

St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Blessed
are the
peacemakers,
for they
will be called
sons
of God.

Matthew 5:9



Blessed
are the
merciful:
for they shall
obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 28 and 31, 2025

Serving Us Today:
Pastor Robert Busse
Organist: Nancy Wallner and Amanda Tetzlaff
920-361-9935
www.stjohnberlin.org

Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather... Finding one's right place in each setting can be a challenge of life in any society. In Bible times, it was important not only that people had seats in the right location; it was equally important that they sat down in the right sequence. The social guideline was this: at a session of study, precedence is to be given to wisdom; in reclining at a feast, to age. Jesus was a close observer of the earthly society in which He lived, including observing who sat where at a banquet table. He saw firsthand how limiting and restrictive some tables were when people were excluded from the feast. Contrasting those earthly tables, His description of the heavenly banquet was inclusive and expansive. He said to His followers, "Many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11). By faith, we look forward to that wonderful banquet. But anywhere that we can be at the Lord's Table is the right place to be for us—including here and now!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS... Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

Confession and Absolution

818 In Thee Is Gladness

**1 In Thee is gladness
Amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given
The gifts of heaven,
Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest,
Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trusts Thee surely
Has built securely;
He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining
To see Thy shining,
Dying or living
To Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!**

**2 Since He is ours,
We fear no powers,
Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses
In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story
Tell of His glory
With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices
In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness,**

**Triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!**

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth,
1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

P O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

C Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

Psalmody

P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C O come, let us worship Him.

Venite *LSB 220*

C O come, let us sing to the Lord,

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving,

let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God

and a great king above all gods.

The deep places of the earth are in His hand;

the strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, for He made it,

and His hand formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

For He is our God,

and we are the people of His pasture

and the sheep of His hand.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C O come, let us worship Him.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:6–12

P The Epistle is from Isaiah, the fifty-eighth chapter.

⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up speedily;

your righteousness shall go before you;

the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’

If you take away the yoke from your midst,

the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

¹⁰if you pour yourself out for the hungry

and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,

then shall your light rise in the darkness

and your gloom be as the noonday.

¹¹And the LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters do not fail.

¹²And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Timothy 1:12–17

P The Epistle is from 1 Timothy, the first chapter.

¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages,

immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:7, 9

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory *LSB 221*

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.**

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.

Children's Sermon

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.

**No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.**

**4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.**

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon "Mercy and Peace"

Canticle

Te Deum LSB 223

**C We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
All the earth now worships You, the Father everlasting.
To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs
therein.
To You cherubim and seraphim continually do cry:**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise You.**

The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You.

The noble army of martyrs praise You.

**The holy Church throughout all the world does acknowledge
You:**

**The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and only
Son;
also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.**

**You are the king of glory, O Christ;
You are the everlasting Son of the Father.**

**When You took upon Yourself to deliver man,
You humbled Yourself to be born of a virgin.
When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

**You sit at the right hand of God
in the glory of the Father.
We believe that You will come
to be our judge.**

**We therefore pray You to help Your servants,
whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with Your saints
in glory everlasting.**

**O Lord, save Your people and bless Your heritage.
Govern them and lift them up forever.**

**Day by day we magnify You.
And we worship Your name forever and ever.**

**Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.
O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be confounded.**

Sit

Offering

Prayer

Stand

Kyrie

LSB 227

**C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Benedicamus

LSB 228

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 228

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

C Amen.

922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing ***sts. 1–4***

**1 Go, My children, with My blessing,
Never alone.**

**Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own.**

In My love's baptismal river

I have made you Mine forever.

**Go, My children, with My blessing—
You are My own.**

**2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story;
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.**

**3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you;
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.**

**4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace.**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008. Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

Acknowledgments

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Attendance Last Week: 230

General giving last week: \$6512.42

Budget giving needed: \$7500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

4 Thursday Worship Service/HC 6:30 pm

7 Sunday Worship Service/HC 9:00 am

NEW MEMBER CLASS: If you are interested in joining St. John, please talk with Pastor Rob. He'll be leading a class for new members beginning on Wednesday, Sept 17 at 6:30 PM and running for eight consecutive weeks. Members are also welcome to join if you'd like to learn.

LADIES AID FALL LUNCHEON: The Ladies Aid Fall Luncheon will be held on **Thursday, September 4th at 1 pm** in the church lower level. All are invited!

DONKEY BASEBALL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Have you ever wanted to play baseball riding a donkey? We are looking for 20-26 participates 16 years or order and under 225lb to make up two teams for our Donkey Baseball game on Saturday, September 6th, rain date is September 13th. Please reach out the school office or Miss Linse for a consent form. The game starts at 1pm but participates need to arrive by noon. Everyone is welcome to attend, tickets are available in the school and church office.

PRESCHOOL BOOK FUND: Our new preschool teacher, Miss Linse, would love to continue the tradition of getting as many books into our preschooler's hands as possible. Research has shown just how important early exposure to books is on a child's development. Would you be willing to make a donation to the Preschool Book Fund? All donations will go to purchase books for the students to take home and build their own library. Please contact the school office or Miss Linse to donate.

HUMAN CARE will take a door collection **NEXT WEEK** to help provide funds for the work they do for people in need.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: THE ELDERS: Each month, we'll be spotlighting a different ministry at St. John. In August, I'd like to tell you about the elders. Their main work is to support and oversee the congregation and the pastor. The elders set up for each service and serve communion. They ensure the pastor is biblically sound. They also meet once a month to discuss spiritual matters at the church and to lead our congregation in being God honoring. If you'd like to learn more about what the elders do, please pick up an article about them

on the back table. At our next voter's meeting, we'll be looking for one new elder in our church. If you believe God is calling you to that position, please speak with Pastor Rob or one of the elders.

NEXT MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING: All men over the age of 16 are invited to join us on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 6:00 PM at 139 S. Swetting St. to grill some meat, play some card/yard games, and study what the Bible says about being men at work. Please bring a lawn chair. We hope you'll join us!

HEARTLAND HOSPICE AT ST. JOHN ON SEPT. 10TH Could you be a hospice volunteer? Yes! Come join us for a casual conversation about what hospice is and how you may be able to give back to the people in your community by being a hospice volunteer. **Thursday, Sept. 10th at 6:00 pm. St. John Lutheran Church.** Please RSVP by Email or Call:

Jilean Cole – Volunteer Coordinator of Heartland Hospice.

JILEAN.COLE@HEARTLANDHOSPICE.COM **920-251-0291.**

Refreshments and gifts provided

GRIEFSHARE AT RIVER SHORES: GriefShare is a nation-wide, Christian program that will help you find support and teach you how to navigate the emotions and stresses after the loss of a loved one. Led by a trained facilitator, a 13-week group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 6:00PM at River Shores Church beginning August 26. At each meeting you'll watch a video with advice from grief experts, discuss with the group what was learned during the video, and utilize a workbook with exercises and articles that help you find comfort and manage daily stresses. You'll be encouraged to share but can wait

until you're ready. If you're interested, please contact Amy Brooks at (920) 789-9385; she would love to share her experience and answer any further questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: *Sunday School will start on September 28th!*

We're excited to share that we've been blessed with a new volunteer Lead for Sunday School! Now, we are looking for individuals to come alongside and support the Lead and this program. As they say - Many hands make light work.

We need:

- **Teachers** (you don't need to commit to every Sunday—occasional help is welcome!)
- **Activity & Games** (to plan, host fun, or even offer ideas for meaningful activities)
- **Helpers** (if you're willing to pitch in wherever needed and just want to be a part of it)
- **Music** If you have a passion or talent for music of any kind, we would love to share that with you. (again, you don't need to commit to every Sunday—occasional help is welcome)

If you have a talent, passion, idea, or simply a heart for serving children and the church, we encourage you to reach out to Pastor or a member of the School Board.

Sermon Notes – 8-31-25 – Mercy & Peace

-“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)

-“Blessed are the _____, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

-Do these Beatitudes confront and convict you, too? Are you merciful? Do you make peace?

-It’s fairly often that I have conversations with people in this church that are far from merciful and peaceful.

-All day long we’re thinking _____, unpeaceful thoughts
– we judge, we’re critical, we’re impatient, we’re hateful, we’re vindictive. We expect everyone to be merciful toward us, but when we’re the ones who are wronged, mercy and peace often go out the window.

-We’ve disobeyed God. We’ve failed to keep his commands. We’ve sinned.

-_____ should look at us and think and say all of the unmerciful, unpeaceful things that we think and say about other people.

-When Jesus spoke these Beatitudes, it was primarily to his disciples
– to those who follow him, trust him, and believe in him.

-Jesus actually acted _____. Before expecting us to show mercy and make peace, he showed mercy and made peace.

-“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace.” (Ephesians 2:13-14)

-The _____ is where God showed us mercy and made peace with us first.

-Even though we're deserving of God's wrath, we will be shown mercy and peace.

-Seeing that Jesus showed us such great mercy and made such wonderful peace on the cross – it's in this context that we hear these Beatitudes

-When we believe in him, we'll naturally act merciful and as peacemakers – those actions are the _____ of the faith we have in the mercy and peace God has already shown us.

-If your life is not characterized by mercy or peacemaking, don't _____ harder. Instead, think about your sin and think about the radical mercy and peace Jesus has shown you.