



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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5:00 - Contemporary



September 5, 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.

We encourage you to stay after worship. Please introduce yourself to new people, catch up with old friends and make new friends.

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'

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Time of Preparation

Preludes

"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

"Great I Am"

I wanna be close close to Your side
So Heaven is real and death is a lie
I wanna hear voices of angels above
Singing as one

Hallelujah holy holy God Almighty great I Am
Who is worthy none beside Thee God Almighty great I Am

I wanna be near near to Your heart
Loving the world hating the dark
I wanna see dry bones living again
Singing as one

Hallelujah holy holy God Almighty great I Am
Who is worthy none beside Thee God Almighty great I Am
The mountains shake before You The demons run and flee
At the mention of Your name King of majesty
There is no pow'r in hell or any who can stand
Before the power and the Presence of the great I Am
The great I Am The great I Am The great I Am
The great I Am The great I Am

Hallelujah holy holy God Almighty great I Am
Who is worthy none beside Thee God Almighty great I Am

Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call to Worship

Opening 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

"Trust In You"

Letting go of every single dream, I lay each one down at Your feet.

Every moment of my wandering, never changes what You see.

I've tried to win this war, I confess, my hands are weary, I need Your rest.

Mighty Warrior, King of the fight, no matter what I face, You're by my side.

When You don't move the mountains, I'm needing You to move,

when You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through,

when You don't give the answers as I cry out to You

I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You.

Truth is You know what tomorrow brings.
There's not a day ahead You have not seen, no.
So in all things be my life and breath,
I want what You want, Lord, and nothing else.

When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move,
when You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through,
when You don't give the answers as I cry out to You
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You. I will trust in You.

You are my strength and comfort, You are my steady hand,
You are my firm foundation, the Rock on which I stand.
Your ways are always higher, Your plans are always good.
There's not a place where I'll go You've not already stood.

When You don't move the mountains, I'm needing You to move,
when You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through,
when You don't give the answers as I cry out to You
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You.
I will trust in You. I will trust in You.

First Reading

Romans 13:1-10

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word:

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:1-6

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Message Song

"Build My Life"

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You We live for You

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You We live for You

Holy there is no one like You

There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone And I will not be shaken

I will build my life upon Your love It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone And I will not be shaken
Holy there is no one like You There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone And I will not be shaken

Message

"Not My Favorite Subject"

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.

Blessing

℟ 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.

☩ Amen.

Sending Song

"It Really Is (Amazing Grace)"

Amazing grace How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost But now I'm found Was blind but now I see

Singing Hallelujah There's no chains on me

Thank You Jesus You have set me free

You welcomed me in Called me by name

Was dead in my sin

Now I'm dancing on that grave

Hallelujah it really is amazing grace

'Twas grace that taught My heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did That grace appear

The hour I first believed

Singing Hallelujah There's no chains on me

Thank You Jesus You have set me free

You welcomed me in Called me by name

Was dead in my sin

Now I'm dancing on that grave

Hallelujah it really is amazing grace

I'll testify Of what He did He gave me life I'm born again

My heart is free My soul is saved It really is amazing grace

I'll testify Of what He did He gave me life I'm born again

My heart is free My soul is saved It really is amazing grace

It really is it really is It really is amazing grace

It really is It really is

Sing Hallelujah Hallelujah There's no chains on me

Thank You Jesus You have set me free

You welcomed me in Called me by name

Was dead in my sin Now I'm dancing on that grave

Hallelujah it really is amazing grace

It really is It really is amazing grace It really is It really is

It really is amazing grace

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Acknowledgments

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