

St. John's Lutheran Church
September 1, 2024

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 worshiping 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.



Welcome to St. John's

In Christ Alone

CW 510 sts. 1-3



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -
world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.

Stand

We Worship with God's Blessing

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our Honest Confession; God's Gracious Forgiveness

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called 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.

Amen.



4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

CW 510 st. 4

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God's Word for Our Hearts

Romans 9:30—10:4

³⁰What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. ³²Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³As it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall,
and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

¹Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ²For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jeremiah 15:16

Alleluia. When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight.
Alleluia.

The Gospel Reading

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

¹The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ²and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“ ‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

²¹For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²²adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

O God, My Faithful God

CW 740



1 O God, my faith - ful God, O Foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Grant me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing things that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes with kind - ly words and ac - tions,



who good and per - fect gifts in mer - cy are be - stow - ing,
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing,
grant that no i - dle words may from my lips be fall - ing,
and let me find good friends for coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
that I do what I should while trust - ing you to bless
but when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small



a con-science free from blame, a soul un - hurt by sin.
the out - come for my good, for you must give suc - cess.
then fill my words with grace lest I of - fend the weak.
and by your Spir - it's might to live in peace with all.

Today's Message based on Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

¹Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

⁶Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” ⁷What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

⁹Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

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

Our Confession of 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.

Be seated

Our Offering of Thanks & Love

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” - Colossians 3:17

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

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

Preface

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with believing and repentant hearts, we offer our humble thanks and praise as we hear again your promises in this Supper:

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 \dagger 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.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us your peace.
a tempo
A-men. A-men. A-men.

Be seated

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 only those persons who are members of our church or fellowship join us in this intimate expression of oneness (1 Corinthians 10:17; Amos 3:3). We are not judging your love for Jesus; we are showing our love for Jesus by obeying his commands (John 14:15,21). Please feel free to ask one of our pastors for more information. We are eager to listen and share over an open Bible. Thanks!

Distribution Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared CW 667



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared this feast for
 2 Al - though you did to heav'n as - cend, where an - gel
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, you are not con - fined to an - y
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; it is your bod - y
 hosts are dwell - ing, and in your pres - ence
 hab - i - ta - tion, but you are pres - ent
 Word be - liev - ing that your true bod - y



and your blood, and at your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 ev - 'ry - where and with your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and your blood our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.




as wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, we come to
 and though your peo - ple shall not see your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, and there is




you for need - ed rest, for com - fort, and for par - don.
 and your maj - es - ty till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 naught you can - not do, for you, Lord, are al - might - y.

(continued on the next page)




5 Though rea - son can - not un - der - stand, yet faith this
 6 Lord, I be - lieve what you have said; help me when
 7 Grant that we wor - thi - ly re - ceive your sup - per,
 8 For your con - sol - ing sup - per, Lord, be praised through-




truth em - brac - es: your bod - y, Lord, is
 doubts as - sail me. Re - mem - ber that I
 Lord, our Sav - ior, and, tru - ly griev - ing
 out all ag - es! Pre - serve it, for in



e - ven now at once in man - y plac - es.
 am but dust, and let my faith not fail me.
 for our sins, may prove by our be - hav - ior
 ev - 'ry place the world a - gainst it rag - es.



I leave to you how this can be; your Word a -
 Your sup - per in this vale of tears re - fresh - es
 that we are thank - ful for your grace and day by
 Grant that this sac - ra - ment may be a bless - ed



lone suf - fic - es me; I trust its truth un - fail - ing.
 me and stills my fears and is my price - less trea - sure.
 day may run our race, in ho - li - ness in - creas - ing.
 com - fort un - to me when liv - ing and when dy - ing.

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, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

CW 705 sts. 1-3



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep,



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.

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!

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – WELS