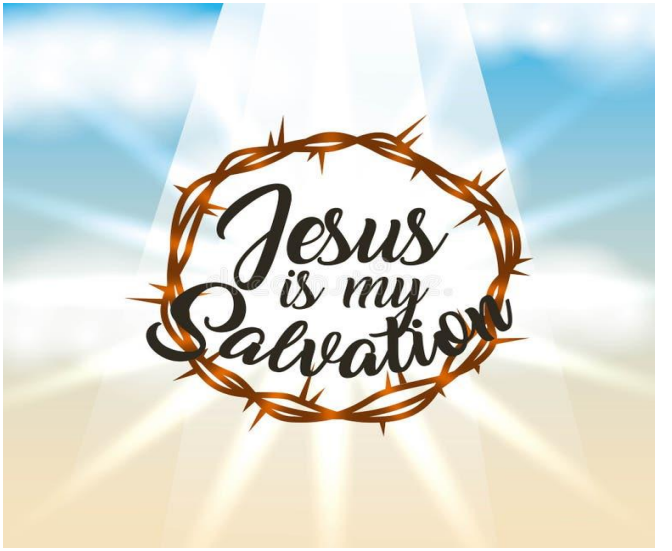


St. John Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
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Houghton Lake, MI 48629
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5:00 - Contemporary



November 14, 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

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com
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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'

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost **A Time of Preparation**

Prelude **"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

Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call to Worship

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Opening Song "House Of the Lord"

We worship the God who was We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors He parted the raging sea
My God He holds the victory

There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

Oh oh oh We shout out Your praise

We sing to the God who heals We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away

There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

We were the beggars Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners Now we're running free
We are forgiven accepted Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise

'Cause We were the beggars Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners Now we're running free
We are forgiven accepted Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise

There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

Confession and Absolution

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;

C **give ear to my pleas for mercy!**

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as children of the light. We have fallen into complacency, forgetting who You are and who we are. We have grown comfortable in habits that do not honor You. We have buried what You have given us rather than loving our neighbor with those gifts. We have become complacent in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. God has not destined you for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray together ...

C **Almighty and ever-living God, You have destined us to obtain salvation through Your Son, delivering us from the darkness of sin and claiming us as children of light. Ready our hearts for Your return, that we may be defended from complacency; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Song of Praise "Made For More"

I know who I am 'cause I know who You are
The cross of salvation was only the start
Now I am chosen free and forgiven
I have a future and it's worth the living

‘Cause I wasn’t made to be tending a grave
I was called by name Born and raised back to life again
I was made for more
So why would I make a bed in my shame
When a fountain of grace is running my way I know I am Yours
And I was made for more

I know who I am ’cause I know who You are
The cross of salvation was only the start
Now I am chosen free and forgiven
I have a future and it’s worth the living

‘Cause I wasn’t made to be tending a grave
I was called by name Born and raised back to life again
I was made for more
So why would I make a bed in my shame
When a fountain of grace is running my way I know I am Yours
And I was made for more

Hallelujah You called out my name So I’ll sing out Your praise
Hallelujah You buried my past I’m not going back
Hallelujah You called out my name So I’ll sing out Your praise
Hallelujah You buried my past I’m not going back

I wasn’t made to be tending a grave
I was called by name Born and raised back to life again
I was made for more
So why would I make a bed in my shame
When a fountain of grace is running my way I know I am Yours
And I was made for more

I wasn’t made to be tending a grave
I was called by name Born and raised back to life again
I was made for more

First Reading Zephaniah 1:7-16

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.**8** And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire.**9** On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. **10** "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.**11** Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.**12** At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts,'The LORD will not do good nor will he do ill.'**13** Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."**14** The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.**15** A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,**16** a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **4** But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. **5** For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. **6** So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us so

that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord**

14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. **15** To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. **17** So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. **18** But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. **19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **20** And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' **21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' **22** And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' **23** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' **24** He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' **26** But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. **29** For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

℃ **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Message Song "Battle Belongs"

When all I see is the battle You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now For I am safe with You

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You

And if You are for me Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing Impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross God You see the empty tomb

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You

Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against The power of our God
You shine in the shadows You win every battle
Nothing can stand against The power of our God

An Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against The power of our God
You shine in the shadows You win every battle
Nothing can stand against The power of our God

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You
O God the battle belongs to You

Message "Not of Darkness"

Confession – Luther's Small Catechism

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Prayer of the Church

P: … hear our prayer, O Lord,

C: give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.

Lord's Prayer

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.

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.

C 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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