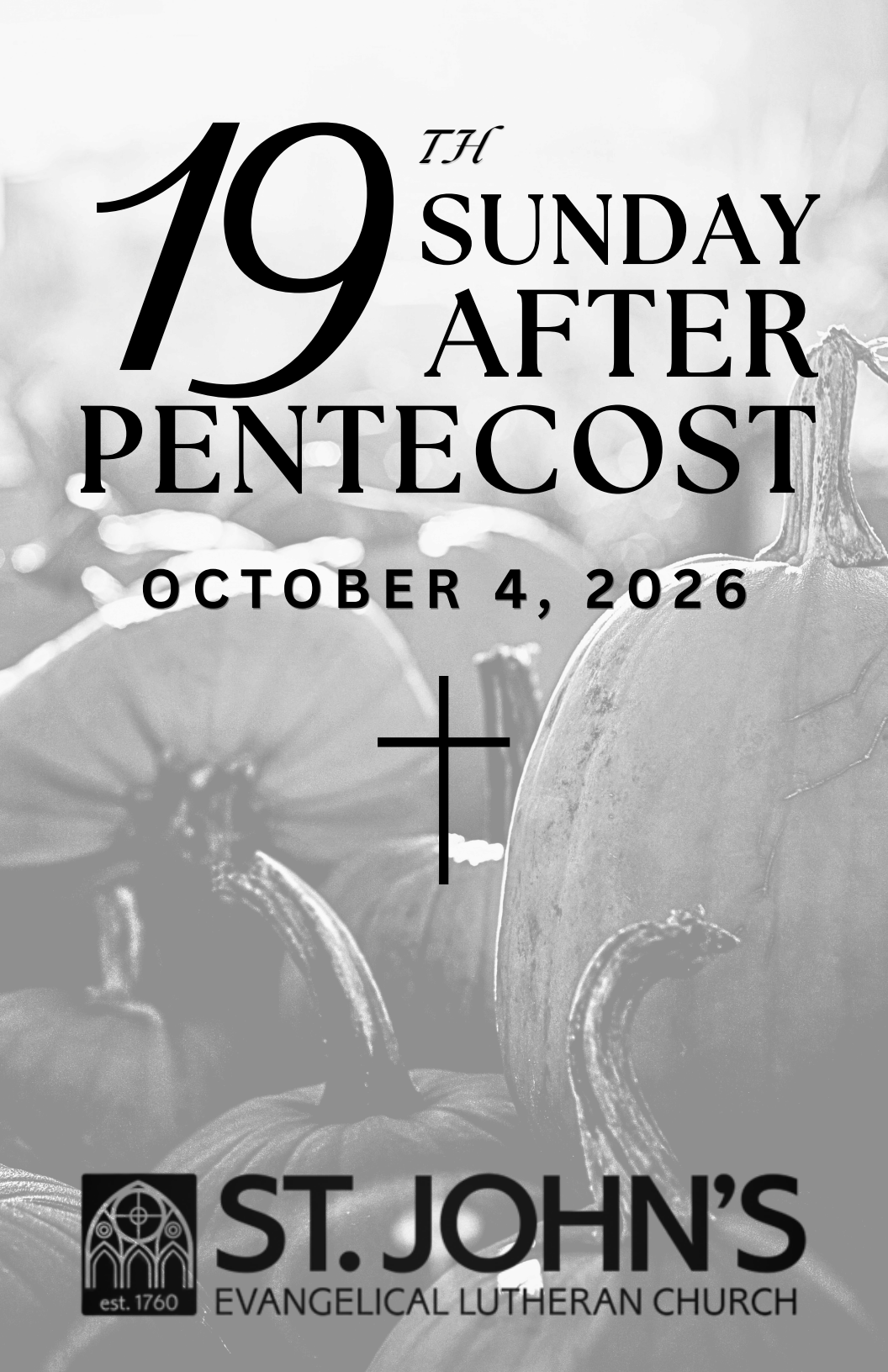
19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 4, 2026



ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
est. 1760

October 4, 2026

Introduction

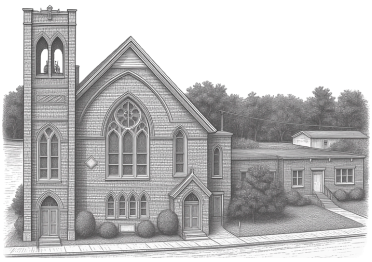
In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

About Holy Communion

St. John's practices Eucharistic hospitality: All of God's children are invited to join us for Holy Communion, to receive the Lord's body and blood for forgiveness of sin and renewal of life. The church provides pre-filled fellowship cups that contain previously consecrated communion elements, to be used in the pews or in the home. If you need these communion elements for family members who are unable to worship with us in-person, please take one from the rear of the church or stop by the church office.

Welcome to St. John's!

If you are exploring faith, have questions about baptism or holy communion, desire to be involved in our ministries, or wish to become a member of St. John's - please feel free to talk with Pastor Shawn or Deacon Amy. We hope to worship and fellowship with you again soon.



Prelude *"Be Thou My Vision"* *Paul Manz*

– Welcome & Announcements –

*Special Thanks to **Tim Bupp** for sharing his Musical talents with us today!*

THE GATHERING

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

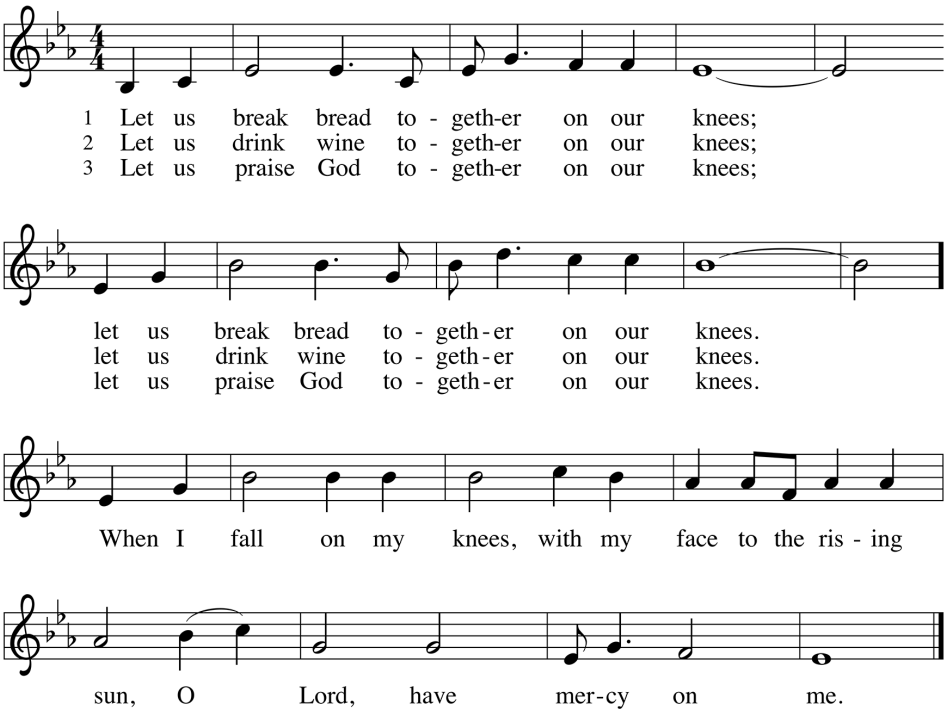
Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

(Continued)

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn ELW 471

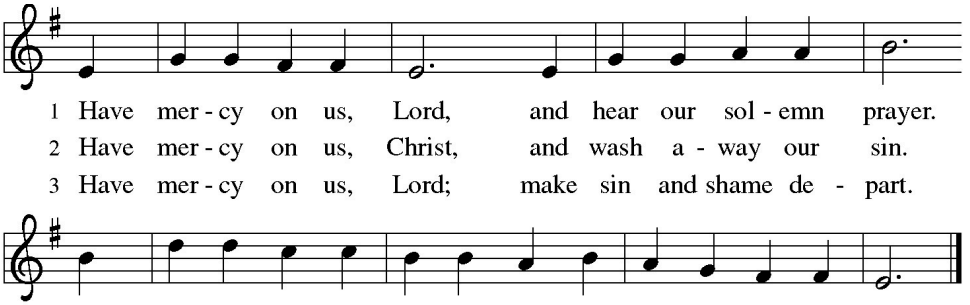
"Let us Break Bread Together"



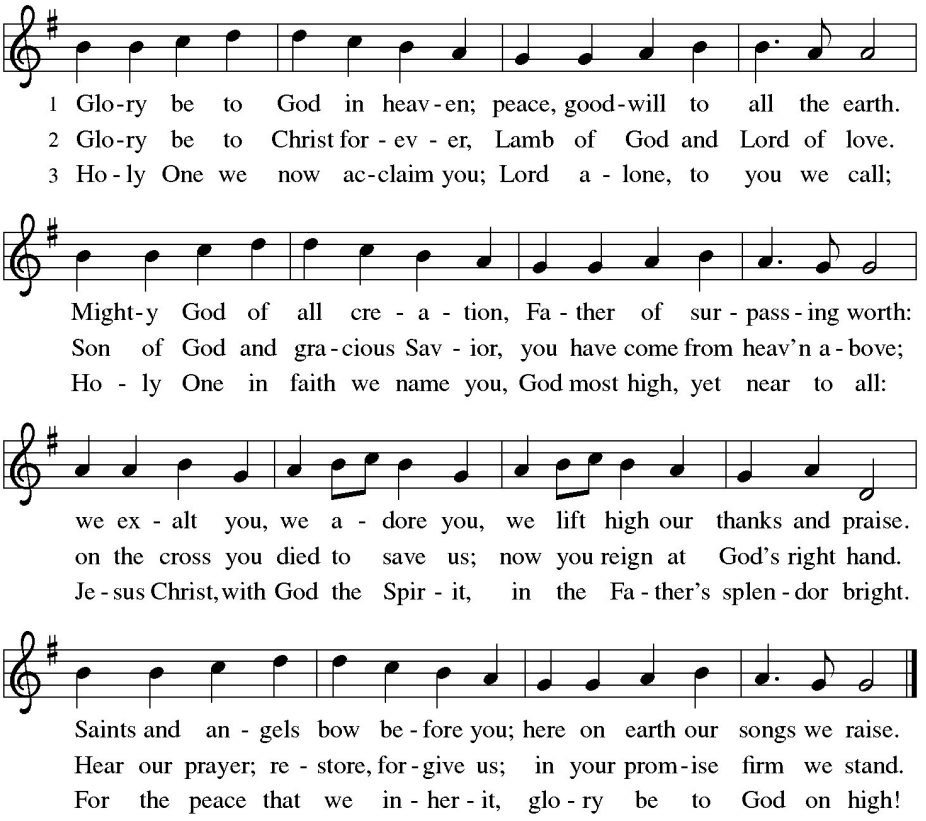
*The Greeting

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.

*The Kyrie



*The Hymn of Praise *(Sing Verse 1 Only)*



*Prayer of the Day

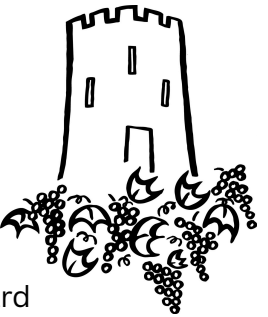
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us Pray...Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

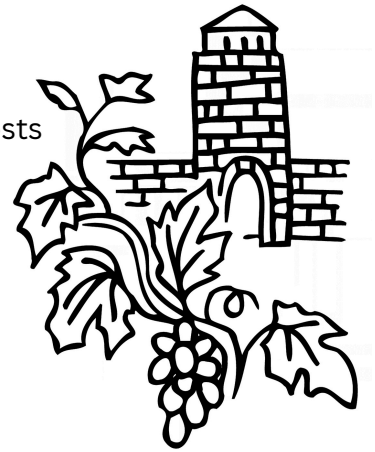
[1] I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
[2] He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.



[3] And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
[4] What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

(Continued)

[5] And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
[6] I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.



[7] For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[1][Paul writes:] [4b] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: [5] circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; [6] as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
[7] Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. [8] More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

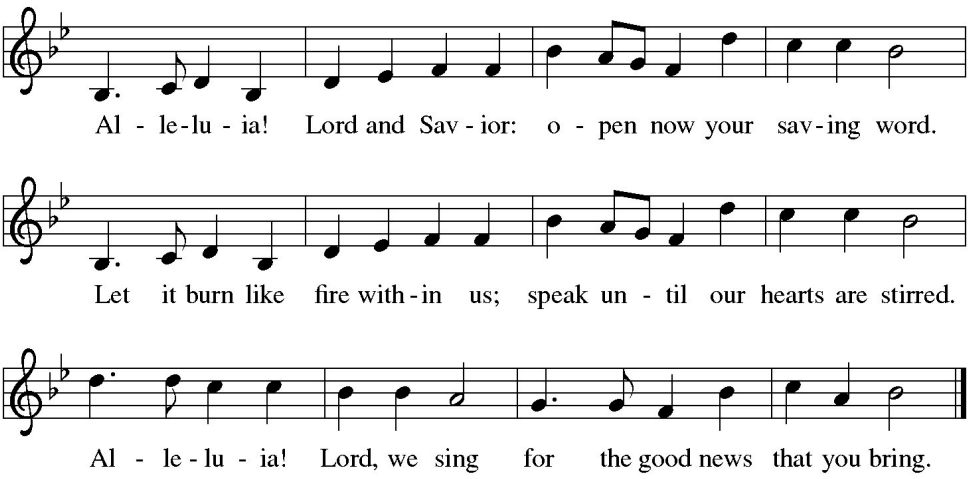
(Continued)

[9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own
that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in
Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. [10] I want to
know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing
of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, [11] if
somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

[12] Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached
the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has
laid hold of me. [13] Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I
have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting
what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [14] I
press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call
of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation



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weekly attendance 101 to 200. #A-736100

*Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46



The Holy gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-first chapter.
Glory to you, Oh Lord.

[Jesus said:] 33 “Listen to another parable. There was a
landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug
a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to
tenants and went away. 34 When the harvest time had come, he
sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the
tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and
stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the
first, and they treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent
his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 But when
the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the
heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ 39 So they
seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40
Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to
those tenants?” 41 They said to him, “He will put those
wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other
tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”
42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:
‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?
43 “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away
from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. 44 The
one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will
crush anyone on whom it falls.”
45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables,
they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted
to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they
regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Oh Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Deacon Amy Mambu

&

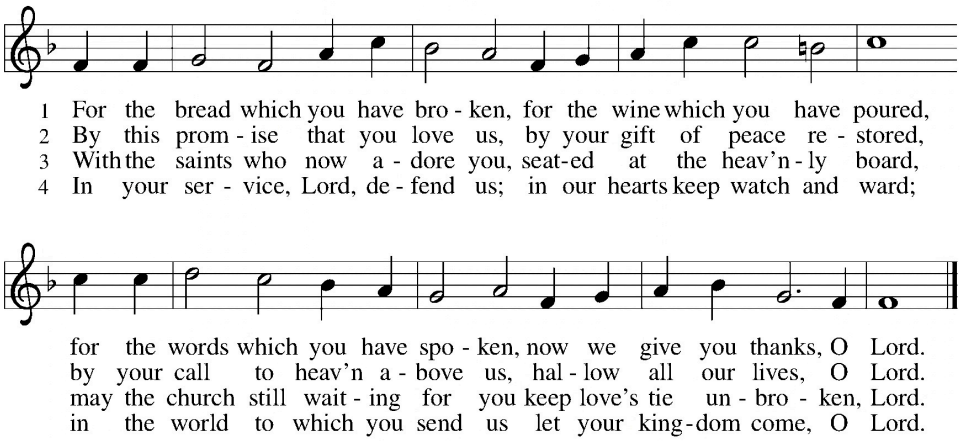
Sermon

Pastor Shawn Berkebile



***Hymn of the Day** **ELW 494**

"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"



*The 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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**



*Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

THE MEAL

Offering

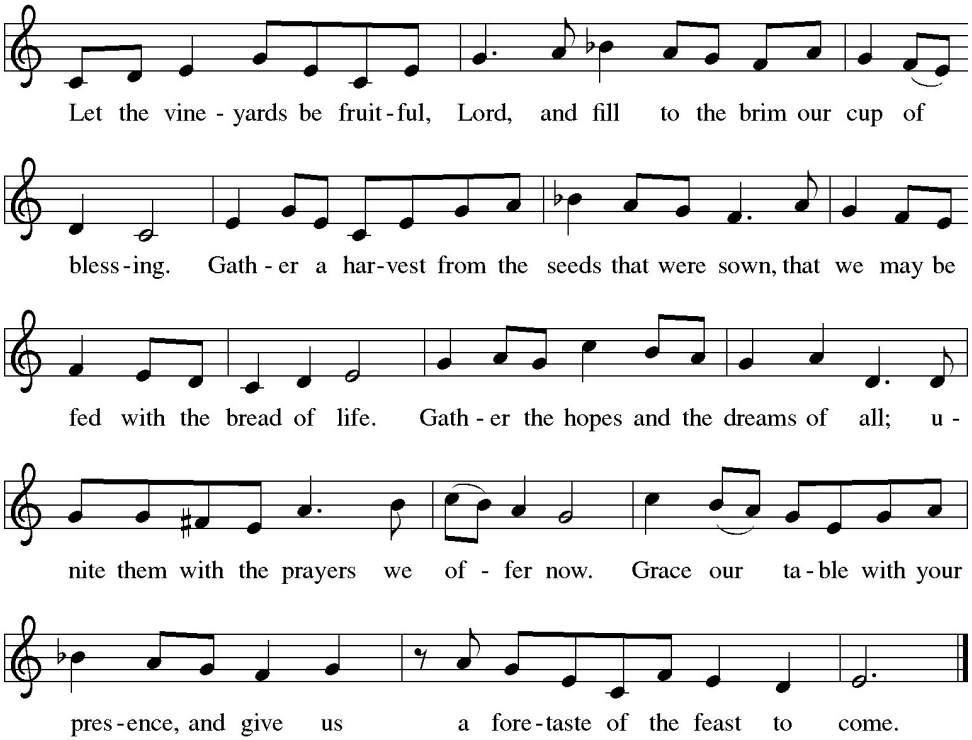
Offertory Anthem *Chancel Choir*

"Come To Me"

***Presentation of the Offering**

***Offering Response** **ELW 182**

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



***Offertory Prayer**

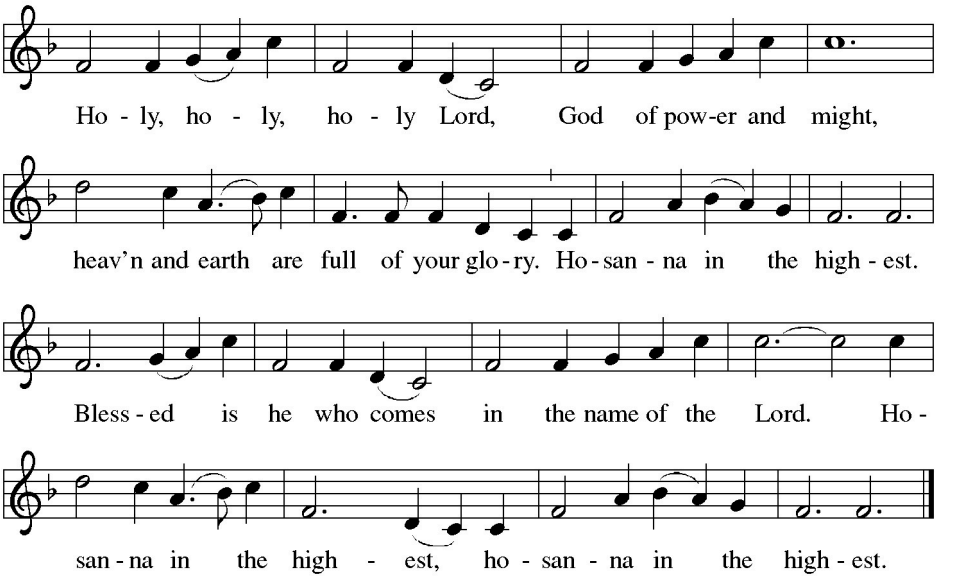
God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

*The 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.**

*Preface

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:



*Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

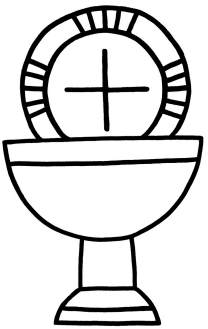
*The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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
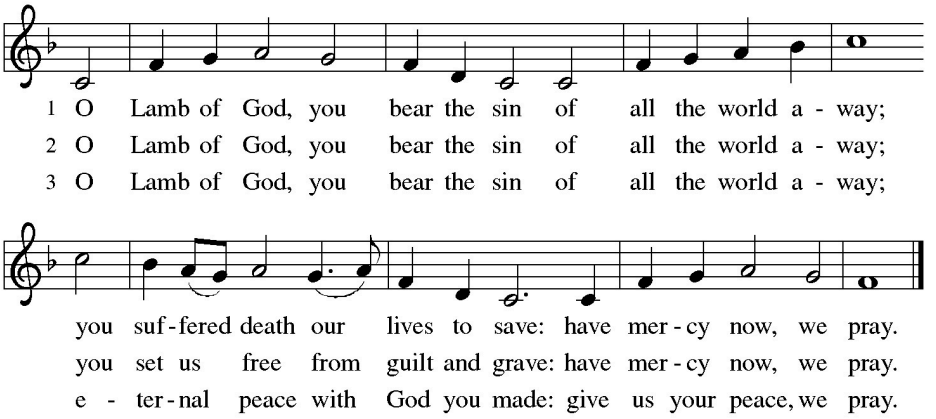
Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are
hungry, come!



Communion Distribution

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

Lamb of God



*Post Communion Blessings

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

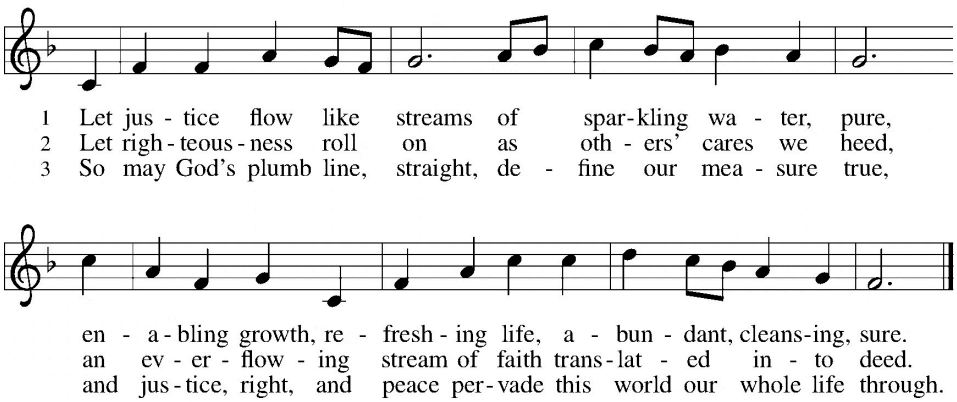
THE SENDING

*Blessing

May the God of love draw you together in the body of Christ. May the God of hope fill you with strength and joy in every circumstance, and may the God of grace, through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you, sustain you, and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn **ELW 717**

"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"



*Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!
Thanks be to God. We Will!

Postlude

Hal Hopson

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

\+ + +



Serving St. John's - October 4th

Head Usher	Wanda Wagaman
Communion Assistant	Barb Colandreo
Acolyte	Leah Slothour
Greeters	***Volunteer Needed***
Lector	Kylie Slothour

Serving St. John's - October 11th

Head Usher	Wanda Wagaman
Communion Assistant	Barb Colandreo
Acolyte	***Volunteer Needed***
Greeters	***Volunteer Needed***
Lector	Mike Omlor

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are in *need* of **worship volunteers** to serve as an ***acolyte, communion assistant, lector, and greeters*** (a great way for a family to volunteer.)

Please see the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.

Dates through ***November 29th*** are now available to sign up for!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP HAS MOVED ONLINE!

TINYURL.COM/MR6K99HA ⟶




Happening Soon:




- ***Chancel Choir*** - Every Sunday - 9:50am - Rehearsal
- ***Diaper Packing*** – Mon, Oct 5th - 6:00pm
- ***Laundry Love*** – Tues, Oct 6th - 5:30pm
- ***Diaper Distribution*** – Thurs, Oct 8th - 2:30pm
- ***Atown Food Pantry*** – Thurs, Oct 8th - 3:00pm
- ***Faith Formation - Second Sunday*** – Sun, Oct. 11th - 9:00am
- ***Pal Lunch*** - Fri, Oct. 16th - 9:00am
- ***Food Collection Day*** - Sun, Oct. 18th - After Worship
- ***New Member Cluster Meeting*** - Sun, Oct. 18th – 11:30am
- ***Diaper Packing*** – Thurs, Oct 22nd - 6:00pm
- ***Diaper Distribution*** – Sat, Oct 24th - 9:30pm
- ***Trunk or Treat*** – Tues, Oct 27th – 6:00pm
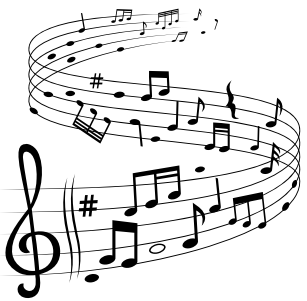



* * * *

- ***Girl Scout Troop 80120*** - Tuesday evenings - 6:00-7:30pm
- ***Al-Anon & AA*** - Friday evenings - 7:00pm

Music Notes

- ***Chancel Choir -*** We will resume anthems for the fall and will rehearse **each Sunday morning at 9:50am.**
- ***Junior Choir Rehearsal*** - **October 11th at 8:30am** will rehearse and will sing in church that Sunday. Any child entering 2nd grade and older is welcome to join us.



If you have any questions, please contact Donna Renaut at (717) 451-0959, or dkrenaut@gmail.com



Altar Flowers

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call the office at 717-259-0796 to sponsor your flowers. Altar flowers cost $30.

OPEN DATES TO SPONSOR: 10/25, 11/22, & 12/27

Our October Special Giving Designation goes to support:

Hanover Area Council of Churches / PAL Lunch

The **Hanover Area Council of Churches (HACC)** has been serving the greater Hanover community since 1968 with the purpose of improving the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Our mission is to combat hunger and homelessness. Our vision is to share the love of Christ and empower at-risk neighbors with life-changing solutions that foster stability and independence.

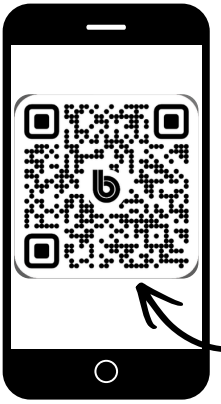
The **Provide-A-Lunch (PAL)** program by the Hanover Area Council of Churches is a community outreach initiative that serves a free, hot, nutritious home-cooked meal 365 days a year. It operates daily from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at 136 Carlisle Street in Hanover, Pennsylvania

KEEP IN TOUCH

CONNECT WITH US ON THE BAND APP!

UPDATES ABOUT SUNDAYS, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND MORE!





SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE

YOU ARE INVITED TO

TRUNK OR TREAT

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 27, 2026
6:00PM

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Help Families Bloom.

FAMILIES IN BLOOM

WE ARE NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PACK OUR DIAPERS! SIGN UP BY SCANNING OUR QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE

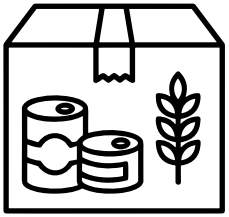
TO SIGN-UP FOR A DIAPER PACKING NIGHT!

SCAN ME

UPCOMING DISTRIBUTION DAYS:

THURSDAYS	SATURDAYS
10/8 & 11/5	**10/24 & 11/21**
2:30-4:30PM	*9:30-11:30AM*

Ruth's Harvest Packing Dates- 2026 / 2027:



IN NEED OF:

100 each of Chef Boyardee Cups & Pudding Cups

Wednesday, October 21st
Wednesday, November 18th
Wednesday, December 16th
Wednesday, January 20th
Wednesday, February 17th
Wednesday, March 17th
Wednesday, April 14th
Wednesday, May 19th

***Contact Kristi for more Info:*
Kristi Rickrode
jkrickrode@gmail.com
717-752-0470

♥♥♥ Prayer List Notice ♥♥♥

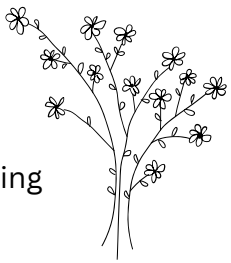
To help keep our prayer list current, names will remain in the church bulletin for one month and will then be removed unless we are notified that continued prayers are requested. If you would like a name to remain on the prayer list beyond one month, please contact the church office or let us know before the end of that period. Thank you for helping us keep our prayer list up to date while continuing to lift one another in prayer.

Prayer Concerns

For our homebound members:
Gloria Breighner, Dorothy Hoffheins, Ruthetta Baker,
Mary LaRue, Earl Swope, Joan Folmer, Marlin & Jean Baker

For those serving the larger church:
Dr. Stephan J. Swanson and Jodi Lynn Swanson, RN - missionaries

For persons who are ill or hospitalized:
Judy Klunk (sister of Gloria Breighner) - receiving care for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease at Genesis Health - Gburg
Marie Smith – congestive heart failure
Linda Verdoliva - recovering
Cecelia Helwig - recovering from 3rd leg operation



For persons undergoing treatment for Cancer:
Lisa Polhman (friend of the Sharrer family) - receiving care for breast cancer
Scott Dentler - receiving care for cancer
Tammy Moore - receiving care for cancer
Chuck Gabrielson - receiving care for lung cancer
Kathy Smith (Lorna Runk's niece) - receiving care for throat cancer

Hospital Admittance:



If you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital, please be sure to identify St. John's, Abbottstown, as your congregation. According to HIPAA regulation, if you provide this information to the Hospital, they will notify us of your admittance.

Additionally, If you or a loved one has become ill, or homebound, please inform the church office so we can include you on our prayer list. Also, please let Pastor Shawn or Deacon Amy know if you would like them to call or visit you. Thanks!

TACKLE DIAPER NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY!

HELP FAMILIES IN BLOOM DIAPER BANK SCORE A TOUCHDOWN FOR LOCAL FAMILIES THIS OCTOBER!

THE PLAY BY PLAY

WE ARE RESTOCKING OUR DIAPER BANK AND NEED YOU ON OUR TEAM! WE ACCEPT UNOPENED BOXES OF DIAPERS AND WIPES, WHICH ARE GIVEN AT NO COST TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED.

WHAT WE NEED:

- **Diapers, Pull-ups & Goodnites:**
  - **Current Highest Need:**
    - **Diapers (Sizes 2-7)**
- **Wipes: Unscented Preferred**
- **OUR GOAL IS 100 BOXES!**

SCAN HERE TO VIEW OUR AMAZON WISH LIST

WHEN WE NEED IT:

- **Thursday - October 22nd @ 6:00-8:00pm**
- **Monday - November 2nd @ 6:00-8:00pm**
- **During Trunk or Treat Event @ St. John's**
  - **Tuesday - October 27th @ 6:00 - 8:00**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
DEACON AMY MAMBU
amy@stjohnsatown.com

FAMILIES IN BLOOM
DIAPER BANK

New HOPE Ministries

Sharing Christ's love by meeting human needs



Hunger Action Month is a *crucial time* for New Hope Ministries to raise much needed awareness about the very real dangers of hunger in our community and to remind our neighbors that **no one should ever have to go without food**. With consistently rising food costs and greater demand, more families than ever are relying on New Hope for help.

Hunger Action Month reminds us that we all have a part to play in making sure our neighbors have enough food on the table and the support they need to move forward. **By working together this September and beyond, we can help meet a basic need while reminding our neighbors that they are seen, valued, and cared for.**



It's Already Turkey Time!

We're beginning our turkey drive! Please help us spread the word; we'd greatly appreciate turkey donations at any New Hope center as we prepare for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

Contact Us
P: 717-432-2087
For the best and most up-to-date information, please call us.
For media inquiries please call (717) 432-2087 x1203 or x1211
For general questions:
info@nhm-pa.net

Adminstrative Office
(For receipt of donations)
P.O. Box 448
99 W. Church Street
Dillsburg, PA 17019
Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm
For fundraising/development:
(717) 432-2087 x 1203
or development@nhm-pa.net

"...the joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10

When we are able to share help with our neighbors, not only do we give hope, we share God's love!

ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Online Giving at St. John's

Don't carry cash or checks? Still want to give to the ministry and mission of the church? Scan or click on the QR Code to help us grow in our giving, by making an online gift. You will have the option to make a one time donation or recurring donations. This website is easy, quick and very secure.

The Ministry Staff

Rev. Shawn M. Berkebile	Pastor (717) 521-7000
Deacon Amy Mambu	Faith Formation and Outreach
Donna Renaut	Director of Music
Norbert Mamet	Director of St. John's Ringers
Katie Grim	Office Administrator
Barb Colandreo (301) 639-1799	Council President
Benjamin Hoffman	Outdoor Caretaker

St. John's Regularly Scheduled Office Hours

Office: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9am-2pm
Pastor: Monday through Thursday 9am-12pm, or by appointment
Website: www.stjohnsatown.com
Office email: Katie@stjohnsatown.com
Pastor Shawn's email: Shawn@stjohnsatown.com
Deacon Amy's email: Amy@stjohnsatown.com