



## St. John Lutheran Church

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***April 25, 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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***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Joyfully Live,  
Learn, Share, and Serve'***

5:00 - Contemporary

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of  
Christian faith in our community, to all generations,  
wherever they may be'*

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

## **A Time of Preparation**

### **Preludes**

### **"Who I Am"**

I stand in front of the mirror But I don't like who's looking back at me  
Wish I could see things clearer Like who I'm supposed to be  
In every trial lift me higher Through the fire hold me tighter  
Remind me again that I was made for more

Who I am in the eyes of the Father Who I am His love set free  
Who I was I left at the altar I am Yours Lord I believe

It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God  
And the most-high God's for me

It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God  
And the most-high God's for me

Everything has been changing You haven't left a stone unturned  
Anything I've been facing I'll keep standing on Your word  
In the water take me under Fill my lungs to speak Your wonder  
You brought me out of the darkness I was made for more

Who I am in the eyes of the Father Who I am His love set free  
Who I was I left at the altar I am Yours Lord I believe

It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God  
And the most-high God's for me

It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God  
And the most-high God's for me

You gave up everything for me to have everything  
For all of eternity a song in my lungs to sing  
You gave up everything for me to have everything  
For all of eternity a song in my lungs to sing

I'm a child of the most-high God And the most-high God's for me  
I'm a child of the most-high God And the most-high God's for me

It's who I am in the eyes of the Father Who I am His love set free  
Who I was I left at the altar I am Yours Lord I believe

It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God  
And the most-high God's for me

It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God  
And the most-high God's for me

I'm a child of the most-high God And the most-high God's for me  
I'm a child of the most-high God And the most-high God's for me

CCLI Song # 7192531 Ben Fuller | David Spencer | Krystal Polychronis

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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

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  
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

I'm calling on the Holy Spirit  
Almighty river come and fill me again  
Come and fill me again Come and fill me again

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## **Confession and Forgiveness**

### **Song of Praise**

### **“Alive & Breathing”**

What holds your heart? What stirs your soul?  
What matters come to mind? The cares you keep,  
The thoughts you think; it's not all wasted time.  
Seek and you will find.

Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting.  
If you're still alive and breathing, Praise the Lord!  
Don't stop dancing and dreaming.  
There's still good news worth repeating.  
So lift your head and keep singing, "Praise the Lord!"

The years roll by. We wonder why we lost our way from home.  
Our Father finds the child inside we left for growing old.  
Awake, awake, awake my soul.

Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting.  
If you're still alive and breathing, Praise the Lord!  
Don't stop dancing and dreaming.  
There's still good news worth repeating.  
So lift your head and keep singing, "Praise the Lord!"

Let ev'rything, let ev'rything let ev'rything praise the Lord.  
In the working, in the waiting, let it praise the Lord.  
In the blessing, in the breaking, come on, praise the Lord.  
In the dying, the rising, let it praise the Lord.  
Let ev'rything let ev'rything Let it praise the Lord  
Let ev'rything let ev'rything let ev'rything praise the Lord

Joy still comes in the morning. Hope still walks with the hurting.  
If you're still alive and breathing, Praise the Lord!  
Don't stop dancing and dreaming.  
There's still good news worth repeating.  
So lift your head and keep singing, "Praise the Lord!"

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## First Reading

Acts 2:36-41

<sup>36</sup> Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and

you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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

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

## Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-25

<sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. <sup>22</sup> Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, <sup>23</sup> since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup> for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, <sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

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

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

## Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup> That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still,

looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

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

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

## Children's Message

### Message 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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## Message

## “Unexpected Rescue”

## 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

**☩ 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  
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.

**G Amen.**

## **Sending Song**

## **“Praise You Anywhere”**

Sometimes you've gotta dance through the darkness  
Sing through the fire Praise when it don't make sense

Sometimes you've gotta stare down the giant  
Worship from the lion's den

Sometimes you've gotta shout it from the mountain  
Louder in the valley Trusting that He's gonna get you there

Sometimes you've gotta welcome the wonder  
Wait for the answer

Worship with your hands in the air I'll praise You anywhere

Praise Give Him praise Give Him praise In the highest  
Praise Give Him praise Give Him praise In the highest  
He is worthy Yes He is worthy of all of the praise

Sometimes you've gotta praise in the prison  
Cry out to heaven Shout it 'til the doors swing wide  
Sometimes you've gotta stand on your shackles  
Brave in the battle Worship with your hands held high  
I'll praise You anywhere

Praise Give Him praise Give Him praise In the highest  
Praise Give Him praise Give Him praise In the highest  
He is worthy Yes He is worthy of all of the praise

Faithful all my life Blessings day and night  
Countless reasons why I'll praise You anywhere  
Every promise kept Goodness every step  
Each and every breath I'll praise You anywhere  
Faithful all my life Blessings day and night  
Countless reasons why I'll praise You anywhere  
Every promise kept Goodness every step  
Each and every breath I'll praise You anywhere

Praise Give Him praise Give Him praise In the highest  
Praise Give Him praise Give Him praise In the highest

He is worthy Yes He is worthy of all of the praise  
... I'll praise You anywhere

Ben Fielding, Brandon Lake, Hank Bentley, Jacob Sooter CCLI Song #7219772

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