



Go and work in the vineyard today

MATTHEW 21:28

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville

5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937

Rev. Dr. Tim Jordan

Church 740-574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of the Word

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.

PRELUDE

+ GATHERING SONG

God of Grace and God of Glory

#415

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

+ GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

C And also with you.

P You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C a people holy to the Lord our God.

P Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children,

C Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P One does not live by bread alone,

C but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

+ SCRIPTURE SONG



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



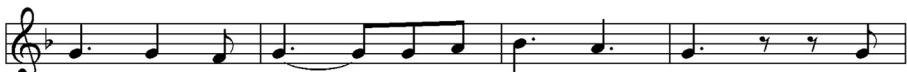
just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na-tions.



Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

C Let us pray God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

PSALM: 25:1-9

- P ¹ To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.
- C ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- P ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- C ⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**
- P ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- C ⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**
- P ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O Lord.
- C ⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- P ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all praise to you!

+ THE GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

#492

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
 Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

+ RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**
 (Ephesians 1:13-14)

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C **pray in the Holy Spirit. (Jude 20)**

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 21)**

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C **Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!
2 Corinthians 5:17)**

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

C **Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C **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**

P 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.

C **Amen**

+ PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The minister and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

P God, our Creator,

C you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

P Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need (*especially*). Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

**C 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**

+ BLESSING

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

C Amen

1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain

With the Spir-it's gifts em-pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The refrain is titled 'Refrain' in italics.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
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+ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace.

Children Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist

Leigh Ann Henry

Lay Reader

Brian Oakes

Prayer Leader

Brian Oakes

Greeter

Acolytes

Altar Committee Sherry Mullins, Brenda Moore, Vicki Nye-Titus

Council President

Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Bill Murphy, Linda Martin, Melanie Hawk, Nicholas Young, Rod Schneider, Brenda Moore, Ken Staker, Greg Piguet, Mary McQuay, Chris Parish, Tom Bussler, Luke White, Jack Clevenger, Bob Rase, Glenn Rase, Jim Webb, Leah Willis, Dennis Klaiber, Cheryl Crank, Judy Buknis, Shanna Garrett, Belford Sexson, Linda Sexson, Derrick Gleim, Dorrita Gleim, Mackenzie Gleim, Owen Wilburn, Wendi Waugh, Carol Easter, David Otworth, Ed Hughes, Brandon Cline, Colton Snyder, Deacan Kidd, Paul Christian, Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Dean Conklin, who died on Monday 21st May God comfort them in their loss, and ease their hearts with hope in Christ's promises of resurrection and reunion.

PASTOR TIM will be gone most of this week for continuing ed. and visiting college students. If you need to contact him, give him a call.

JOHN & CHERYL CRANK want to thank everyone for the cards, visits, and prayers we have received over the last several months

BLANKET PROJECT GROUP will **NOT** meet this Tuesday.

CHOIR will practice each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY meets each Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

YOUTH NIGHT Thursday, October 1 at 6:00 p.m.

JOIN PASTOR TIM for Coffee Hour on October 3 at 10:30 a.m. at Adam's Flying Pig.

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY MORNING for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

THEIR WILL BE A special congregational meeting on October 11 immediately following worship to vote on replacing the roof of the parsonage.

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 St. John will be joining St. Paul and Bethel for Reformation Service at St. Paul in Ironton at 10:30 a.m. There will be a German luncheon after worship. You are invited to bring a dish to share. There will be no worship service at St. John that Sunday.

Attendance	
2026 Average	65
2025 Average	62

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Brett Oakes, Brian Oakes, Colin Long

BAPTISMS: Emily Gambill, Elizabeth Gleim, Colton Stafford, Olivia Stafford, Jon Bailey, Vicki Floyd, Adair Mercer

ANNIVERSARIES: Ashley & Allen Salyers

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

Serving Next Sunday, October 4

Organist	Leigh Ann Henry
Worship Assistant	Vivian Riffel
Lay Reader	James Hayman
Prayer Leader	James Hayman
Greeter	James & Kym Hayman
Acolytes	
Altar Committee	Amy Fraulini, Jon Bailey
Council President	Rick Williams

Happening This Week at St. John

Today—Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Youth Night

Saturday

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour with Pastor Tim at Adam's Flying Pig

Next Sunday—Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship—Holy Communion

Special Event Happening This Week

Thursday, October 1

Youth Night

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, October 11

Honoring Our First Responders

Saturday, October 17

Fall Festival at 3:00 p.m. at St. John

Sunday, October 25

Joint Reformation Service at St. Paul in Ironton at 10:30m a.m.

Friday, November 13

Game Night at 6:30 p.m. at St. John

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m

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