



St. John's Lutheran Church
September 15, 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 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.



Welcome to St. John's

Stand

We Worship and Confess

Dear friends, every moment of worship is meant to be an offering of praise to the one, true, God...

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

But God's love is greater than our praise! He promises his Word *"will not return to him empty but will accomplish... the purpose for which he sent it."* (Is 55:1)

Even as we worship him, WE are the ones who are blessed!

(we pray) – O Lord, thank you for the gift of your Word. Plant it deep in our hearts so that we may live free from the power of Satan and the fear of death. Help us apply what we hear today that our faiths may be strengthened, our words of witness be clearer, and our lives filled with your blessing.

We believe you hear and answer us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

O Church, Arise

CW 870 st. 1



1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
 gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
 cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.

Even though the devil was defeated once for all by Jesus, this life will always include hurt, evil, and deceit.

He still works to mislead our hearts and damage our faith with his lies.

It's our own sinful hearts that make us susceptible to him. But we also know that God promises to strengthen our faiths by reminding us that our sins are forgiven. So we join to confess our sins:

Father in heaven, you know our struggle with sin. That's why you sent Jesus.

We come in his name, acknowledging we are no match for the devil.

We continue to sin and deserve your just and eternal judgment.

Lord, we desperately need what you have already promised us: that our sins are forgiven AND that your Spirit living in us gives us the power to live for you.

For Jesus' sake, renew us today through the good news of your saving love.

All (♪) Our call to war—to love the captive soul,
 but to rage against the captor;
 and with the sword that makes the wounded whole
 we will fight with faith and valor.
 When faced with trials on ev'ry side,
 we know the outcome is secure,
 and Christ will have the prize for which he died—
 an inheritance of nations.


CW 870 st. 2

The Son of God became the Son of Man to rescue us from Satan's power by sacrificing his life on the cross for our sins. Because of HIM you can be certain: Your sins are forgiven! You are free from the rule of darkness to walk with your Lord Jesus in the light of his kingdom.


Amen! All praise and thanks to our Living Savior!



3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—




Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -
grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to




neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -
As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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 for Our Hearts

1 Kings 18:21–39

²¹Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

But the people said nothing.

²²Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the LORD’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it.

²⁴Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”

Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

²⁵Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.”

²⁶So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” ²⁸So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ³¹Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” ³²With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

³⁴“Do it again,” he said, and they did it again.

“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

³⁹When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 31:1

Alleluia. In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Alleluia.

The Gospel Reading

Mark 9:14–27

¹⁴When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

¹⁶“What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

¹⁷A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

¹⁹“You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”

²⁰So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. ²²“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

²³“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

²⁴Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”

²⁶The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor

CW 812



1 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor in the
 2 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor while the
 3 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor through the
 4 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor as we



fu - ry of the storm— when the winds of doubt blow
 tem - pest ra - ges on— when temp - ta - tion claims the
 floods of un - be - lief— hope - less, some - how, O my
 face the wave of death— when these trials give way to



through me and my sails have all been torn,
 bat - tle and it seems the night has won,
 soul now, lift your eyes to Cal - va - ry.
 glo - ry and we draw our fi - nal breath,



in the suf - f'ring, in the sor - row, when my
 deep - er still then goes the an - chor, though I
 This my bal - last of as - sur - ance, see his
 we will cross that great ho - ri - zon, clouds be -
Christ, the shore of our sal - va - tion, ev - er



sink - ing hopes are few, I will hold fast to the
 just - ly stand ac - cused; I will hold fast to the
 love for - ev - er proved; I will hold fast to the
 hind and life se - cure, and the calm will be the
faith - ful, ev - er true— we will hold fast to the



an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.
 bet - ter, for the storms that we en - dure.
an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.

4th stanza repeat italics

Today's Message based on Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

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 † 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.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

introduced by a soloist and repeated by the congregation

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second and third staves contain the first phrase of the hymn. The fourth and fifth staves contain the second phrase. The sixth and seventh staves contain the final phrase. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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: Here I Am, Lord

sung by a soloist

*I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save*

*I have made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

*Refrain Here I am, Lord, is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart*

*I the Lord of the snow and rain,
I have born my people' pain
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.*

*I will break their heart's of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain

*I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save*

*Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?*

Refrain

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.

We Walk by Faith

CW 830 sts. 1, 3, 5



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, no
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you



none e'er spoke, but we be - lieve him near.
you are near and seek where you are found.
as you are with full and end - less sight.

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

Dennis Harbach | Pastor
pastordh@stjohnslutheran.com
(262) 402-2664

Jon Zimpelmann | Pastor
Jon.zimpelmann@gmail.com
(651) 829-4574

Michelle Schulte | Office Admin
Admin@StJohnsLutheran.com
(651) 438-3730



Visit us online:



StJohnsLutheran.com



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – WELS