



**St. John's Lutheran Church –  
March 30, 2025**



# Welcome to St. John's

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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](http://www.StJohnsLutheran.com/connection-card) to complete the card online.



# Welcome to St. John's

Stand

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

When God's children rebel and wander from his ways, he desires that they return to him for pardon and peace through his Son. The courts of heaven resound with joy when a single wayward child returns home.

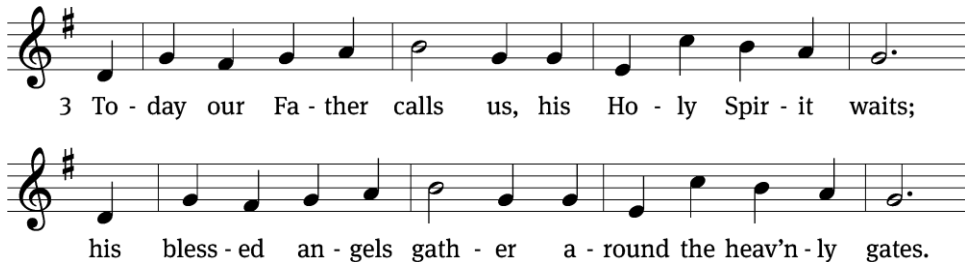
**There is rejoicing in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents.**

*Luke 15:10*

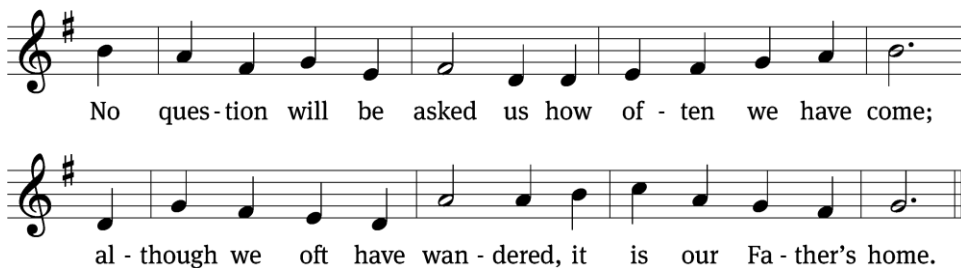
Children of God, the time to turn to our Father for forgiveness is now. God made Christ our sin that we might become his righteousness. He implores us to be reconciled to him, promising:

**In the time of my favor I heard you,  
and in the day of salvation I helped you.** *2 Corinthians 5:21-6:2*

*The congregation sings:*



3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.



No ques-tion will be asked us how of-ten we have come;  
al-though we oft have wan-dered, it is our Fa-ther's home.

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.**

The congregation sings:



2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in  
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.  
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

## Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For perspective to see that, apart from Christ, gain is loss, and in Christ, loss is gain, and for the perseverance to press on and take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

The congregation sings:



O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,  
what should we do with - out you when heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem a - gainst us, to drive us to de - spair,  
we know one gate is o - pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; 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*

## Children's Message

## God's Word for our Hearts

Isaiah 12

<sup>1</sup>In that day you will say:

“I will praise you, LORD.

Although you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away  
and you have comforted me.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.”

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>In that day you will say:

“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;  
let this be known to all the world.

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,  
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:10

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.



## The Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>4</sup>Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup>“ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

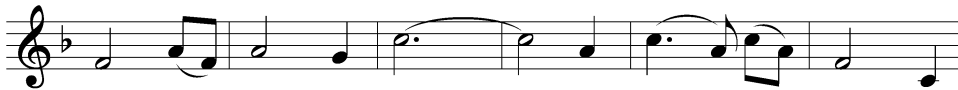
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Amazing Grace

CW 576



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

## Today's Message from our Loving God – Romans 8:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

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

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## **We Confess Our Faith: Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.*

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### **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](http://www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give)
- Scan the QR code

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*Stand*

## **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.**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through 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.**

*Be seated*

# Closing Song: His Mercy Is More

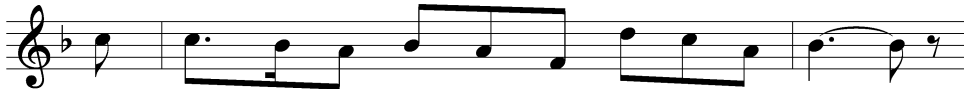
CW 579



1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?  
2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,  
3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;  
what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!  
his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.



thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,  
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;  
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;



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



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!

# Take the Next Step

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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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