



## St. John Lutheran Church

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7:00 - Contemporary



***July 22, 2023***

# 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.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service .

May God bless your worship with us today,

*Paul Kruse, P*

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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'*

**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

**A Time of Preparation**

**Preludes**

**"This is Amazing Grace"**

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger  
The King of Glory the King above all kings  
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder  
The King of Glory the King above all kings  
This is amazing grace This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life That I would be set free  
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me  
Who brings our chaos back into order  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter  
The King of Glory the King of Glory  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance  
The King of Glory the King above all kings  
This is amazing grace This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life That I would be set free  
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

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Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy worthy worthy  
Oh this is amazing grace This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life That I would be set free  
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me  
All that You've done for me

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

### **Opening Song**

### **“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

## Confession and Forgiveness

- P** We're kidding ourselves If we say we have no sin, thinking we are better than others. We are sinful by nature, not just by what we do. We were even born in sin. We are in big trouble!
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and make us clean and righteous. Holy Spirit, help us as we think seriously about our failures and sins, even those of which we are not aware ...**
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **We confess, gracious God, that we groan not only because of sin in the world, but our failure to trust You for all that we need. We have not waited patiently; we have demanded reasons from You; we have sought to excuse ourselves. Yet You have given us the Holy Spirit who promises to pray in our behalf for what we really need because our spiritual blindness makes it hard to really know what we need. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to hope not in ourselves but in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
- P** The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where your forgiveness was purchased with Christ's blood from the bond of Satan's slavery and made God's beloved children. As a called and ordained 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.
- C** **Amen.**

## Song of Praise

## "King of Kings"

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,  
'till from Heaven You came running. There was mercy in Your eyes.

To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word  
from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,  
to redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross.

For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side.  
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died.

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath  
'till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death.  
And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe,  
for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame.  
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel shall not faint.  
By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free,  
for the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me.

Praise the Father, praise the Son. Praise the Spirit, three in one.  
God of Glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings.  
Praise forever to the King of Kings.

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## First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
"I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup> Who is like me?  
Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an  
ancient c. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. <sup>8</sup> Fear not,  
nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my  
witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Romans 8:18-27

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth  
comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits

with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> That the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. <sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

<sup>24</sup> He put another parable before them, saying, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup> but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup> And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' <sup>28</sup> He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup> But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the

reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup> He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The afield is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds fare gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Children's Message**

## **“Let God Handle It”**

### **Message Song**

### **“The Answer”**

So many questions, the world is reaching.  
So many hurting, so many lost.  
With all this striving, who can we lean on?  
Creation's crying out from the dark.

I know the answer to every question, the one solution to every fear.  
I know my help and where it comes from. Jesus, He is the answer.

He sees our sadness, He feels our sorrow.  
And in our weakness, He is strong.  
He holds the weight of all of our failings.  
Great is our sin, but greater the cross.



I know the answer to every question, the one solution to every fear.  
I know my help and where it comes from. Jesus, He is the answer.

For every heart that's breaking, for every soul that's shaking,  
For every sickness there's healing in Your hands.  
Let every heart awaken, to see it's You who saves us.  
You are my hope, and the rock on which I stand.

You are the answer to every question, the one solution to every fear.  
You are my help and where it comes from.  
Jesus, You are the answer. Jesus You are the answer.  
You are the answer. You are the answer. You are the answer.

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## Message

## *“Overcoming the World’s Obstacles”*

### **The Confession of Faith** – The Explanation of the Third Article

**P:** In the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed, we confess our faith in the Holy Spirit, who intercedes for us.

**C:** **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**P:** What does this mean?

**C:** **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**



## Offering

*Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.*

## Prayer of the Church

**P:** let us pray to the Lord.

**G** **Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.**

*(the petitions are spoken)*

**P:** These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father,

**G** **grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**G** **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.**

## Sacrament

### The Words of Our Lord and Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

*The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor.11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:*

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
- 2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
- 3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
- 4. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*

5. *Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
6. *Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

*If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.*

## **Distribution Song**

*Judy Winter on Keyboard*

## **Blessing**

**P** The blessing God almighty—the Father, who has adopted You as His own children; the Son, who has given His life for You; and the Holy Spirit, who brings your groaning prayers to the throne of grace—be with you and keep you, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **Sending Song**

## **"The Battle Belongs to the Lord"**

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land,

The battle belongs to the Lord.

No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand,

The battle belongs to the Lord.

We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.

We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.

When the power of darkness comes in like a flood,

The battle belongs to the Lord.

He's raised up a standard, the pow'r of His blood,

The battle belongs to the Lord.

We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.

We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.

When your enemy presses in hard, do not fear,

The battle belongs to the Lord.

Take courage, my friend, your redemption is near,

The battle belongs to the Lord.

