



St. John Lutheran Church

2888 W Houghton
Lake Dr
Houghton Lake,
MI 48629
989-366-5164

9:00 - Traditional



August 30, 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.

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'***

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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service Four (pp 203ff)

Prelude

Sharing of the Peace and Welcome

Opening Song

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" LSB 733

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt Text: Public domain

Invocation

LSB 203

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

L Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

L Almighty God,

C Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit (Entrance)

L Delight yourself in the Lord,

C and he will give you the desires of your heart.

L Commit your way to the Lord;

C trust in him, and he will act.

L He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

C and your justice as the noonday.

- L** Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
- C** **fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy) *(Sung)*

LSB 204

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

Gloria in Excelsis (Glory to God in the Highest) *(Sung)*

LSB 204

- C** **To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing—Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry, Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—

For You alone are holy, You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High, In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

Prayer of the Day

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Let us pray together...
- C** **Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and

seek to show hospitality.¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (*Sung*)

LSB 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the sixteenth chapter

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

☐ 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.

Children's Message

Message Song

"O Worship the King" *LSB 804*

O worship the King, all-glorious above.
O gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor
and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path
on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, Thy pow'r

hath founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast,
like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Message

“Back Seat Driver”

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

Service of the Sacrament

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and proper . . . Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus (Holy) *(Sung)*

LSB 208

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- 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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) (sung)

LSB 210

G O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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 Hymn

“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” *LSB 651*

I love Your kingdom, Lord,
The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav’nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your Church, O God,
Your saints in ev’ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall;
For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv’n
Till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv’n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav’n.

Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752–1817, alt.

Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) *(Sung)*

LSB 211

☐ O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav’nly peace, For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this beneficial gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A **Amen.**

Benediction (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 ✠ give you peace.

A **Amen.**

Closing Song

LSB 837 vs 1,2,5 & 6

Ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. **Refrain**

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. **Refrain**

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

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Acknowledgments

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