

Welcome to
St. John's Lutheran Church



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

August 9, 2026

God's Work/Our Hands

St. John's Lutheran Church
5th and Race Streets (PO Box B)

Mifflinville, PA 18631

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Rev. Daniel Warntz, pastor

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
August 9, 2026
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PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen

P Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P Almighty God, merciful Father:

C I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

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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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

A reading from 1 Kings.

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

⁹ At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ Elijah answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

(cont'd)

¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

The word of the Lord.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (*Ps. 85:8*)

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those
who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

(cont'd)

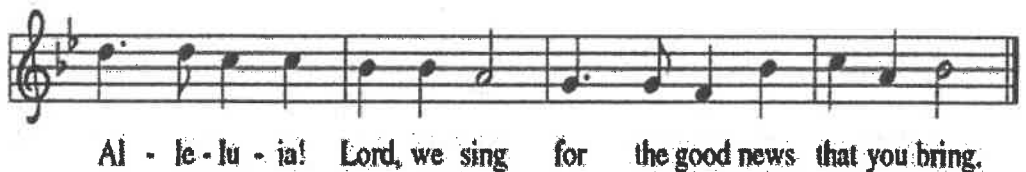
“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you
confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one
believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with
the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who
believes in the Lord will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no
distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all
and is generous to all who ask for help. ¹³ For, “Everyone who
calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not
believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have
never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to
preach? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it
is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good
news!”

The word of the Lord.

☒ Thanks be to God.

Stand for Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

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

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning Jesus came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, here I am; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when Peter noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

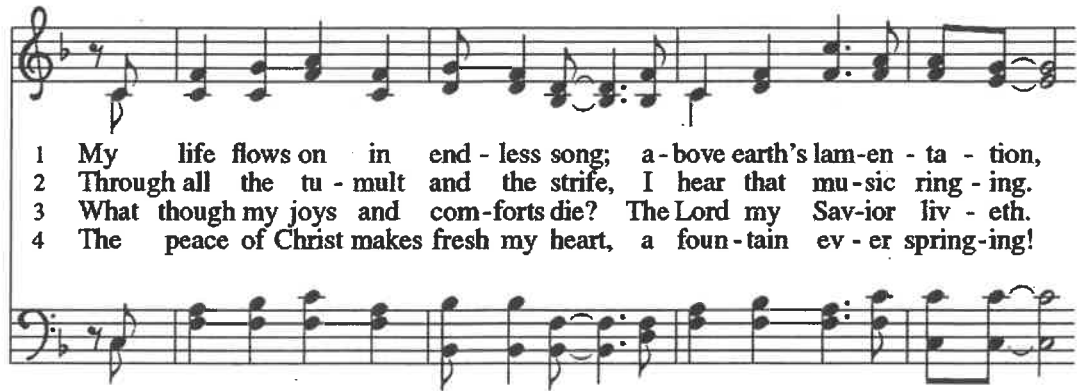
P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

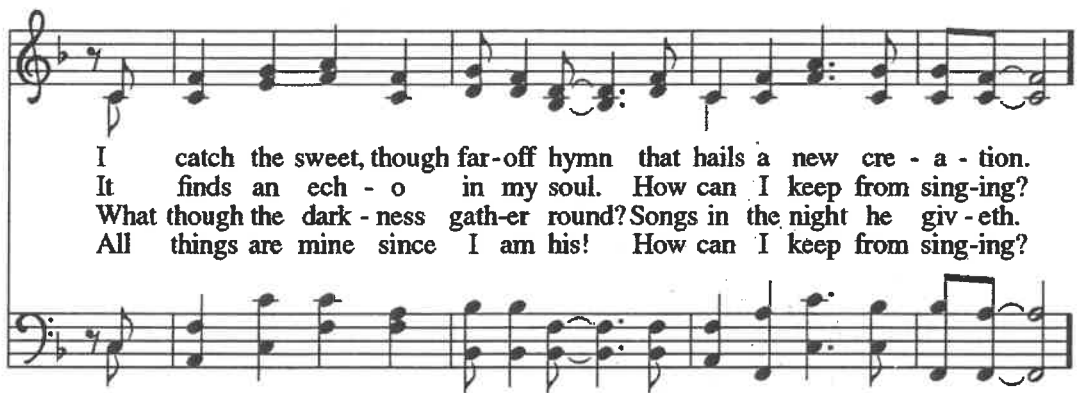
Sit for Sermon

Stand for Hymn of the Day

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

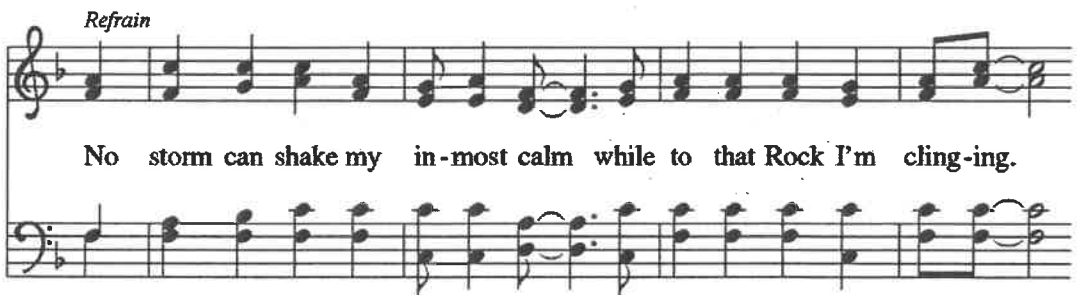


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

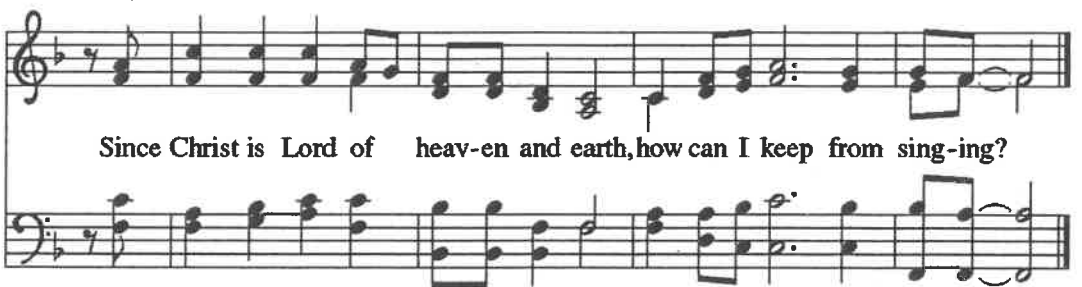


I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
 Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

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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.**

SERVICE OF HEALING

P Let us pray.

Loving God, our source and our final home,
we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth,
for our human bodies and all you have created.
In your great mercy,

C hear us, O God.

P Merciful God,
by the wounds of your Son we are healed.
Bring your saving health to all people.
In your great mercy,

C hear us, O God.

P Holy God,
your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism
and brought us into the communion of saints. (cont'd)

P Renew in us the grace of baptism,
by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection.

In your great mercy,

C hear us, O God.

P Mighty God,
your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all.
Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in
pain.

Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair.

In your great mercy,

C hear us, O God.

P Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer,
bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or
spiritual distress.

In your great mercy,

C hear us, O God.

P Almighty God, source of human knowledge,
give skill, wisdom, and compassion
to all who provide medical care.

In your great mercy,

C hear us, O God.

P Loving God, our creator and redeemer,
give gentleness and courage to family members, friends,
and caregivers of those who suffer.

In your great mercy,

C hear us, O God.

*Other petitions may be offered, including particular needs and
requests for healing. Presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

(cont'd)

P God of great and abundant mercy,
with your presence sustain all for whom we pray.
Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope,
and strengthen their trust in you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

P Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive
a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the
triune God.

*Those who wish to receive laying on of hands (and
anointing) approach*

P Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake,
send your Holy Spirit upon your servant, _
drive away all sickness of body and spirit;
make whole that which is broken;
deliver *her/him* from the power of evil;
and preserve *her/him* in true faith,
to share in the power of Christ's resurrection
and to serve you with all the saints now and ever more.

C Amen.

P Let us pray.

Living God, through the laying on of hands [and
anointing], grant comfort in suffering to all who are
in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage;
when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them
hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy
people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **C Amen**

BLESSING

P Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

P Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 PASTOR ONLY

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:

our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit

with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope;

the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings.

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-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho-san-na in the high-est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus
Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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,
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.**

THE FRACTION

℟ When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

℣ Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

When Peace, like a River



- 1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 And Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows, like sea bil-lows, roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O, my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

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POST COMMUNION DISMISSAL

P Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C Amen.

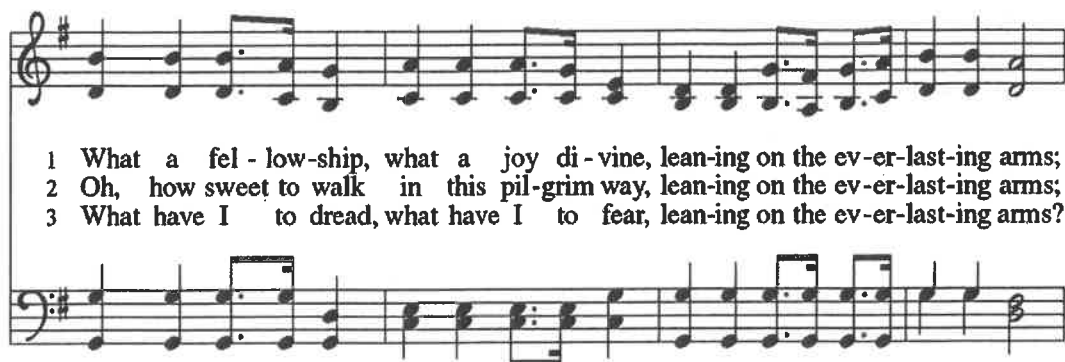
BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

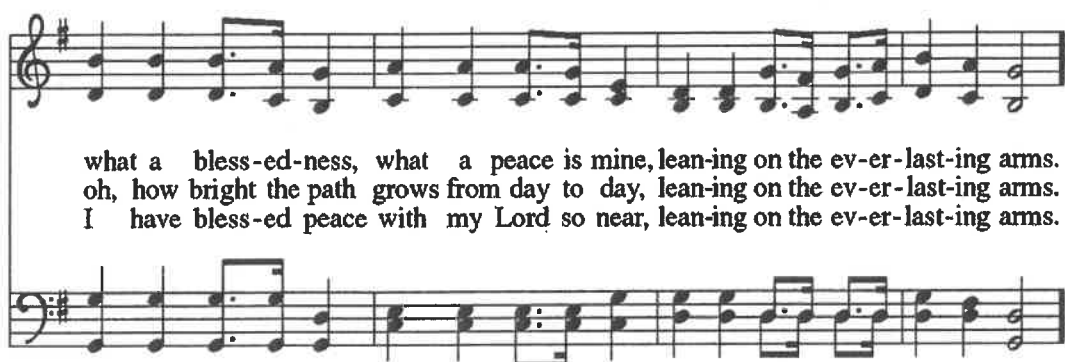
C Amen.

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;
 Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1919
 Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

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DISMISSAL

☐ Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

☐ **Thanks be to God.**

DEAR FRIENDS & MEMBERS, In an effort to have our prayer list as current and as accurate as possible, please indicate whether or not you would like to have a name continue to be included. Thank you!

Eric Alber Jerry Avery* Michelle Bahlavooni* Derl Crawford *David Ferro* Carl Frank **Adam Gajkowski * Jerry Hess* Jim Hess *Arthur Johnson* Jo Ann Johnson * Marlene Karchner * *Dave Madara * Joyce McCarty* Vinnie Moroney* Steve Novak* Henry Reinsburrow *Sheri Renner* Ray & Sandy Sterner* Tom Termini* Mark Troup *Marlene Trotman* Ron Utt* Melissa Waltman* Pastor Daniel Warntz*
Sadie Whitmoyer Ron Wolfe *

THIS SUNDAY: AUGUST 9, 2026

Outdoor Greeters : David & Karen Bird
Greeters & Ushers: Carolyn Bahlavooni & Dan Comstock
Lector: David Ferro
Communion Assistant: David Ferro
Altar Guild: Darlene Turner & Sharon Bachman
Offering Counters: David Ferro & Don Bogert
Choir Director & Organist: Tenette Bogert

NEXT SUNDAY: AUGUST 16, 2026

Outdoor Greeters : Bill Hower Jr & Carolyn Bahlavooni
Greeters & Ushers: Nate Johnson & Emily Johnson
Lector: Julie Adams
Communion Assistant: Cindy Powlus
Altar Guild: Darlene Diane Young & Cindy Powlus
Offering Counters: Emily Johnson & Eva Moyer
Choir Director & Organist: Tenette Bogert

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Carolyn Bahlavooni
in loving memory of Jill Sherman

Our Sanctuary Lamp this week burns to the Glory of God
by Carolyn Bahlavooni
in loving memory of Jill Sherman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed on **Monday, August 10th** while our secretary attends a funeral in Virginia.

GATHERING TIME

Join us for Gathering Time immediately following worship.
Please consider sponsoring . Sign up sheets are on the table in the sanctuary.

RAISE RIGHT ORDERS

Raise Right orders are due today. Please continue to support the fundraising which benefits St. John's.

SHOE COLLECTION

The Boy Scouts will be collecting new and gently used shoes during the **month of August** as a fundraising project. There will be a box provided in the rear of the sanctuary.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next Blood Drive will take place on **Monday, August 17th from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**. If you haven't already signed up, please do so. Also, ask others you may know to join you.

COUNCIL MEETING

Our next council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00 PM. Please remember to email reports to the office preferably before the meeting** as copies must be retained by the office and printed for those on council who do not have access to email.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Our next Senior Luncheon will take place on **Wednesday, August 19th at 12:00 PM at Morris Restaurant. Please contact Jan Peifer by Tuesday, August 18th** if you plan to attend. She can be reached at **570-204-7531**.

WELCOME TABLE

Upcoming meals will be held on **September 12th & October 10th from 10:30am – Noon.**

Sign-up sheets for The Welcome Table are in the rear of the sanctuary, or you can call **Lydia (570-204-2516) to volunteer. Please Note: Drop off times for donations will be announced on Sunday mornings. Other drop off times will be during regular office hours and Saturday, the morning of after 9:00 AM for other times please contact Lydia.**

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 9, 2026

LECTIONARY 19

Take Heart

Can you recall a time in your life when something happened that was so strange or out of place that your initial reaction was fear? Maybe you doubted what you were experiencing or seeing and even thought, *This is not possible. This can't be.*

The disciples must have been terrified when they saw something so strange that it should have been impossible—someone walking on water, toward their boat, during a storm. They thought they were seeing a ghost until Jesus said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27).

Some say seeing is believing, but sometimes belief comes through experiencing. So, with Jesus’ encouragement, Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water. But when he realized how hard the wind was blowing, Peter started sinking and shouted, “Lord, save me!” Jesus reached out, steadied Peter, and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (vv. 30-31). Then the storm ended.

We may be more like Peter than we realize. Maybe there are times when it’s relatively easy to trust in God—until we face something unexpected, frightening, or out of our control. Then doubts immediately overwhelm us.

The good news is that Jesus hears our cries and saves us. He is with us in our weakest moments, holding us even as our spirits sink. Take heart—Jesus is always with you, bringing peace amid the storms, faith amid your doubts, and new life out of death.



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Eucharist: 9:00 AM

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Monday, Aug 10, 2026

Office Closed

Tuesday, Aug 11, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday, Aug 12, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Thursday, Aug 13, 2026

Office Hours

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Friday Aug 14, 2026

Office Closed

Saturday, Aug 15, 2026

Office closed

Sunday, Aug 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after

Pentecost

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Last Sunday Attendance : 34

Offering Amount Needed Weekly:

Current: \$2,878.00

Benevolence: \$135.00

New Building: \$401.00

Offering Amounts Received:

Current: \$ 1,480.00

Benevolence: \$206.00

New Building: \$ 287.00

St. John's Website: www.stjohnslutheranmifflinville.com

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