



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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Contemporary
Worship
5:00



January 24, 2026

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

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Mobile: 989-992-6030

Compelled by the Love of Christ to Joyfully 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'

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude

"Called Me Higher"

I could just sit I could just sit
And wait for all Your goodness Hope to feel Your presence
And I could just stay I could just stay
Right where I am and hope to feel You Hope to feel something again

I could hold on I could hold on To who I am
And never let You Change me from the inside
I could be safe oh I could be safe

Here in Your arms and never leave home Never let these walls down

But You have called me higher You have called me deeper
And I'll go where You will lead me Lord
You have called me higher You have called me deeper
And I'll go where You will lead me Lord
Where You lead me Where You lead me Lord

I could hold on I could hold on To who I am
and never let You Change me from the inside
I could be safe oh I could be safe
Here in Your arms and never leave home Never let these walls down

But You have called me higher You have called me deeper
And I'll go where You will lead me Lord
You have called me higher You have called me deeper
And I'll go where You will lead me Lord where You lead me

I will be Yours oh I will be Yours for all my life
I will be Yours oh I will be Yours for all my life
I will be Yours oh I will be Yours for all my life

So let Your mercy I will be Yours Lord
And I will be Yours for all my life So let Your mercy
Light the path before me. 'Cause You have called me higher,
You have called me deeper, and I'll go where You will lead me, Lord.
'Cause You have called me higher, You have called me deeper,
And I'll go where you will lead me, Lord.
'Cause You have called me higher, You have called me deeper
And I'll go where You will lead me Lord
'Cause You have called me higher, You have called me deeper
And I'll go where You will lead me Lord
Where You lead me. Where You lead me Lord
Where you lead me Where You lead me Lord

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Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

Opening Song

"This is Our God"

Remember those walls that we called sin and shame
They were like prisons that we couldn't escape
But He came and He died and He rose
Those walls are rubble now
Remember those giants we called death and grave
They were like mountains that stood in our way
But He came and He died and He rose
Those giants are dead now
This is our God this is who He is He loves us
This is our God this is what He does He saves us
He bore the cross beat the grave Let heaven and earth proclaim
This is our God King Jesus
Remember that fear that took our breath away
Faith so weak that we could barely pray
But He heard every word every whisper

Now those altars in the wilderness
Tell the story of His faithfulness
Never once did He fail and He never will

This is our God this is who He is He loves us
This is our God this is what He does He saves us
He bore the cross beat the grave Let heaven and earth proclaim
This is our God King Jesus

Who pulled me out of that pit He did He did
Who paid for all of our sin Nobody but Jesus

Who rescued me from that grave Yahweh Yahweh
Who gets the glory and praise Nobody but Jesus

Who rescued me from that grave Yahweh Yahweh
Who gets the glory and praise Nobody but Him

This is our God this is who He is He loves us
This is our God this is what He does He saves us
He bore the cross beat the grave Let heaven and earth proclaim
This is our God King Jesus

He bore the cross beat the grave
Let heaven and earth proclaim
This is our God King Jesus

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Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

“Holy Water”

God, I'm on my knees again.
God I'm begging please again. I need You.
Oh, I need You.
Walking down these desert roads,
Water for my thirsty soul, I need You.
Oh, I need You.

Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips,
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears, like holy water on my skin.

Dead man walking, slave to sin,
I wanna know about being born again. I need You.

Oh God, I need You.

So, take me to the riverside. Take me under baptize. I need You.
Oh God, I need You.

Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips,
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears, like holy water on my skin.

I don't wanna abuse Your grace. God I need it ev'ry day.
It's the only thing that ever really makes me wanna change.

I don't wanna abuse Your grace. God I need it ev'ry day.
It's the only thing that ever really makes me wanna change.

Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips,
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears, like holy water.

Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips,
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears, like holy water on my skin.
Yeah, it's like holy water on my skin.

Oh, it's like holy water ...

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First Reading

Acts 9:1-22

¹ But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and

although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-17

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.

¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way

of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Message Song

“Run to The Father”

I've carried a burden for too long on my own.

I wasn't created to bear it alone.

I hear Your invitation to let it all go.

I see it now. I'm laying it down. And I know that I need You.

I run to the Father, I fall into grace.

I'm done with the hiding, No reason to wait.

My heart needs a surgeon, my soul needs a friend.

So I'll run to the Father again and again and again and again. Oh oh oh

You saw my condition, had a plan from the start.

Your Son for redemption: the price for my heart.

I don't have a context for that kind of love.

I don't understand, I can't comprehend. All I know is I need You.

I run to the Father, I fall into grace.

I'm done with the hiding, No reason to wait.

My heart needs a surgeon, my soul needs a friend.

So I'll run to the Father again and again and again and again. Oh oh

Again and again and again and again. Oh oh oh

My heart has been in Your sights long before my first breath.

Running into Your arms is running to life from death.

I feel this rush deep in my chest. Your mercy is calling out.

Just as I am, You pull me in, and I know I need You now

I run to the Father, I fall into grace.

I'm done with the hiding, No reason to wait.
My heart found a surgeon, my soul found a friend.
So I'll run to the Father again and again and again and again. Oh oh
Again and again and again and again. Oh oh oh Again and again.

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Message

"Light Blinds"

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

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 week 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 present and received in, with, and under 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. Children and those who do not subscribe to these statements are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and should indicate this by keeping their hand folded.

Distribution Song

"I Surrender"

Here I am Down on my knees again
Surrendering all Surrendering all

Find me here Lord as You draw me near
Desperate for You Desperate for You
I surrender

Drench my soul As mercy and grace unfold
I hunger and thirst I hunger and thirst

With arms stretched wide I know You hear my cry
Speak to me now Speak to me now
I surrender I surrender

I want to know You more I want to know You more
I surrender I surrender

I want to know You more I want to know You more

Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me

Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul

Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me
I surrender I surrender
I want to know You more I want to know You more
I surrender I surrender
I want to know You more I want to know You more

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Blessing

L 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

"I Thank God"

Wandering into the night Wanting a place to hide
This weary soul This bag of bones
I try with all of my might But I just can't win the fight
I'm slowly drifting a vagabond
And just when I ran out of road
I met a man I didn't know
And He told me that I was not alone
You picked me up You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground

I thank the Master I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart You changed my name
Forever free I'm not the same
I thank the Master I thank the Savior I thank God

I cannot deny what I've seen Got no choice but to believe
My doubts are burnin' Like ashes in the wind
So so long to my old friends Burden and bitterness
You can just keep them moving *Nah you ain't welcome here (Spoken)*

From now till I walk streets of gold
I'll sing of how You saved my soul
This wayward son has found his way back home

You picked me up You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart You changed my name
Forever free I'm not the same

I thank the Master I thank the Savior I thank God

Hell lost another one I am free I am free I am free
Hell lost another one I am free I am free I am free
Hell lost another one I am free I am free I am free
Hell lost another one I am free I am free

You picked me up You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart You changed my name
Forever free I'm not the same
I thank the Master I thank the Savior I thank God

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Sermon Notes

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