



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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5:00 - Contemporary



November 25, 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'*

Last Sunday of the Church Year

A Time of Preparation

Preludes

"The Lion and The Lamb"

He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Our God is the Lion The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

So open up the gates
Make way before the King of kings
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Our God is the Lion The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

Who can stop the Lord Almighty Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty Who can stop the Lord?

Our God is the Lion The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him
Our God is the Lamb The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

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“The Lord’s Prayer (It’s Yours)”

Father let your kingdom come Father let your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart
Father let your kingdom come Father let your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart

Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us forgive us
As we forgive the ones who sinned Against us forgive them
And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from the evil one
Let your kingdom come

Father let your kingdom come Father let your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart
Father let your kingdom come Father let your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart
Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us forgive us
As we forgive the ones who sinned Against us forgive them
And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from the evil one
Let your kingdom come

It's yours it's yours All yours all yours
The kingdom the power The glory are yours
It's yours it's yours All yours all yours
Forever and ever The kingdom is yours

Father let your kingdom come Father let your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart
Father let your kingdom come Father let your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart

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Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

Opening Song

“Battle Belongs”

When all I see is the battle You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now For I am safe with You

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You

And if You are for me Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing Impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross God You see the empty tomb

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night

O God the battle belongs to You
Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against The power of our God
You shine in the shadows You win every battle
Nothing can stand against The power of our God

An Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against The power of our God
You shine in the shadows You win every battle
Nothing can stand against The power of our God

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You
O God the battle belongs to You

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Confession and Forgiveness

- P** We are unworthy and not fit to ask for God's grace and mercy, because we are completely saturated and infected with sin in thought, word and deed! However, through Ezekiel, our merciful and loving God said that He would *"search for My sheep and will seek them out."* Let us come before Him in humility and shame to confess our sin ...

(silence for a time of silent examination)

Heavenly Father,

- C** **We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.**

- P** Paul wrote that *"God has put all things in subjection under [Christ's] feet."*

- C** We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.
- P** Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others—the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.
- C** We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.
- P** Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who is the one who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen. Thanks be to God.

Song of Forgiveness

“This I Believe”

Our Father everlasting, the all creating One, God Almighty.
Through Your Holy Spirit, conceiving Christ the Son, Jesus our Savior.

I believe in God our Father, I believe in Christ the Son.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, our God is three in One.
I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again.
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

Our Judge and our Defender, suffered and crucified, forgiveness is in You.
Descended into darkness, You rose in glorious life, forever seated high.

I believe in God our Father, I believe in Christ the Son.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, our God is three in One.
I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again.
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

I believe in You, I believe You rose again.
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.
I believe in You, I believe You rose again.
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.

I believe in God our Father, I believe in Christ the Son.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, our God is three in One.
I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again.
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

I believe in life eternal, I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion and in Your holy Church.
I believe in the resurrection, when Jesus comes again.
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

I believe in God our Father, I believe in Christ the Son.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, our God is three in One.
I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again.
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

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First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹ "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land,

and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy.¹ I will feed them in justice.

²⁰ "Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²² I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³ And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,^[a] you did it to me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

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

“What Part Don’t You Understand”

Nicene Creed

☑ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at

the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

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 (after each petition)

P ... Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.
- G** **Keep us firm in the true faith so that we daily show forth His love and mercy until that day when we see Him face to face to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Blessing

☞ The blessing of 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

☞ **Amen.**

Sending Song

“Your Name Is Power”

You're the only answer to the darkness
You're the only right among the wrong
You're the only hope among the chaos
You are the voice that calls me on
Louder than ev'ry lie My sword in ev'ry fight
The truth will chase away the night
Your name is power over darkness
Freedom for the captives
Mercy for the broken and the hopeless
Your name is faithful in the battle
Glory in the struggle
Mighty it won't let us down or fail us
Your name is power Your name is power
When You speak You scatter darkness
Light arrives and heaven opens
Holy Spirit let us hear it
When You speak the church awakens
We believe the change is coming
Holy Spirit let us see it
Your name is power over darkness
Freedom for the captives
Mercy for the broken and the hopeless
Your name is faithful in the battle
Glory in the struggle

