

Joy Lutheran Church of Rockwall, Texas

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(214) 716-7539 • www.joylutheranchurch.org

North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

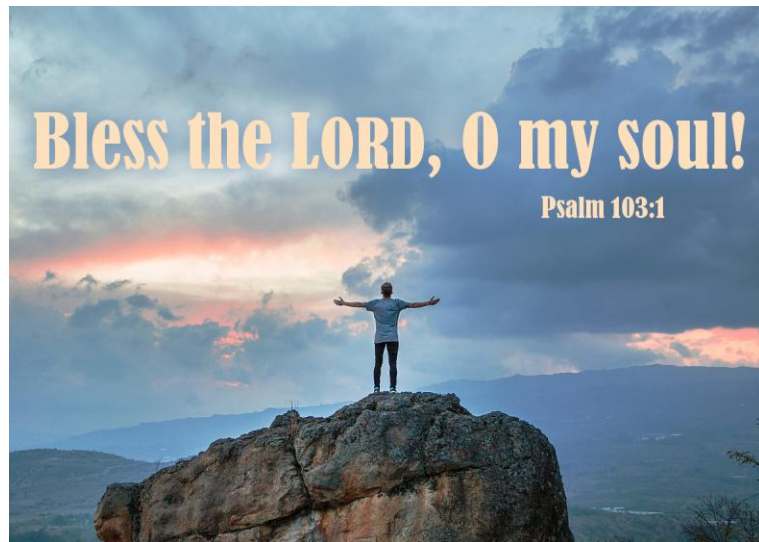
North Texas/Oklahoma Mission District

*Bringing Joy to the
Heart of Rockwall*

We are a community of faith, formed in the grace and joy of Jesus Christ.

We are a people involved in God's sure and unfolding promise to mend His creation through the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are a church under the cross of Christ, shaped by the ancient rhythms of Christian worship, fellowship and service to others.



COME SHARE THE JOY!

Our Pastor

Rev. Martin Moore
martinmoore55@gmail.com
(979) 551-6222

Our Council President

Rhonda White
rhondawhite08@gmail.com

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (YEAR A)

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



Our Members, Guests and Visitors

We are all on a journey of faith; God does not expect us to make the journey alone.
Please contact us if we can be of help in any way.

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Prelude

You may use this time to prepare your heart for worship

- Welcome! Whether you are a longtime member or visiting for the first time, you are a gift from God to us. Guests, please fill out the card on the back of your pew and place it in the offering plate later in the service. May the love of Christ comfort you, and the love of His people encourage you!
- All who are baptized and desire to share in the Body and Blood of our Lord are welcome to receive Communion.
- Children in worship are a blessing! A worship bag (filled with coloring pages and crayons, children's bulletin, etc.) is available at the back of the sanctuary to use during worship. Ask an usher if you need assistance.
- We've started an Artists' Gathering, which includes drawing, painting, crafts, etc., every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please come join us in the Fellowship Hall.
- Blaine Davis is leading our Worship today.
- Today is Rally Day Sunday
- Sunday school resumes September 20th at 9:15 a.m.
- A congregational potluck is scheduled after worship on Sunday, September 20th. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.
- Please remember to review the Blessing Board to volunteer for various ministries.

SERVICE OF THE WORD WITH HOLY COMMUNION

On this Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost our readings remind us that God is able to turn evil into good. A perfect example of this is that he redeems our life from the pits of sin and death. The evil we did to his Son, he used for the good of us all. Does this mean we ought to do evil so that good will result? As the King James Version exclaims in response to a similar question, “God forbid” (Rom 6:2). We will all have to give an account for the lives we have lived, “whether good or evil” (2 Cor 5:10). Therefore, we ought to do the good thing when someone wrongs us; we ought to forgive them – each and every time.

We are thankful for our seminarian, Blaine Davis, who has come from Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Tyler to lead our service. In the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), a deacon or seminarian may lead a *Service of the Word with Holy Communion* using the reserved sacrament (pre-consecrated elements) when an ordained pastor is unavailable. We will use the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal (Red Book) in today’s service.

GATHERING

The service begins with the community gathering as the Body of Christ.

“O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.” (Psalm 96:9)

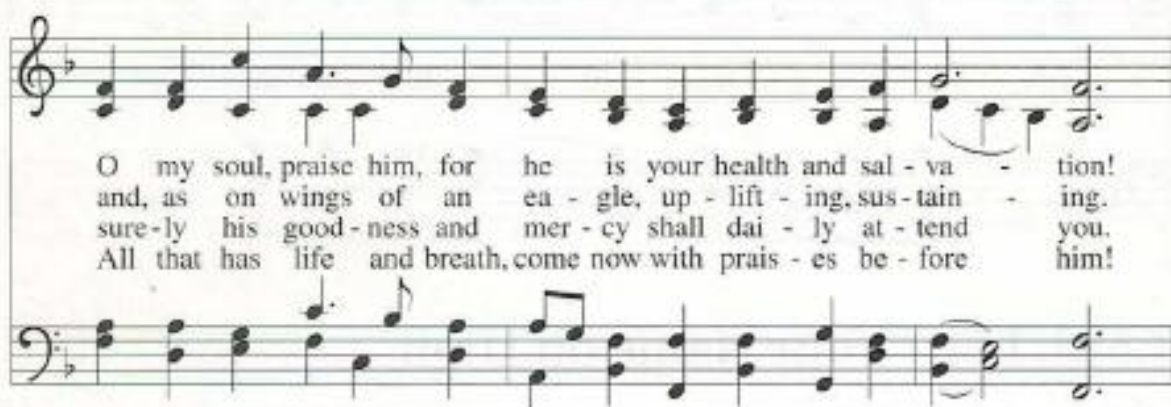
Please stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN~ “**PRAISE TO THE LORD**” (*Red P. 858*)

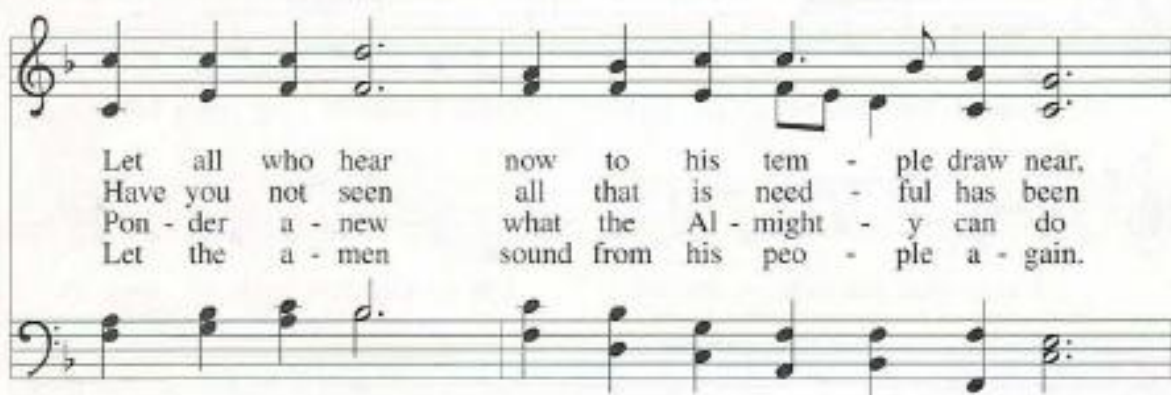
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus-tain - ing.
 sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai - ly at-tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

APOSTOLIC GREETING:

Seminarian (S): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation (C:) And also with you.

KYRIE ~ (Red, P. 147)

(S): "In peace, let us pray to the Lord." (C): **Lord, have mercy.**

(S): "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord."

(C): **Lord, have mercy.**

(S): "For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord." (C): **Lord, have mercy.**

(S): "For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord." (C): **Lord, have mercy.**

(S): "Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord." (C): **Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE: "THIS IS THE FEAST"

FLUENTLY

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All

Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(S): The Lord be with you. (C): **And also with you.**

(S): "O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(C): **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Service of the Word

FIRST READING:

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

(S): The Word of the Lord

(C): **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE READING

103:1-12

- ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,***
and forget not all his benefits.
- ³He forgives all your sins*
and heals all your infirmities;
- ⁴**He redeems your life from the grave***
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;
- ⁵He satisfies you with good things,*
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶**The LORD executes righteousness***
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷He made his ways known to Moses*
and his works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸**The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,***
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- ⁹He will not always accuse us,*
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- ¹⁰**He has not dealt with us according to our sins,***
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,*
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,***
so far has he removed our sins from us.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

(R): The Word of the Lord

(C): **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ "ALLELUIA"



THE HOLY GOSPEL

(S): The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter.

(C): **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

(S): The Gospel of the Lord.

(C): **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please be seated

HOMILY FOR THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon by Seminarian, Blaine Davis

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ "FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN" (*Red, P. 494*)

For the Bread Which You Have Broken 494

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;

for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Please Remain Standing

APOSTLES' CREED

(S): "With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed."

(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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(S): Confident in God's steadfast love through Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

(S): God of love, you have forgiven us of our sins, known and unknown and restored us to a right relationship with you through Christ. Help us to forgive others who have hurt or disappointed us, that we may be freed from the suffering of holding a grudge and they might know your grace. Lord in your mercy.

(C): hear our prayer.

(S): God of Wisdom, we ask your tender care and instruction for all students around the world, that they would have enough to eat in order to concentrate on lessons, have a peaceful learning environment, and loving yet diligent teachers to instruct them. Lord in your mercy. **(C): hear our prayer.**

(S): God of Light, bring your comfort and protection to all those who are away from home - either at school, college, in the military, or away for work. Watch over them and return them home safely when their tasks are completed. Lord in your mercy. **(C): hear our prayer.**

(S): Bring peace of mind and heart, and wholeness and healing of body and spirit, to all who suffer from any illness or distress. [We pray particularly for ...] Grant them a sense of your constant presence through those who care for them. Lord in your mercy.

(C): hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

(S): Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **(C): Amen**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

(S): "The peace of the Lord be with you always." **(C): And also with you.**

(S): "Let us share that peace with one another."

Please be seated as the gifts and offerings are collected

GATHERING & PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

*As the gifts are brought forward to the altar,
we will sing the Offertory Response*

Please stand.

"LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL"

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

OFFERING PRAYER

(S): Let us pray.

(C): Merciful Father, Gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain standing

THE HOLY MEAL

(S): ""The last time we gathered, we heard Pastor Moore say: 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.'"

(P): Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

(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

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

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

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

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

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

We invite all baptized believers to come forward and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Small children are invited to come with arms folded across their hearts to receive a blessing from the assisting minister. Both the elements of wine and grape juice are offered. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and communion will be brought to you.

Please stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

(S): May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **(C): Amen**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

(S): Let us pray: "We give you our thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord."

(C): Amen

Please remain standing

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

BENEDICTION

(S) "Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us."

(C): Amen

SENDING HYMN ~ "TAKE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY BE" (*Red, P. 685*)

685

Take My Life, That I May Be

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four verses of the hymn, and the second system contains the last two verses. Each verse is written as a four-part setting, with the lyrics printed below the corresponding vocal lines. The music is a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and harmonic support.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

DISMISSAL

(S): "We are called by Christ"

(C): **To JOYfully share Jesus and ourselves with our neighbors.**

(S): "Go in peace. Share the good news."

(C): **Thanks be to God.**

OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING:

Greeter:	Volunteer
Ushers:	Inez Roach and Gail Crawford
Altar Care:	Sandra Lacroix
Lector & Communion Assistant:	Joshua Hart
Acolyte & Crucifer:	Matthew Chubbs and Reilly Mahoney
Music & Facebook Monitor:	Rhonda White
Hospitality:	Rhonda White
Offering Count Team:	Inez Roach and Joshua Hart
Altar Flowers:	Paul and Linda Manak
