



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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9:00 - Traditional



January 25, 2026

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional 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 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

Service Setting for Today

Divine Service Three (pp 184ff)

Prelude (Praise Team)

"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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Sharing of the Peace and Welcome

Opening Song

**“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” LSB 528
vs 1.4.6.7**

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made
For ev'ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Text: Public domain

L In the name of the Father and of the **☩** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness

L Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

L I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination

L Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Amen.

L Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

L I will tell of your name to my brothers;

C **in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.**

L All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

C **and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.**

L For kingship belongs to the Lord,

- C** and he rules over the nations.
L All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
C before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.
L Posterity shall serve him;
C it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
L they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
C that he has done it.

Glory be to the Father *(Sung)*

LSB 186

- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *(Sung)*

LSB 186

- C** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Song of Praise *(Sung)*

LSB 187

- L** Glory be to God on High,
C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

- L** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
L Let us pray together...
C Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia (*Sung*)

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-17

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

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 Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Children's Message

Message Song

"Just as I Am, without One Plea" *LSB 570*

Just as I am, without one plea

But that Thy blood was shed for me

And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not

To rid my soul of one dark blot,

To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about

With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,

Fightings and fears within, without,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;

Sight, riches, healing of the mind,

Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,

Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;

Because Thy promise I believe,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown

Has broken ev'ry barrier down;

Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Text: Public domain

Message

"Light Blinds"

Offering

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



Offering Song - Sung

LSB 192

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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

LSB 202

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 ✕ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Song

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" LSB 722

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior,
And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,

For when Your hand is guiding,
In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blesse'd Friend;
So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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Sermon Notes

