



## St. John Lutheran Church

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5:00 - Contemporary

Prepare  
the way  
of the  
**LORD.**

***December 3, 2022***

# Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Contemporary Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

May God bless your worship with us today,  
*Paul Kruse, Pastor*

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***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn, Share,  
and Serve'***

***Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of  
Christian faith in our community, to all  
generations, wherever they may be'***

## A Time of Preparation

### Prelude

### “Prepare The Way”

Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord  
Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord

Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus  
Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus

You are the light of the world You are the light of the world  
You are the light of the world Jesus  
You are the light of the world You are the light of the world  
You are the light of the world Jesus

You are the King of the earth You are the King of the earth  
You are the King of the earth Jesus  
You are the King of the earth You are the King of the earth  
You are the King of the earth Jesus

Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord  
Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord

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## Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

### Opening Song

### “The Heart of Worship”

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come,  
Longing just to bring something that’s of worth that will bless Your heart.  
I’ll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required.  
You search much deeper within through the way things appear;  
You’re looking into my heart.  
I’m coming back to the heart of worship,  
And it’s all about You, It’s all about You, Jesus.  
I’m sorry, Lord, for the thing I’ve made it,  
And it’s all about You, It’s all about You, Jesus

King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve.  
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath.  
I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required.  
You search much deeper within through the way things appear;  
You're looking into my heart.  
I'm coming back to the heart of worship,  
And it's all about You, It's all about You, Jesus.  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,  
And it's all about You, It's all about You, Jesus

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

### **Song of Praise**

### **"Same God"**

I'm calling on the God of Jacob  
Whose love endures through generations  
I know that You will keep Your covenant  
I'm calling on the God of Moses  
The one who opened up the ocean  
I need you now to do the same thing for me  
I'm calling on the God of Mary  
Whose favor rests upon the lowly  
I know with You all things are possible  
I'm calling on the God of David  
Who made a shepherd boy courageous  
I may not face Goliath  
But I've got my own giants  
Oh God my God I need You Oh God my God I need You now  
How I need You now  
Oh Rock oh Rock of ages I'm standing on Your faithfulness  
*(instrumental)*  
You heard Your children then You hear Your children now  
You are the same God You are the same God  
You answered prayers back then And You will answer now

You are the same God You are the same God  
You were providing then You are providing now  
You are the same God You are the same God  
You moved in power then God move in power now  
You are the same God You are the same God  
You were a healer then You are a healer now  
You are the same God You are the same God  
You were a Savior then You are a Savior now  
You are the same God You are the same God  
Oh God my God I need You Oh God my God I need You now  
How I need You now  
Oh Rock oh Rock of ages I'm standing on Your faithfulness  
Oh God my God I need You Oh God my God I need You now  
How I need You now  
Oh Rock oh Rock of ages I'm standing on Your faithfulness  
You freed the captives then You're freeing hearts right now  
You are the same God You are the same God  
You touched the lepers then I feel Your touch right now  
You are the same God You are the same God  
*(instrumental)*  
I'm calling on the Holy Spirit  
Almighty river come and fill me again  
Come and fill me again  
Come and fill me again

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## First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.<sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes

by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Children's Message

### Message Song

### “Less Like Me”

Oh I have days I lose the fight,  
Try my best, but just don't get it right.  
Where I talk a talk that I don't walk,  
and miss the moments right before my eyes.  
Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped.  
Somebody with a hand that I could have held.  
When I just can't see past myself, Lord help me be  
A little more like mercy. A little more like grace.  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith.  
A little more like patience. A little more like peace.  
A little more like Jesus. A little less like me.  
Yeah, there's no denying I have changed,  
I've been saved from who I used to be.  
But even at my best I must confess,  
I still need help to see the way You see.  
Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped.  
Somebody with a hand that I could have held.  
When I just can't see past myself, Lord help me be  
A little more like mercy. A little more like grace.  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith.  
A little more like patience. A little more like peace.  
A little more like Jesus. A little less like me.

Oh to feed the beggar on the street.  
Love to be Your hands and feet.  
Freely give what I receive, Lord help me be.  
I want to put You first above all else.  
Love my neighbor as myself  
In the moments no one sees,  
Lord help me be.

A little more like mercy. A little more like grace.  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith.  
A little more like patience. A little more like peace.  
A little more like Jesus. A little less like me.  
A little more I'm living, everything I preach,  
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.

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## Message

***“Leader Reset”***

## Offering

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## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

## Blessing

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

## Sending Song

## *"Help Is On The Way"*

Maybe midnight or midday. Never early, never late.

He gon' stand by what He claim. Lived enough life to say  
I heard your heart, I see your pain, Out in the dark, out in the rain.  
Feels so alone, feels so afraid. I heard you pray in Jesus' name.

It may be midnight or midday. He's never early, never late.  
He gon' stand by what He claim. I've lived enough life to say  
Help is on the way, roundin' the corner. Help is on the way, comin' for ya.  
Help is on the way, yeah, yeah. I've lived enough life to say  
Help is on the way

Sometimes it's days, Sometimes it's years.

Some face a lifetime of falling tears. But He's in the darkness, He's in the cold.  
Just like the mornin', He always shows.

It may be midnight or midday. He's never early, never late.  
He gon' stand by what He claim. I've lived enough life to say  
Help is on the way, roundin' the corner. Help is on the way, comin' for ya.  
Help is on the way, yeah, yeah. I've lived enough life to say  
Help is on the way

Well, I've seen my share of troubles, But the Lord ain't failed me yet.  
So I'm holdin' on the promise, y'all, That He's rollin' up His sleeves again.

Said I've seen my share of troubles, But the Lord ain't failed me yet.  
We'll keep holdin' on the promise, y'all, That He's rollin' up His sleeves again.

It may be midnight or midday. He's never early, never late.  
He gon' stand by what He claim. I've lived enough life to say  
Help is on the way, roundin' the corner. Help is on the way, comin' for ya.  
Help is on the way, yeah, yeah. I've lived enough life to say ...  
Help is on the way

### Acknowledgments

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