



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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September 12, 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 .

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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5:00 - Contemporary

***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'*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preludes

"Only A Holy God"

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendor outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God Only my Holy God

Come and behold Him The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God

Come and worship the Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call to Worship

Opening Song

“Child Of Love”

I was walking the wayside Lost on a lonely road
I was chasing the high life Try'n to satisfy my soul

All the lies I believed in Left me crying like the rain
Then I saw lightning from heaven And I've never been the same

I'm gonna climb a mountain I'm gonna shout about it
I am a child of love I found a world of freedom
I found a friend in Jesus I am a child of love

I've felt the sting of the fire But I saw You in the flames
Just when I thought it was over You broke me out of the grave
I'm gonna climb a mountain I'm gonna shout about it
I am a child of love I found a world of freedom
I found a friend in Jesus I am a child of love

Yeah yeah oh
I am a child of love Yeah oh
I am a child of love

Nothing can change the way You love me Nothing can change the way
I belong to You Yes I do. Nothing can separate
Nothing can change the way You love me Nothing can change the way
I belong to You Yes I do. Nothing can separate

I'm gonna climb a mountain I am a child of love
I found a world of freedom I am a child of love
I'm gonna climb a mountain I'm gonna shout about it
I am a child of love I found a world of freedom
I found a friend in Jesus I am a child of love

Oh yeah oh I am a child of love
I am a child of love

Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

“Who You Say I Am”

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost but He brought me in.

Oh, His love for me. Oh, His love for me.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed.

I'm a child of God, yes I am.

Free at last, He has ransomed me. His grace runs deep.

While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me. Yes, He died for me.

In my Father's house there's a place for me. I'm a child of God, yes I am.

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.

You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.

I am who You say I am.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed.

I'm a child of God, yes I am.

(Instrumental Interlude)

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.

You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.

Oh, I am who You say I am. Yes, I am who You say I am.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed. I'm a child of God, yes I am.

In my Father's house There's a place for me. I'm a child of God, yes I am.

First Reading

Romans 14:1-12

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The

one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So

also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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

Message

"Judging From the Past"

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

“Thank You Jesus For The Blood”

I was a wretch I remember who I was
I was lost I was blind I was running out of time
Sin separated the breach was far too wide
But from the far side of the chasm You had me in Your sight
So You made a way across the great divide
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here inside
There at the cross You paid the debt I owed
Broke my chains freed my soul For the first time I had hope
Thank You Jesus for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light
You took my place laid inside my tomb of sin
You were buried for three days
But then You walked right out again
And now death has no sting and life has no end
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

There is nothing stronger
Than the wonder working power
Of the blood the blood
That calls us sons and daughters
We are ransomed by our Father Through the blood the blood

There is nothing stronger
Than the wonder working power
Of the blood the blood
That calls us sons and daughters
We are ransomed by our Father Through the blood the blood

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

Glory to His name Glory to His Name
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name

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

“Can’t Steal My Joy”

In the valley of the shadow
I got a feeling it's a season that'll make me grow
I'm still breathing I got praise in my lungs
And a choir in my soul

Can't steal my joy Can't steal my joy
What the world couldn't give no it can't take away
Sorrow may come but it can't steal my joy
Can't steal my joy

In the high highs in the low lows
You fill my cup You fill it up until it overflows
I remember I'll keep holding on to hope
'Cause You're the king of rolling stones

Can't steal my joy Can't steal my joy
What the world couldn't give no it can't take away
Sorrow may come but it can't steal my joy

Can't steal my joy
(Wa oh oh oh) (Wa oh oh oh) (Wa oh oh oh)
Can't steal my joy
(Wa oh oh oh) (Wa oh oh oh) (Wa oh oh oh)

Can't steal my joy joy joy
Down in my heart down in my soul deep in my bones
I got the joy joy joy
I can't contain nothing can quiet my praise

I got the joy joy joy
Down in my heart down in my soul deep in my bones
I got the joy joy joy
I can't contain nothing can quiet my praise
Can't steal my joy

Can't steal my joy Can't steal my joy
Can't steal my joy
What the world couldn't give no it can't take away
Sorrow may come but it can't steal my joy
Can't steal my joy
(Wa oh oh oh) (Wa oh oh oh) (Wa oh oh oh)
(Wa oh oh oh) (Wa oh oh oh) (Wa oh oh oh)
Can't steal my joy

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Acknowledgments

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