



St. John's Lutheran Church
September 17, 2023

Welcome to St. John's

Thanks for being here today! We feel blessed that you're here and truly pray you find the warmth of our Christian family, the powerful truth of God's Word and the peaceful assurance of His promises. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. To start, everything for our worship is projected on the screens up front and printed here in the service folder. God bless your time with us today. We hope you can worship with us again!

If You're New to St. John's:

You and your kids are welcome. We really love and enjoy having kids in worship and encourage the worshipping family! In fact, our worship often includes a children's message with little ones in mind. And if your children are acting up, please know it's never a bother to our worship service. However, if you do need a quiet place to calm a child, a nursery room is available with screens immediately to the left as you exit the sanctuary. There are also changing stations in each bathroom.

Restrooms are located in the entrance as you came into the building

Make yourself at home. You don't have to rush off after service today. Light refreshments are usually provided in our social hall after worship. If you feel comfortable, please stay and follow up with one of our pastors; we'd be honored if you took a moment to introduce yourself!

Don't feel obligated. Our members give financial offerings to the Lord as an expression of thanks and praise for his amazing love. Please know that you are our guests and we're simply happy you've come to hear about Jesus and His Word today. You're not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

Cell Phones. To remove as many distractions as possible from worshipping God today, we kindly ask you to silence your phone before the service.

Fill out a Connection Card. We'd love to know you were here and help you take the next step. There are Connection Cards inserted in the worship folders, or they can be completed online. Text "Connect" to 651-401-1400, scan the QR code, or visit www.StJohnsLutheran.com/connection-card to complete the card online.

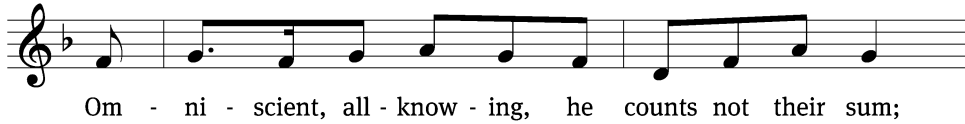


Opening Worship: His Mercy Is More


CW 579 sts. 1, Ref



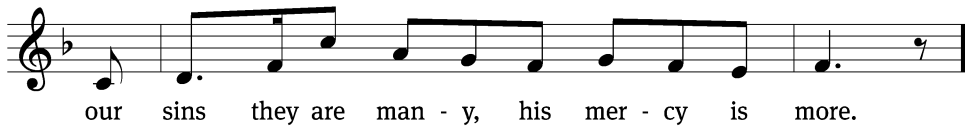
1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;



thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,



our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.

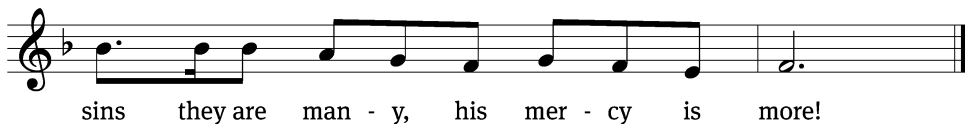
Refrain



Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!



Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our



sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

Stand

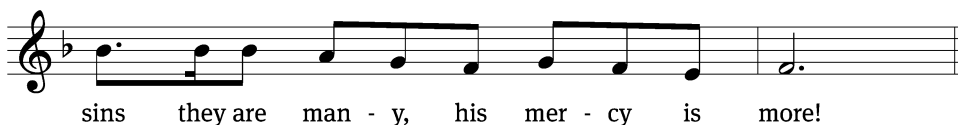
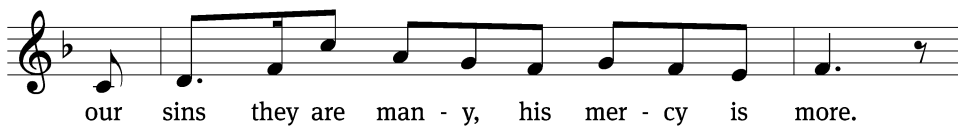
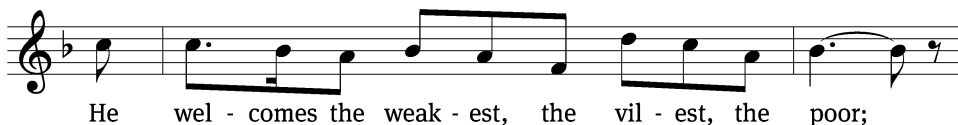
We Worship with God's Blessing

Dear members and friends! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

May that same grace, love and fellowship be with you as well!

As a family of God, we join to worship the Lord our Savior, and give thanks for the opportunities and blessings he gives us to hear and learn the very Word of God.

Let us join our hearts, voices, and prayers as we praise God's holy name!



Gracious God, today your Word reminds us that your heart is overflowing with mercy.
Give us the strength to let go of the sin with which others have hurt us,
Just as you have put our sins out of your own mind.

Make us people who are rich in forgiveness,
And give us hearts that are generous in mercy. Amen!

3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;
his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.

Refrain
Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!
Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our
sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

CW 579 sts. 3, Ref

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

God's Word

Ephesians 4:29—5:2

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

¹Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We Profess our Faith: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²²Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³²“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

CW 733



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,”
2 How can your par - don reach and bless
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



you taught us, Lord, to pray, but you a - lone can
the un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
the truth we dim - ly knew: how small are oth - ers’
and bid re - sent - ment cease; then, bound to all in



grant us grace to live the words we say.
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
debts to us, how great our debt to you!
bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Today's Message based on Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Message Notes: *Things for me to remember this week...*

Our Offering of Thanks & Love

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:12

Our offerings are both an expression of thankfulness for what our Savior has done for us, and a way of supporting the spread of the gospel through the Church’s work. Guests need not feel obligated to contribute.

Ways to Give Electronically

Choose one of 3 Simple, Safe Options for Offering Thanks



- Text “give” to 651-401-1400
 - Go to www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give
 - Scan the QR code
-

Bible Gift to Students Grades 3-6

Sunday School students in grades 3-6 are invited to come forward to receive a bible

Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament - *Our preparation and examination*

Dear Friends, each one of us has been forgiven a debt of sin so immense that it’s truly beyond our ability to comprehend.

Why then, do we find it so difficult to let go of the sins that others commit against us?

It’s by nature that we don’t want to admit our sin or the depths of our depravity. Yet God calls us to examine our hearts in the light of his perfect and holy will and to confess all our sin—both the sins we are aware of and those we are not. So we heed God’s call and confess our sins...

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. I know that my spiritual weakness is the result of my failure to stay connected to Jesus. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But Lord, I am truly sorry for my sins. I trust in the loving work of my Savior Jesus and I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness; leave be -
hind all gloom and sad - ness. Come in - to the day-light's
splen - dor; there with joy your prais - es ren - der
un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed has this won - drous
sup - per found - ed. He, though reign - ing high and
ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.

CW21 663 st. 1

Jesus once comforted a man named Zacchaeus when he said that he, "...came to seek and to save what was lost." This same Jesus came also for you. Jesus lived a holy life for us. Jesus died to pay for all our sins. Jesus rose on Easter to declare: YOU ARE FORGIVEN! Be at peace for Jesus' sake...

2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, and with
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet him, for with words of life im -
 mor - tal he is knock - ing at your por - tal.
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore him, say - ing, as you
 there a - dore him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 ceive you, that I nev - er - more will leave you.

CW21 663 st. 2

By faith we see and receive our Savior's true body and blood – in, with, and under – the bread and wine, given and shed for us. By faith we hear and believe our Savior's Words of Power and Promise:

(Words of Institution) Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn: Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness CW21 663 sts. 3-8



3 He who craves a pre-cious trea - sure nei - ther
 4 Now I kneel be - fore you low - ly, filled with
 5 Hu - man rea - son, though it pon - ders, can - not
 6 Lord, by love and mer - cy driv - en, you have



cost nor pain will mea - sure, but the price - less gifts of
 joy most deep and ho - ly, as with trem - bling awe and
 fath - om these great won - ders, that Christ's bod - y must be
 left your throne in heav - en on the cross for me to



heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
 won - der on your might - y work I pon - der,
 bound - less since the souls it feeds are count - less,
 lan - guish and to die in bit - ter an - guish,



Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, naught would buy the
 by such mys - ter - y sur - round - ed, depths that no one
 and that he his blood is giv - ing with the wine we
 to for - go all joy and glad - ness and to shed your



gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 ev - er sound - ed. None may dare to pierce un -
 are re - ceiv - ing. These great mys - ter - ies un -
 blood in sad - ness. By this blood re - deemed and



riv - en, and his blood, for you once giv - en.
 bid - den se - crets that with you are hid - den.
 sound - ed are by God a - lone ex - pound - ed.
 liv - ing, Lord, I praise you with thanks - giv - ing.

7 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
fount of life, my soul inspiring:
at your feet I cry, my maker,
let me be a fit partaker
of this blessed food from heaven
for our good, your glory, given.

8 Jesus, Lord of life in heaven,
help me when this meal is given
to receive it for my blessing
as I come, my sins confessing.
In this supper let me measure,
Lord, how deep is your love's treasure,
that, as I on earth have eaten,
I may be your guest in heaven.

***A note to our guests:** God's Word speaks of the spiritual blessings of this Sacrament (Matthew 26:28). God's Word also warns us against the spiritual danger in sharing this Holy meal (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Because we deeply care about you and don't want to see anyone's faith harmed, we ask that if you have not studied with us or spoken with our pastors first, that you would refrain from joining in the sacrament today. We are not judging your love for Jesus but rather displaying loving caution for all involved. Please feel free to ask one of our pastors for more information. We are eager to listen and share over an open Bible. Thanks!*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Oh, How Good It Is

CW21 731



1 Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God dwells to -
2 Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share to re -
3 Oh, how good it is to em - brace his com - mand to pre -



geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty. Where the
joice with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn. For the
fer one an - oth - er, for - give as he for - gives. When we



bonds of peace, of ac - cept - ance and love are the
weak find strength, the af - flict - ed find grace when we
live as one we all share in the love of the



fruits of his pres - ence here a - mong us.
of - fer the bless - ing of be - long - ing.
Son with the Fa - ther and the Spir - it.

Refrain



So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,



and with one heart we'll live out his word,



till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has come,



for he dwells in the pres - ence of his peo - ple.

Take the Next Step

If this is your first time with us, we're so glad that you took a big step and came to worship. What's your next step?

Come back next week

Connecting with God at worship is a great way to spend time during your weekend.

Try "God & Me"

God & Me is the place to learn more about God's word in your life, for both long time-members and beginners who want to learn more about God's love, the Bible, and St. John's. A new session of classes will be starting soon. Connect with Pastor and/or check the box on your Connection Card if you'd like to know more.

Join a Grow Group

Grow Groups are small groups that get together in person or online to learn about God's Word. It's a safe, comfortable atmosphere to discuss the way God's love intersects our daily lives. If you are interested in joining or starting a Grow Group or Bible Study, mark the box on your Connection Card and we will reach out to you.

Service Opportunities

There are multiple areas to volunteer each Sunday to make worship happen well for those in person and online: Guest Services & Hospitality Team, Tech Team, & Worship Prep Team. Are you interested in serving? Mark the box on your Connection Card today!

Staff


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Visit us online:  www.StJohnsLutheran.com

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