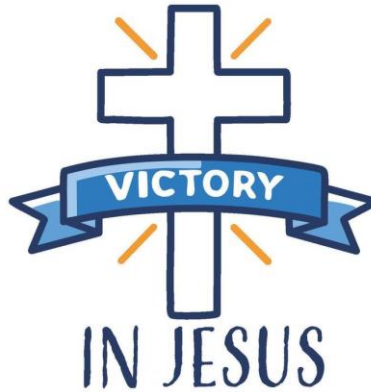




St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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August 22, 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

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

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

7:00 - Contemporary

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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Time of Preparation

Preludes

"Firm Foundation (He Won't)"

Christ is my firm foundation The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus 'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations So why would He fail now ...
He won't He won't

I've still got joy in chaos I've got peace that makes no sense
So I won't be going under I'm not held by my own strength
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season So why would He fail now ...
He won't He won't He won't fail He won't fail
He won't He won't He won't fail He won't fail

Christ is my firm foundation The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus 'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations So why would He fail now ...
He won't He won't He won't fail He won't fail

Rain came and wind blew But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You I'm going to make it through
Rain came and wind blew But my house was built on You
I'm safe with You I'm going to make it through

Yeah I'm going to make it through 'Cause I'm standing strong on You
Yeah I'm going to make it through 'Cause my house is built on You

Christ is my firm foundation The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus 'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations So why would He fail now ... He won't

“Revelation Song”

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on Heaven's mercy seat
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on Heaven's mercy seat

Holy holy holy Is the Lord God Almighty Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything And I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows of living color Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory And power be to You the only wise King
Holy holy holy Is the Lord God Almighty Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything And I will adore You

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water
Such a marv'lous mystery yeah

Holy holy holy Is the Lord God Almighty Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything And I will adore You
Holy holy holy Is the Lord God Almighty Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything And I will adore You

Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call to Worship

Opening Song

“Praise”

(SHOUT) *Let everything ... that has breath ... Praise the Lord ... Praise the Lord*

I'll praise in the valley Praise on the mountain
I'll praise when I'm sure Praise when I'm doubting
I'll praise when outnumbered Praise when surrounded
'Cause praise is the water My enemies drown in

As long as I'm breathing I've got a reason to
Praise the Lord oh my soul Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise when I feel it And I'll praise when I don't
I'll praise 'cause I know You're still in control
'Cause my praise is a weapon It's more than a sound
My praise is the shout That brings Jericho down

As long as I'm breathing I've got a reason to
Praise the Lord oh my soul Praise the Lord oh my soul
I won't be quiet My God is alive How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign Praise 'cause You reign
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful Praise 'cause You're true
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign Praise 'cause You reign
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful Praise 'cause You're true
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You

Praise the Lord oh my soul Praise the Lord oh my soul
Praise the Lord oh my soul Praise the Lord oh my soul

I won't be quiet My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
I won't be quiet My God is alive
How could I keep it inside
Praise the Lord oh my soul

(SHOUT) Let everything ... that has breath ... Praise the Lord ... Praise the Lord

Let everything ... that has breath ... Praise the Lord ... Praise the Lord

Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

"Counting My Blessings"

It's like it was yesterday I was praying for a miracle
Scared to have a little hope And now looking back today
Seeing all the things you've done I can't even add them up
One two three Up to infinity
I'd run out of numbers
Before I could thank you for everything

God I'm still counting my blessings All that you've done in my life
The more that I look in the details The more of your goodness I'll find
Father on this side of heaven I know that I'll run out of time
But I will keep counting my blessings Knowing I can't count that high

And I know that seasons Never last forever
So God I will remember All of the reasons
My heart has to be grateful
All the times you've been faithful to me

God I'm still counting my blessings All that you've done in my life
The more that I look in the details The more of your goodness I'll find
Father on this side of heaven I know that I'll run out of time
But I will keep counting my blessings Knowing I can't count that high

Oh I can't count that high ... High
One two three Up to infinity
I'd run out of numbers
Before I could thank you for everything

God I'm still counting my blessings All that you've done in my life
The more that I look in the details The more of your goodness I'll find
Father on this side of heaven I know that I'll run out of time
But I will keep counting my blessings Knowing I can't count that high

I will keep counting my blessings
Knowing I can't count that high

First Reading

Romans 11:33-12:8

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on

earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Message Song

“Death Was Arrested”

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin,
Lost without hope with no place to begin;
Your love made a way to let mercy come in,
When death was arrested and my life began.

Ash was redeemed, only beauty remains;
My orphan heart was given a name.
My mourning grew quiet, my feet rose to dance,
When death was arrested and my life began.

Oh Your grace, so free, washes over me.
You have made me new, now life begins with You.
It's Your endless love pouring down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with You.

Released from my chains, I'm a pris'ner no more.
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore.
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend,
When death was arrested and my life began.

Oh Your grace, so free, washes over me.
You have made me new, now life begins with You.
It's Your endless love pouring down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with You.

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross.
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost.
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand.

That's when death was arrested and my life began.

Oh Your grace, so free, washes over me.
You have made me new, now life begins with You.
It's Your endless love pouring down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with You.

Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free.
Come join the song of all the redeemed.
Yes, we're free, free, forever, amen!
When death was arrested and my life began.

Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free.
Come join the song of all the redeemed.
Yes, we're free, free, forever, amen!
When death was arrested and my life began.
When death was arrested and my life began.
When death was arrested and my life began.

Message

"Victory Through Sacrifice"

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

"Instrumental"

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

Sermon Notes

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Acknowledgments

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