

# We Join Together in Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church – Dickinson, ND  
Sunday, September 25, 2011 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## Gathering

Prelude, Welcome, Announcements, Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives our sin, heals every illness, saves us from death, enfolds us with tender care, and crowns us with steadfast love. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another... God of abundant mercy, **we confess that we are more ready to be forgiven than to forgive others.**

**We hold too closely your gifts to us. We trample your vineyard, our good earth. Have mercy, O God; turn us again to you and toward others; and grant that we may live for you and die in you, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

God is generous and faithful, forgiving sins without number, welcoming all to the feast, giving us a place among the saints. Through the humble obedience of + Christ Jesus, who went to the cross for our sake, you are forgiven and made whole. The Spirit of God is at work in you, enabling you to live for one another. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – *O Master, Let Me Walk With You*..... **#818**

Kyrie & Canticle of Praise (*This is the Feast.... Page 122*) .....Page 120

Prayer of the Day

## Word

Scripture Readings – see insert (*response: The word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.*)

Psalm Tone: 

Gospel Acclamation.....Page 124

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

(Verse) **My sheep hear my voice, I say the Lord;\***

**I know them and they follow me. (John 10:27)**



Gospel (before reading: **Glory to you, O Lord.** after reading: **Praise to you, O Christ!**)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*.....**#517**

(8:00 a.m.) Apostles' Creed, Prayers, Greetings of Peace

(10:30 a.m.) Sacrament of Holy Baptism .....Page 227

*Gathered as the Body-of-Christ, we are joined into a fellowship and a Holy Communion*

## Meal

Offering and Offertory Hymn – *Take My Life*.....**#685**

- 1 Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**

Prayer and Great Thanksgiving (*Holy, Holy* – Page 130).....Page 129

Lord's Prayer (*left column*), "Lamb of God" Hymn .....Page 135

Distribution of Bread and Wine .....**#487, #445, #867**

*All the baptized are welcomed to receive the bread and wine offered at the Lord's Table.  
Please come forward down the center aisle (in two lines). Take a place at the rail as space  
becomes available. Receive the bread and wine. Return by the outside aisles. As God's  
people we are empowered to BE the presence of Christ in the world.*

Communion Blessing and Prayer

## Sending

Blessing and Hymn – *I Received the Living God* .....**#477**

*(refrain)* **I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy. I received the  
living God, and my heart is full of joy.**

- 3 Jesus said: I am the truth; come and follow close to me.  
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free. Refrain**

Dismissal – Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

146 Sixth Ave. West – Dickinson, ND 58601

701-225-6747

Website: [StJohnELC.org](http://StJohnELC.org)

*Mission: “Living in Service to Christ”*

*Worship: 7 p.m. on Thursday // 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. on Sunday  
(10:30 a.m. Sunday Service Broadcast on KDIX Radio)*

## For Sunday, September 25, 2011

---

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lisa Lewton  
Preaching: Frank Ziemann  
Assisting Ministers: Gayle Homiston (Thursday)  
Cindy Sandman (8:00 a.m.)  
Chip Poland(10:30 a.m.)  
Deacons: Sandra Beaudoin (8:00 a.m.)  
Michelle Kovash (10:30 a.m.)  
Organist: Barb Arneson  
Cantor: Carolyn Burns (8:00 a.m.)  
Servers: Samantha Urbanec (Thursday)  
Dustin Lundstad & Drew Heiser (8:00 a.m.)  
Thomas Hovet & Jackson Smith (10:30 a.m.)

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP:** All the baptized people of God are invited to the Lord’s Table. You may stand or kneel to receive the elements. Children who commune should extend their hands to receive the elements. Children who are not communing are asked to have hands folded to receive a blessing. *You may ask a server to provide a gluten-free wafer or grape juice if needed.* Come to the table; all are welcomed!

**WORSHIP INFORMATION:** Attendance last week was 421 . . . Transmitters are available for the hearing impaired. Ask an usher for help . . . If it is uncomfortable for you to stand during the service, please feel free to remain seated . . . If you are a visitor, or if you simply forgot your offering envelope and wish to designate your contribution, please use a **pew envelope** . . . The nursery is located in the Commons Area. *Children’s worship bags are available during worship in the Commons Area and in the church entry.*

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

(Check out our website for more information at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org))

*Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting/Church Basement*  
*Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Church School*  
*7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class*  
*Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship*  
*Friday: 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast/Bible Study/Ramada*  
*Saturday: 9:00 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting*

**BAPTIZED THIS WEEK** are Roran James Wold, son of Tyler and Megan Wold. His sponsors are Grant & Robin Gion. Also baptized is Ty Vern Barman, son of Eric & Heidi Barman. His sponsors are Chelsea & Travis Christensen.

**THANK YOU, FRANK ZIEMANN** for preaching this weekend. Frank has been a part of the GIFTS (Growing In Faith To Serve) program through the Western North Dakota Synod, intended to equip lay people to be leaders in the church and in society.

**KDIX RADIO SUNDAY MORNING BROADCAST:** Because there is no 10:30 a.m. worship service on Serving Sunday, October 2, the radio broadcast will be at 8:00 a.m.

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING St. John Lutheran Church?**

We invite you to get to know our church family and we hope you will consider making St. John your church home. Everyone who becomes a member is expected to attend the new member sessions to learn more about the church. St. John is offering a fall orientation session for new members. If you are interested in membership, please call the church office (225-6747), visit our website at [stjohnelc.org](http://stjohnelc.org) or contact a pastor.

**MILESTONE MINISTRY EVENT** for kindergarten students "Learning the Lord's Prayer" will be on Sunday, September 25 & October 9 at 9:15 a.m. in the basement. A parent or caregiver should attend with the student.

**ADULT SUNDAY CLASS** meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Each Sunday through Oct. 9 will use the Faith in Action Small Group material. Thanks to Kathi Nygaard for facilitating!

**LYO GATHERING:** LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) hosts an annual Gathering for students in grades 9-12. The LYO Gathering is in Minot on Oct. 20-22. The registration deadline is Sunday, Sept. 25. Pick up a registration form at Youth Group on Sunday nights at 7 p.m., or in the church office.

**LYO INKIND OFFERING:** Senior high youth are collecting items for Camp Noah kits. Camp Noah is a five-day camp experience which offers a safe, caring environment with curriculum specifically designed to help children heal by processing their disaster experience. Camp Noah is a part of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota and will be offered in Minot in the spring/summer of 2012. Items needed for each kit are:

- 8-pack of washable markers
- Pencil, erase + pencil sharpener
- Container of play-dough
- Pack of watercolor paints
- 24-pack of crayons
- Gluestick
- Youth-sized scissors

There will be collection baskets in the Commons Area and the narthex through Oct. 13. You may bring some *or* all of the items for each kit.

**MENTOR GROUP RETREAT:** If you haven't already done so, please let Jodeen Myers (225-6747) know either way if your child will be able to attend the mentor group retreat which will be on October 8 – 9 at Badlands Ministries.

**VISITATION:** Would like to join in the visitation ministry, keeping homebound members connected to the life of the church? The opportunity is to visit and bring Communion to one homebound member each month. Contact Faith Simonieg or Pastor Lisa at 225-6747 if you are interested.

**NOON BIBLE STUDY:** Beginning on Wednesday, October 19, there will be a Bible study that will be held from 12:10 p.m. until 12:50 p.m. At the first meeting, we will decide how often we would like to meet and also what material we would like to study. Several options will be explored. Bring a sack lunch if you'd like and join us! If you have any questions, contact Jodeen Myers at 225-6747.

**DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR FAITH IN ACTION SERVICE PROJECTS.**

If you have any of the following items to donate, please leave them in the church office or designated baskets in the Commons area:

- **Juice can lids and old Christmas cards** will be crafted into Christmas ornaments and delivered to flood victims in Minot.
- Snacks will be packaged and delivered in appreciation to our educators. **Items requested include original Chex mix, 500 snack size bags, 20 pairs of sanitary gloves for the volunteers to wear, crafting ribbon and paper for cards.**
- **School supplies** for Dickinson Elementary Schools to help children in need as well as re-stock classrooms mid-year.

**FAITH IN ACTION SERVICE PROJECT INFORMATION AND T-SHIRTS**

will be available for pick up on Sept. 25 – 30. Come to the church and pick up your family t-shirts and project assignments.

Information pertaining to your project (scheduled times, equipment needed, team leader contact, etc.) will be listed along with your project assignment. T-shirts may be picked up after worship or during regular office hours. (Please pick up your shirt(s) by Sept. 3). Remember to wear your t-shirt on Faith in Action Sunday, Oct. 2, to identify yourself as part of the church group and to let the community know why we're serving.

**A FAITH IN ACTION CELEBRATION SERVICE AND**

**POTLUCK** will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the conclusion of the day – long gift of service to the community. Won't you join us? Members with last names starting with the letters:

- A-H main dish
- I-O side dish, i.e. salad, fruit, veggies
- P-T dessert
- U-Z chips, buns

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9:**

- Pledges will be received for 2012 giving at worship
- Pledges from Church School children will be received during Church School class on Oct. 9 and 16.
- Pledges from junior high school students will be received during mentor groups on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

**Consider and pray about what you will pledge to give when your 2012 pledge card arrives in the mail. We hope to receive 350 pledges at worship on Thursday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 9 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**



Sunday, September 25, 2011  
Lectionary 26  
Proper 21  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**INTRODUCTION**

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

**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 forgives our sin, heals every illness,  
saves us from death, enfolds us with tender care,  
and crowns us with steadfast love.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of abundant mercy,  
**we confess that we are more ready  
to be forgiven than to forgive others.  
We hold too closely your gifts to us.  
We trample your vineyard, our good earth.  
Have mercy, O God;  
turn us again to you and toward others;  
and grant that we may live for you and die in you,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.  
Amen.**

God is generous and faithful,  
forgiving sins without number,

welcoming all to the feast,  
giving us a place among the saints.  
Through the humble obedience of + Christ Jesus,  
who went to the cross for our sake,  
you are forgiven and made whole.  
The Spirit of God is at work in you,  
enabling you to live for one another.  
**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

Grace and peace from our God and Father,  
hope in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the consolation of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW)**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW)**

God of love, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them;  
keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us in the way of salvation; through  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (99)

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW)**

Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, <sup>1</sup>says the Lord;\*  
I know them and they <sup>1</sup>follow me. Alleluia. (John 10:27)

## **VERSE (LBW)**

Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia. (Phil. 2:10-11)

## **READINGS**

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

Exodus 17:1–7 (Semi-continuous)

Psalm 25:1–9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16 (Semi-continuous)

We will recount to generations to come the power of the LORD. (Ps. 78:4)

Philippians 2:1–13

Matthew 21:23–32

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32**

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

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

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the LORD is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

### **FIRST READING (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Exodus 17:1–7**

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put the Lord to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to the Lord. Nevertheless, the Lord commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a dramatic and positive answer.*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

#### **PSALM (ELW): Psalm 25:1–9**

*Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)*

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

**PSALM (ELW) (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16**

*We will recount to generations to come the power of the LORD. (Ps. 78:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Hear my teaching, <sup>1</sup> O my people;  
incline your ears to the words <sup>1</sup> of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>**I will open my mouth <sup>1</sup> in a parable;**  
**I will declare the mysteries of <sup>1</sup> ancient times—**

<sup>3</sup>that which we have heard and known,  
and what our fore- <sup>1</sup> bears have told us,  
we will not hide <sup>1</sup> from their children.

<sup>4</sup>**We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds**  
**and the power <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,**  
**and the wonderful works <sup>1</sup> God has done. R**

<sup>12</sup>God worked marvels in the sight <sup>1</sup> of their ancestors,  
in the land of Egypt, in the <sup>1</sup> field of Zoan,

<sup>13</sup>**splitting open the sea and letting <sup>1</sup> them pass through;**  
**making the waters stand <sup>1</sup> up like walls;**

<sup>14</sup>leading them with a <sup>1</sup> cloud by day,  
and all the night with a <sup>1</sup> glow of fire;

<sup>15</sup>**splitting the rocks <sup>1</sup> in the wilderness**  
**and giving them drink as <sup>1</sup> from the deep;**

<sup>16</sup>bringing streams out <sup>1</sup> of a rock,  
making them flow down <sup>1</sup> like a river. R

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1–13**

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

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

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death —  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence,  
but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;  
<sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good  
pleasure.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23–32**

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

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

<sup>28</sup>What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and

you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the renewal of the Holy Spirit in our communities and in our world, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy and righteous God, humble your people, and turn us back to you. Give us new hearts and new spirits, so that your will may be accomplished through the work of your servants. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Send rain and sunshine for the renewal of the earth. Inspire people with innovative ways to reduce and reverse pollution, so that plentiful nourishment may come forth from the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Place words of truth on the tongues of political, religious, and cultural leaders. May they be agents of cooperation, justice, and peace for all peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

By your divine and compassionate power deliver those in the depths of human sorrow (*especially*). Assure them that Christ walks with them in their suffering. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Encourage us to make a joyful noise throughout all the earth, as we sing your praise. Loose our tongues to proclaim with gladness your righteousness and your care for humankind. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In the lives of the saints, you reveal the abundant life that you intend for us. Open our lives to greater joy in Christlike humility and in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills  
were gathered together to become one bread,  
so let your church be gathered together  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,  
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come, you that are blessed by God.  
Come to the banquet.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our shepherd,  
you have gathered us again from scattered places  
and nourished us with rich food in word and sacrament.  
Go with us now, that we may seek the lost,  
bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak,  
until you gather us and all the saints into your eternal feast  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant,  
offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength  
to a sick and hurting world.  
Anoint with a servant heart  
those who take your word and sacrament  
to our sisters and brothers  
*in their homes/in prisons/in hospitals.*  
Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those  
who feast on your body and blood  
and receive your words of new life.  
May we all recognize that we have a place and a home  
in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
+ guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Lord is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Thursday, September 29, 2011**  
**Michael and All Angels**

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

**Friday, September 30**  
**Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420**

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.