

August 24, 2025
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
WOUNDS THAT HEAL: THE DOOR IS VERY NARROW



EMMANUEL and ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES
Wisconsin Synod
Mecan and Montello, WI
Sunday Worship: 8:00 AM in Mekan 10:00 AM in Montello

We pray that you are blessed by God's Word in worship today. **The order of worship** is printed here, is projected on the screen, and live-streamed at www.stjohnsmontello.org. **Restrooms** are located in the link way, out the church entryway, to the left and down the stairs. At Emmanuel, they are located in the Parish Hall. A **nursery changing station** is located in the lower level of St. John's.

WOUNDS THAT HEAL

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need. "Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

THE DOOR IS VERY NARROW

When it comes to the uncomfortable topic of who goes to heaven and who goes to hell, it is natural to want to avoid the issue. One way we do that is to direct our attention to more theoretical questions. "What is heaven like?" "How old will we be there?" Today someone asks, "Lord, are only a few going to be saved?" Jesus brushes all such questions aside. Instead, he answers the question we should be asking. "How might I be saved?" Jesus explains there is only one way—entering through a very narrow door. Jesus' words cut deep! For he teaches that it is very easy to develop a false sense of security about our standing before God based on some superficial familiarity we have with him. Jesus warns that many who think they are on the path to heaven will end up shut out. These wounding words of Jesus provide healing, pushing us toward that narrow door: faith in him.

Today's Worship Leader: Pastor John Dolan

Today's Preacher: Pastor David Wenzel, Fox Valley Lutheran High School

Today's Accompanist: Mrs. Sarah Dolan Schaser

Today's Order of Worship

(Adapted from *Corporate Confession and Absolution* CW pages 278-281)

OPENING HYMN: 916 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may love you and praise your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved others as you command. For this I deserve your punishment now and forever. I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy.

Silence for reflection

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us.

Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven." Do you believe this?

Yes, I believe.

In the name and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

Amen.

EXHORTATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

Prayer

Let us pray. God, our Father, by the sacrifice of your Son you reconciled the world to yourself. We thank you for the precious gift of forgiveness. Refresh us with the joy of our salvation, that we may walk in the way of peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Renew our minds and wills, that daily we may speak your word of peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Psalm 116 (Sermon Text v. 1-15)

¹I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. ²Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. ³The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow. ⁴Then I called on the name of the Lord: "Lord, save me!" ⁵The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. ⁶The Lord protects the unwary; when I was brought low, he saved me. ⁷Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you. ⁸For you, Lord, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, ⁹that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living. ¹⁰I trusted in the Lord when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; ¹¹in my alarm I said, "Everyone is a liar." ¹²What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? ¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. ¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. ¹⁵Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants. ¹⁶Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains. ¹⁷I will

sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord. ¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, ¹⁹in the courts of the house of the Lord—in your midst, Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:22-30

²²Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them, ²⁴“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. ²⁵Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ ²⁶“Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷“But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’ ²⁸“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. ³⁰Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 698 “Seek Where you May to Find a Way”

SERMON: Psalm 116:1-15 “Lord, you I love with all my heart”

NICENE CREED:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he

was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING & PRAYERS

THE SACRAMENT:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HYMN: 661 v. 1-2 "Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord"

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word,

conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you. As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

HYMN: 661 v. 3-4 "Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord"

DISTRIBUTION

Our Biblical Communion Practice

The Lord's Supper is God's gift in which we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith. This gift brings certain responsibilities. The sacrament is intended for those who have been instructed and who understand what the sacrament is all about. Communing together is also a way we express oneness of faith. Therefore, we ask that only confirmed members of our congregations or other churches in fellowship with the Wisconsin Synod come forward to receive the sacrament today. Thank you for respecting this biblical practice. To learn more, you may speak with the pastor after the service.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 927 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Acknowledgments

Service Setting One from Christian Worship, with Corporate Confession and Absolution from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

Today's Worship Prayers

In the Prayer of the Church Today

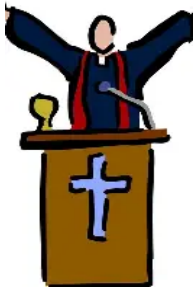
We pray for the family of Emmanuel member, Don Ebert, whose Christian funeral was Wednesday in Mecan. If there are special intercessory prayers that you would like included in the weekly prayer of the church, please notify the church office. *What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.*

This Week – August 17-24, 2025

Tuesday- 5:00pm SJ Stewardship Meeting; 6:30pm Joint Worship Meeting at SJ

Friday- NO SCHOOL

Next Sunday Next Sunday – Vacancy Pastor Bruce Hanneman will lead our worship AND son of the congregation, Robert Mateske Jr. will be the organist.



Pastor David Meyer Called to Be Our Pastor

David Meyer is 47 years old and has been a pastor for 20 years. He is presently serving at St John's Lutheran Church in Oak Creek WI. (just south of the airport in Milwaukee.) His wife's name is Anna (nee Johnston). She is a Community Wellness Coordinator. They have 3 children, Jonas 16, Catalina 14 and Weseley 11.... Please feel free to contact the Meyers with your thoughts and encouragement at revdmeuer@gmil.com or 508-216-3803.

Address: 1620 Sherman Ave. Milwaukee WI 53172

Looking Ahead

Next weekend is Labor Day weekend. That means that it is time to make plans for you to grow in your faith and maturity. Take note of these opportunities:

Sunday School – begins Sunday, September 14th from 8:30 to 9:45AM in the school. (see below)

Sunday Bible Class – An Adult Bible Study if offered on Sunday mornings beginning at 9AM in the church at St. John's. The topic is yet to be determined but it will be good.



Weekday Bible Class – Plans for the Wednesday weekday Bible Class are still on the drawing board. Stay tuned.

Confirmation Class – Begins, Wednesday, September 3rd for public school 6th, 7th, 8th graders, from 5-6PM in the lower level of St. John's. Vacancy Pastor Hanneman will be teaching. Contact him for more information.

A BRAND NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR begins September 14! Assisting parents in their God-Given responsibility of training their children in the Lord is a JOY for your SS staff! In this sin-scarred world, shouldn't we take every opportunity to help our children build a firm spiritual foundation? Why not use Sunday School as one of those opportunities to help your child(ren) grow, and at the same time grow in your own faith by attending Sunday morning Adult Bible Class. SS has open doors . . . open enrollment . . . no registration necessary . . . members & non-members . . . public school & day school . . . and a special invitation to our current Little Lamb students . . . ALL ARE WELCOME . . . starting at age 3. Students are encouraged "to be an Andrew" and bring a friend!

GriefShare

Begins in the St. John's Lower Level on Thursday, 9/18, at 6PM. This is a Bible-based support group that provides a safe and welcoming place where people can understand the often difficult emotions of grief.

New Meditations Begin NEXT WEEK and are Ready to Pick Up

Jesus teaches us that he is the vine, and we are the branches. That means it is vitally important to stay connected to him – such as, through daily devotions. The **MEDITATIONS** booklet is a simple but meaningful way to do that. Pick up a copy and make good use of it

Eagles Nest Staff Hiring

We are looking for a part time staff member to join the Eagles Nest after school program. The hours we are looking for help are: Monday-Wednesday-Friday (3:00-5:15)
The program is closed when school is closed and hours may vary slightly. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more on how you can help please contact Mrs. Straschinske (lladmin@stjohnsmontello.org)

Worship Attendance Last Week

Emmanuel 61; St. John's: 98

St. John's Financials

	Budget	Offerings	All Income	Expenses
July	\$33,436.46	\$22,572.23	\$35,452.11	\$28,932.36
Year to Date	\$33,436.46	\$22,572.23	\$35,452.11	\$28,932.36

St. John's Ushers:

Thank you to James Wachholz, Aaron Wachholz and Mike Kempley for ushering last Sunday. The Ushers for today are Paul Van Treeck, Matt Borzick, Ken Borzick, James Henke, Haiden Van Treeck, Nolan Van Treeck, Brody Henke and Milo Henke. The Ushers for August 31st are Jerre Duerr, Gordon Krause and Kevin Kaul.

TO GIVE AWAY FREE FOR THE MOVING An antique Sterling concert grand upright piano, manufactured by historic Sterling Piano Company, Derby, Connecticut. Contact Matt in the church office 608-297-2866 to get in touch with the owner.

A Prayer for us and for Congregations and Schools During a Vacancy

Lord of the Church, You provide pastors and teachers to preach, teach, train, and equip your people for works of service. Thank you for the blessing they provide to our congregations and classrooms. Let their service to your people - as well as the service and support of your people to them - be a blessing and mutually edify each other..... Be with those ministries experiencing a pastoral or teaching vacancy. Provide temporary solutions for ministry to continue as they wait patiently on your timing for any called worker(s). Turn the challenges of a vacancy into opportunities for blessing. In the absence of a pastor or teacher, make your people more aware of and appreciative of the service rendered by called workers. Lead gifted laypeople to step in and use their gifts wherever possible so that the ministry doesn't suffer greatly. Intervene in ways that reassure them that you are the Lord of the Church who continues to guide and direct ministry even during a vacancy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Help us stay in touch!

Scan the code below using your smartphone camera and fill out the prompted information. Don't have a smartphone? That's ok! Fill out an attendance card located at the end of each pew and place it in the offering plate located at the entry of each church.



Welcome to our visitors!

Find & Like us on Facebook

Visit our website: www.stjohnsmontello.org

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bwhanny@frontier.com

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