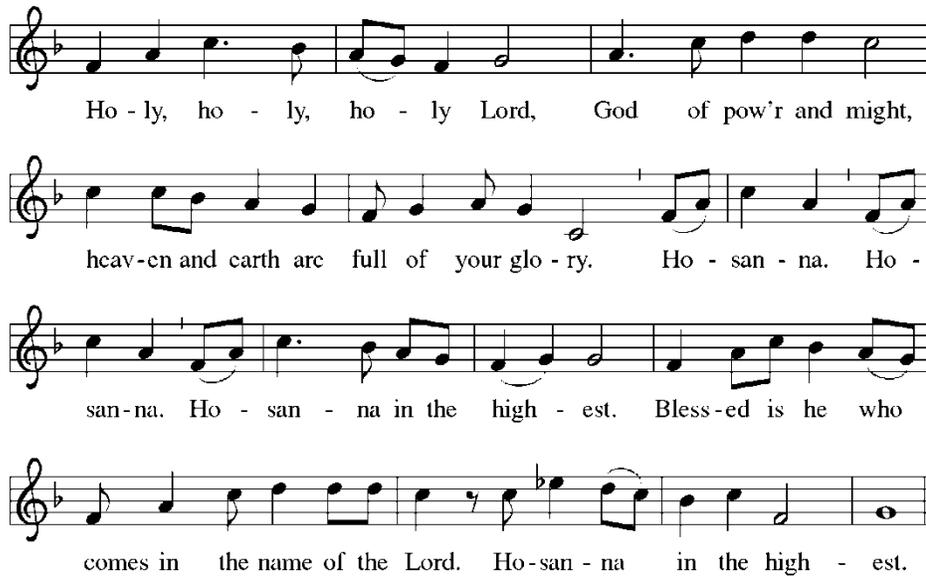
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

Holy God,
 our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
 you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
 You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
 and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
 You sent your Son to eat with sinners
 and to become food for the world.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
 his life given for us
 and his rising from the grave,
 we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
 strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
 and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church,
 both now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,
forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Take hold of the life that really is life.
Come, take your place at the table.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*

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

COMMUNION HYMN #480: *O Bread of Life from Heaven*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

We come again to you, O God,
giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy
you have embraced us and healed us,
making us one in the body of Christ.

Go with us on our way.

Equip us for every good work,
that we may continue to give you thanks
by embracing others with mercy and healing;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***SENDING OF COMMUNION**

O God of tender compassion,
as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger,
bless those who leave this assembly
to share the gifts of this table
with our sisters and brothers
who are sick or homebound.
May they be sustained by the love and prayers
of this community,
and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are sick and homebound.
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,
and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING SONG #705: *God of Grace and God of Glory

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *God of Grace and God of Glory* – Paul Manz

The flowers this week are given by Cindy & Dave Knauff in thanks for a beautiful September.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Bill Schulz
Attendance Last Week: 65
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$131,591.32
YTD Actual Expense: \$123,142.37

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward
Communion Assistant: Valerie Cardinal
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:
Attendance Last Year: 62
Last Week's Giving: \$ 3,977.00
YTD Receipts: \$109,733.30

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Come Praise the Lord – text: Psalm 146, para. by Fred R. Anderson; tune: Chesterfield, by Thomas Haweis. Text © 1986 by Fred R. Anderson in *Singing Psalms of Joy and Praise*.