



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



**HARD
TRUTH**

Welcome to Worship!

This weekend, we focus on Hard Truth. As Jesus teaches hard truth, he challenges conventional wisdom and reverses the natural order of things. His words contain an urgent warning. Listen! Take heart to what he says! Although Jesus' words contain hard truth, they also give eternal life.

There are more than 2300 Bible passages that speak about money. Why? Money is a master Satan frequently tempts us to serve, and these temptations can be extremely successful. When we love money, it seems to provide us with security and serves as a source of pride. Jesus knows the hard truth that we so often struggle with: the human heart isn't big enough to serve both God and money. But when we listen to Jesus and serve our gracious, loving God, money is put in its proper place. Instead of serving money, we can view it as a resource for serving the Lord—we can serve God with our money.

Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in our worship today. Scripture tells us that the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in God's Word and a privilege reserved for those who have publicly confessed their oneness in faith. Therefore, we ask guests who are not members of WELS or ELS congregations to refrain from communion until such oneness can be established. We do not intend to be exclusive and unloving. Rather, we desire to faithfully carry out the teaching of Scripture and further explore God's Word with you in the hope that we may eventually enjoy such "communion fellowship" together. For more information, please speak with one of our pastors.

The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 17 & 18, 2022

Hard Truth: Serve God with Money; You Can't Serve God and Money.

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Christian Worship 708

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

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Please kneel

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please stand

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

Christ, have mercy.

For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

Amen.

Glory Be to God

Gloria in Excelsis



1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;



Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
You take all hu - man sin a - way.
The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.



We praise you for your peace and grace,
 For all, O Father, you have done
 Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
 We by your Spirit sing a gain:



Your favor toward our fallen race.
 Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.
 From God's right hand, your mercy share.
 "All glory be to God!" Amen.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you have told us not to be anxious about what we need for this life. Move our hearts to seek you and your kingdom, that all good things may be given to us as well; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

King Solomon's experience taught him that serving money leads only to disappointment.

Whoever loves money never has enough;

whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

This too is meaningless.

As goods increase, so do those who consume them.

And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them?

The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much,

but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.

I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:

wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,
or wealth lost through some misfortune,

so that when they have children there is nothing left for them to inherit.

Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart.

They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands.

This too is a grievous evil:

As everyone comes, so they depart,
and what do they gain,
since they toil for the wind?

All their days they eat in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger.

This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

The Word of the Lord.

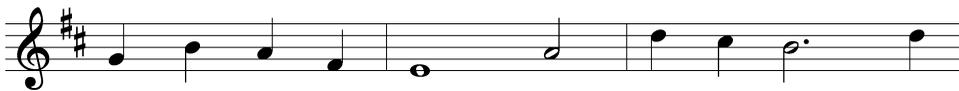
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 128



1 How blest are those who fear the LORD, who find in
2 The promise of success shall be up - on their
3 What ample fruit is seen in lives of faith - ful
4 From heav - en God will sure - ly bless such un - ions
5 To God the Fa - ther and the Son and Ho - ly



God their great re - ward: they know a Love for
work con - tin - ual - ly, as all they do shall
hus - bands and their wives; each home with joy and
with his faith - ful - ness, with boun - ti - ful pros -
Spir - it Three in One, be glo - ry, laud and



all their days, they glad - ly walk in god - ly ways—
 pros - per well and in con - tent - ed peace they dwell—
 love a - bounds as chil - dren's laugh - ter in them sounds—
 per - i - ty till chil - dren's chil - dren they shall see—
 end - less praise, both now and through e - ter - nal days—



blest are all who fear the LORD.
 A - - - men.

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Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:6–10, 17–19

Serving money leads to spiritual destruction; serving God with our money leads to a fulfilling life.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 6:33

Alleluia, alleluia.

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 16:1–13

Jesus teaches us to be shrewd in the way we use money to serve him and manage it for his glory.

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

“ ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem (8:00 a.m.)

Grades 3 & 4

Because We Love Him

by Mary Dorn Lippert

We give because we love him, we give because we care.
We give because he gave to us these gracious gifts to share.
He gave himself completely, a willing sacrifice,
and when we give to others, we give ourselves to Christ.

God does not need assistance to carry out his will.
Whatever he desires, he also can fulfill.
And yet he gives believers the opportunity
to show our faith is living and giving cheerfully.

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Hymn of the Day

All Depends on Our Possessing

Christian Worship 807

Sermon

Luke 16:1-13

The Trouble with Money

Please stand

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.**

Prayer of the Church

The minister says the Prayer of the Church.

Be seated

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Please stand

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

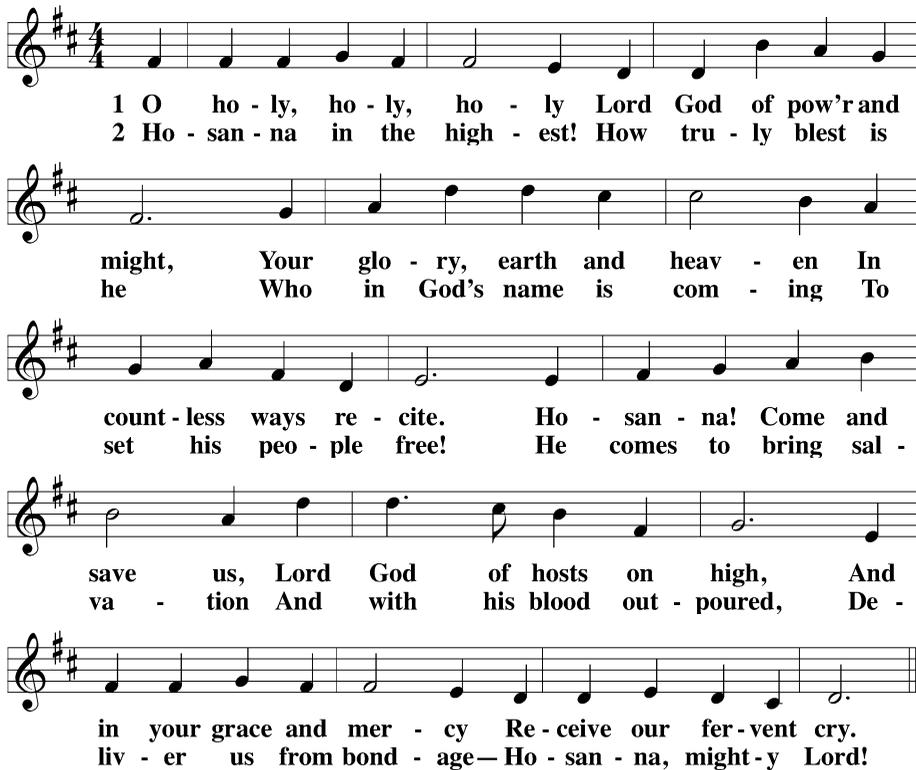
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is
might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To
count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -
save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -
in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

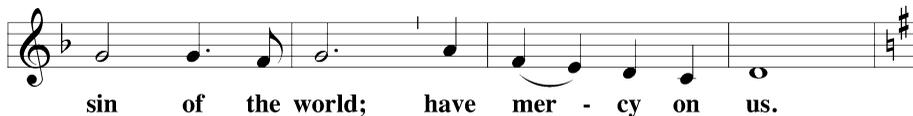
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

The Scriptures teach us that receiving the Lord's Supper is a public declaration of shared belief. Therefore, we ask our guests who are not members of a WELS or ELS congregation to refrain from receiving the Lord's Supper until they have had the opportunity to talk with one of our pastors about our beliefs and practice.

To receive communion, please proceed down the center aisle and exit via the side aisles. Grape juice is available in the center of the individual cup tray for those unable to receive wine. Personal prayers for communion can be found on pg. 17 of the service folder.

Distribution Hymns

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
Christian Worship 749

If God Himself Be for Me
Christian Worship 819

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table
Christian Worship 670

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
 Go + in peace.

Please stand

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.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through 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.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters
Christian Worship 678

Announcements

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Presiding Ministers	Senior Vicar Christian Willick (Saturday) Pastor Joel Leyrer (Sunday)
Musicians	Carmen Rupprecht, piano (Saturday) Eric Sipe, organ (Sunday)
Communion Assistants	Brett Kriese & Dan Schmal (8:00 a.m.) Jeff Scheibe & Brian Treichel (10:30 a.m.)

Worship Notes

- The flowers are placed by Curt and Mary Henne in celebration of their 36th wedding anniversary.

In Our Prayers

- John Cardoza, hospitalized at Froedtert where it has been determined that he will need heart bypass surgery in the immediate future but which is not scheduled yet.
- Arlene Fletcher, who successfully underwent a cardiac procedure at St. Luke's on Wednesday that involved minimal medical intervention.

Parents' Preview for September 25

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

Go Forth and Preach the Gospel

Christian Worship 908



1 Go forth and preach the gos - pel to all who are in need.
2 Go forth and preach the gos - pel to all who live in fear,
3 Go forth and preach the gos - pel; go spread the news a - broad!



As wit - ness to the Sav - ior, go teach by word and deed.
and share the joy - ful mes - sage that God is al - ways near.
Pro - claim to ev - 'ry na - tion the great - ness of our God.



The Spir - it is up - on us, and sends us to de - clare
The Spir - it is up - on us, and sends us forth in peace
The Spir - it is up - on us, that all may un - der - stand



good news of God's for - give - ness to peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.
to bring the poor glad ti - dings, that mer - cy may in - crease.
the prom - ise of sal - va - tion re - vealed to ev - 'ry land.

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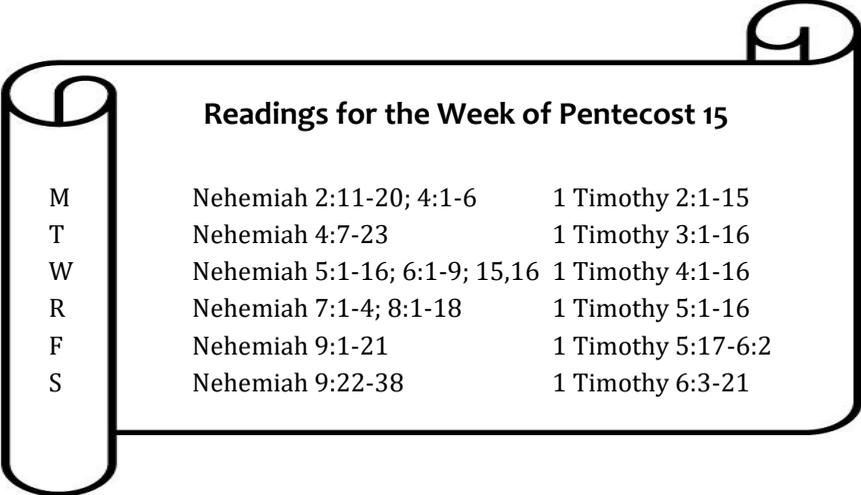
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Personal Prayer for Before Communion

Help me, O God, to be rightly prepared to receive the sacrament. Take away any unbelief and overcome any doubts that I may have. Lord Jesus, give me a believing heart that the gifts and forgiveness offered here truly are for me. Amen.

Personal Prayer for After Communion

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.



Readings for the Week of Pentecost 15		
M	Nehemiah 2:11-20; 4:1-6	1 Timothy 2:1-15
T	Nehemiah 4:7-23	1 Timothy 3:1-16
W	Nehemiah 5:1-16; 6:1-9; 15,16	1 Timothy 4:1-16
R	Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-18	1 Timothy 5:1-16
F	Nehemiah 9:1-21	1 Timothy 5:17-6:2
S	Nehemiah 9:22-38	1 Timothy 6:3-21

Open Forum & Sunday School

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Open Forum

Fellowship Hall

On September 6, we held an open forum to share the results from this summer's feasibility study for a potential capital campaign. The feasibility study also yielded a number of questions and comments which will be addressed at two special open forums. Please join us this morning for more information and discussion on these questions and comments, and visit www.sjtosa.org/CampusExpansion for more information on this summer's feasibility study.

Sunday School

School Commons

You're invited! All children from three years old through teens are invited to Sunday School. Children will meet in the school commons and then join their teachers. Parents can pick their children up from their classrooms. We look forward to seeing you!

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org

Pastor Eric Schroeder
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org

Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
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School Principal

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