



# St. John's Lutheran Church



1000 Helena Ave.

Helena, MT 59601

(406) 442-6270

***September 28, 2025***

**Pastor Keith Weatherford, Presiding**

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***Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost***

***Sunday Service, 9:30am***

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# *Welcome and Announcements*



# *\*Confession and Forgiveness*

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

**C: Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

*Silence for reflection and self-  
examination.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. In your compassion  
forgive us our sins, known and  
unknown, things done and left  
undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we  
may live and serve you in newness of  
life, to the honor and glory of your  
holy name; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive  
you all your sins through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep  
you in eternal life.

**Amen**

*\*Entrance Hymn*

*ELW # 705*

**“God of Grace and God of Glory”**

**1. God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your pow'r;  
crown your ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days,**

**3. Cure your children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**4. Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.**

## *\*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*

L: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: 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.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen**

**\*Hymn of Praise:**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was  
slain, whose**

**blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power, and riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and**

**honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and  
join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor, glory and might  
to God and the Lamb forever.**

**Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our  
God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain  
has begun  
his reign. Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia. Amen**

# *\*Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P. Let us pray. O God,

**rich in mercy, you look with compassion  
on this troubled world. Feed us with  
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.*

<sup>1a</sup> Woe to those who are at ease in Zion  
and for those who feel secure on  
Mount Samaria.

<sup>4</sup> Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory  
and lounge on their couches  
and eat lambs from the flock  
and calves from the stall,

<sup>5</sup> who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music,

<sup>6</sup> who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup> Therefore 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

*The LORD gives justice to those who are  
oppressed.*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have  
my being.

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the seas,  
and all that is in them; who keeps  
promises forever;

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are  
oppressed, and food to those who  
hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed  
down; the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all  
generations. Hallelujah!

## Second Reading: 1 Timothy 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.*

<sup>6</sup> Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, <sup>8</sup> but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

<sup>9</sup> But 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. <sup>10</sup> For 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.

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

<sup>12</sup> Fight 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.

<sup>13</sup> In 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 <sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>15</sup> which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup> It 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.

<sup>17</sup> As 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. <sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share,

<sup>19</sup> thus 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*

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

## \*Gospel – 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.*

# *\*Gospel – Luke 16: 19-31*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke beginning with the sixteenth chapter and the nineteenth verse.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup> “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously everyday.

<sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

<sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.

<sup>24</sup> He 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.'

<sup>25</sup> But 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.

<sup>26</sup> Besides 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.’ <sup>27</sup> He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house

<sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup> He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

<sup>31</sup> He 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.’ ”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Children's Message and Sermon*

*Pastor Keith Weatherford*

*Presiding*

*(Silence for Reflection)*

*\*Hymn of the Day*  
*“When the Poor Ones”*  
*ELW # 725*

**1. When the poor ones, who have  
nothing, still are giving;  
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to  
share;  
when the wounded offer others  
strength and healing:**

## ***Refrain***

**We see God, here by our side, walking  
our way;**

**we see God, here by our side, walking  
our way.**

**2. When compassion gives the suff'ring  
consolation;  
when expecting brings to birth hope  
that was lost;  
when we choose love, not the hatred  
all around us:**

## ***Refrain***

**We see God, here by our side, walking  
our way;**

**we see God, here by our side, walking  
our way.**

**3. When our spirits, like a chalice, brim  
with gladness;  
when our voices, full and clear, sing out  
the truth;  
when our longings, free from envy, seek  
the humble:**

## ***Refrain***

**We see God, here by our side, walking  
our way;**

**we see God, here by our side, walking  
our way.**

**4. When the goodness poured from  
heaven fills our dwellings;  
when the nations work to change war  
into peace;  
when the stranger is accepted as our  
neighbor:**

## ***Refrain***

**We see God, here by our side, walking  
our way;**

**we see God, here by our side, walking  
our way.**

## **\*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

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Prayer Response (each portion of the prayers end with these words):*

P: Lord, in your mercy.

**C: hear our prayer.**

# *\*The Peace is Shared*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

# Offering

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including care of those in need. Online donations can be made at:*

*[www.helenastjohns.org/donate](http://www.helenastjohns.org/donate)*





# \**“Offertory Anthem”*

“Like a Mighty Stream”

arr. Hogan

St. John’s Lutheran Church Choir



## \*“*Offertory Response*”

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord  
fill to the brim our  
cup of blessings. Gather a harvest from  
the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed, we may be fed with  
the bread of life.**



**Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the  
prayers we offer now. Grace our table  
with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to  
come.**

# **\*Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

**C: O Lord our God, maker of all things.  
Through your goodness you have  
blessed us with these gifts.**

**With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

# *\*The Great Thanksgiving*

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.**

# **\*Sanctus**

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

**Heaven and earth are  
full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed, blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the  
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

# *\*Words of Institution*

P: Holy, mighty and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your  
glory...

## *\*Words of Institution*

p: ...Through him, with him, in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and  
honor is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.

**Amen**

# **\*The Lord's Prayer**

**C: 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and  
deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and  
the glory are yours, now and  
forever.**

**Amen.**

# *\*Invitation to Communion*

*(We celebrate this meal together at Christ's table, and all are welcome and encouraged to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion.*

*Ushers will invite you forward starting from the rear of the sanctuary.)*

# **Agnus Dei**

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of  
the world;**

**have mercy on us, have mercy on us  
have mercy.**

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

*\*Communion Hymns*

*ELW #472*

*“Eat This Bread”*

*(Sing 3 times)*

*ELW# 477*

*“I Received the Living God”*

*(Sing 3 times)*

**"Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst."**

# **I Received the Living God**

## ***Refrain***

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

**1. Jesus said: I am the bread,  
kneaded long to give you life;  
you who will partake of me  
need not ever fear to die.**

## ***Refrain***

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

**2. Jesus said: I am the way,  
and my Father longs for you;  
so I come to bring you home  
to be one with us anew.**

## ***Refrain***

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

**3. Jesus said: I am the truth;  
come and follow close to me.  
You will know me in your heart,  
and my word shall make you  
free.**

## ***Refrain***

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

**4. Jesus said: I am the life,  
far from whom no thing can grow,  
but receive this living bread,  
and my Spirit you shall know.**

## ***Refrain***

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

**I received the living God,  
and my heart is full of joy.**

## *\*Prayer After Communion*

P: Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# *\*Blessing*

P: Almighty God, Father,  Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*\*Sending Hymn*

*ELW # 712*

*“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”*

**1. Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.**

**2. Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.**

**3. As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.**

**4. Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.**



# *\*Dismissal*



P:Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:Thanks be to God.**



# Fellowship Time



Please join us downstairs after worship  
to enjoy some social time before we  
depart and share the good news!