



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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5:00 - Contemporary



September 9, 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, Pastor

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

***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'*

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Time of Preparation

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Songs

"If We're Honest"

Truth is harder than a lie. The dark seems safer than the light,
and everyone has a heart that loves to hide.

I'm a mess and so are you. We've built walls nobody can get through.
Yeah, it may be hard, but the best thing we could ever do, ever do:

Bring your brokenness, and I'll bring mine,
'cause love can heal what hurt divides,
and mercy's waiting on the other side, if we're honest, if we're honest.

Don't pretend to be something that you're not,
living life afraid of getting caught.

There is freedom found when we lay our secrets down at the cross, at the cross.

Bring your brokenness, and I'll bring mine,
'cause love can heal what hurt divides,
and mercy's waiting on the other side, if we're honest, if we're honest.

It would change our lives, it would set us free.
It's what we need to be.

So, bring your brokenness, and I'll bring mine,
'cause love can heal what hurt divides,
and mercy's waiting on the other side,
if we're honest, if we're honest.

Call To Worship

"The Father's House"

Sometimes on this journey I get lost in my mistakes.
What looks to me like weakness is a canvas for Your strength.
My story isn't over; my story's just begun.
Failure won't define me, 'cause that's what my Father does.
Failure won't define me, 'cause that's what my Father does.
Oo, lay your burdens down, Oo, here in the Father's house.
Check your shame at the door, 'cause it ain't welcome anymore.
Oo, you're in the Father's house.
Arrival's not the endgame; the journey's where You are.
You never wanted perfect; You just wanted my heart.
And the story isn't over if the story isn't good.
Failure's never final when the Father's in the room.
Failure's never final when the Father's in the room.
Oo, lay your burdens down, Oo, here in the Father's house.
Check your shame at the door, cause it ain't welcome anymore.
Oo, you're in the Father's house.
Prodigals come home, the helpless find hope;
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room.
Prison doors fling wide, the dead come to life;
Love is on the move when the Father's in the room.
Miracles take place, the cynical find faith;
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room.
Jericho walls are quaking, strongholds now are shaking;
Love is breaking through when the Father's in the room.
Love is breaking through When the Father's in the room.
Oo, lay your burdens down, Oo, here in the Father's house.
Check your shame at the door, 'cause it ain't welcome anymore.
Oo, you're in the Father's house.

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Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

“Grace Like Rain”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found; Was blind but now I see so clearly

Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.

Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.

Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing Your praise than when we'd first begun.

Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.

Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away, they're washed away.

First Reading

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two

talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

“Through Faith - Joy”

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

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.**

Sacrament

The Words of Our Lord

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

"Broken Vessels" (Amazing Grace)

All these pieces, broken and scattered,
in mercy gathered, mended and whole,
empty handed but not forsaken,
I've been set free! I've been set free!

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!

Oh, I once was lost but now I am found;
was blind but now I see.

Oh I can see You now.

Oh I can see the love in Your eyes;
laying Yourself down,
raising up the broken to life.

You take our failure, You take our weakness.

You set Your treasure in jars of clay.

So take this heart, Lord; I'll be Your vessel,
the world to see Your life in me.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!

Oh, I once was lost but now I am found;
was blind but now I see.

Oh I can see You now.

Oh I can see the love in Your eyes;
laying Yourself down,
raising up the broken to life.

(Instrumental Interlude)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
Oh, I once was lost but now I am found;
was blind but now I see.
Oh I can see You now.
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes;
laying Yourself down,
raising up the broken to life.

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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 T give you peace.

C Amen.

Sending Song

“New Creation”

I thought I knew what I was talking about
When I testified of your great love
Well I was a soul on fire there was no doubt
Bible believing saved and washed in the blood
But it wasn't 'til I stumbled and made my mistakes
That I could know in my soul how amazing was grace
You brought me blessings out of a tragedy
You turned my old song into a symphony
And with your spirit living inside of me
I'm a new creation I'm a new creation
And now I know what you were talking about
Went from my head into my heart
When I was broken at the bottom I found
You're my healer and redeemer
Jesus that's who you are

You brought me blessings out of a tragedy
You turned my old song into a symphony
And with your spirit living inside of me
I'm a new creation I'm a new creation
Oh oh. Oh oh.

But it wasn't 'til I stumbled and made my mistakes
That I could know in my soul how amazing was grace

You brought me blessings out of a tragedy
You turned my old song into a symphony
And with your spirit living inside of me
I'm a new creation

You brought me blessings out of a tragedy
You turned my old song into a symphony
And with your spirit living inside of me
I'm a new creation I'm a new creation
Oh oh. Oh oh

And with your spirit living inside of me
I'm a new creation I'm a new creation

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