



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

**Confirmation Sunday
Sixth Sunday in Easter
May 5, 2024
10:45 a.m. Worship**



TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ... go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/> Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.

NOTE: Announcements and Prayers can now be found online by clicking on the “Church” tab and then going to “Church”

God's Boundless Love

Jesus imparted a message to His disciples emphasizing the importance of love within their community. He encouraged them to love one another sacrificially as He loved them. These words ring true today. We must foster a community of selfless love, breaking down the barriers of division and hatred. By actively demonstrating God's boundless love through acts of kindness, understanding, and genuine care for one another, we become more like Christ and can experience His boundless love that transforms us to be more like Him.

♪ “Build My Life”

Words and Music by Brett younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, and Pat Barrett
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Thankyou music | Vamos Publishing | worshiptogether.com songs | Martin, Karl Andrew | Bethel Music Publishing

- 1,4** Worthy of every song we could ever sing.
 Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
 Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe.
 We live for You.
- 2,5** Jesus the name above every other name.
 Jesus the only one who could ever save.
 Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe.
 We live for You. We live for You.
- 3,6,8** Holy, there is no one like You, there is none besides You.
 Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are and fill me
 With Your heart and lead me in Your love to those around me.
- 7,9** I will build my life upon Your love; it is a firm foundation.
 I will put my trust in You alone, and I will not be shaken.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Amidst the joy and celebration of this morning we take time to acknowledge the areas of our lives that separate us from God and from one another.
- C** **Heavenly Father, in the death and resurrection of Your Son You reconciled us to Yourself and tore down walls—both the walls separating us from You and the ones that separated us from each other. Forgive us for the ways we have considered ourselves better**

than others. Forgive us for the ways we have chosen comfort, safety, and familiarity over Your call to love our neighbor as ourselves. Help us to build bridges where our sinful nature longs to build barriers. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name.

P Christ Himself has brought us peace. He united us when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us (*Eph. 2:14*).

C **Together as one body, Christ reconciled us to God by means of His death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death (*Eph. 2:16*)**

P Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. We come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.**

Introit

Ps. 66:1-2, 8-9, 20; antiphon: Ps. 66:16

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, **who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

Blessèd be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 10:34-48

Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 John 5:1-8

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 15:9-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.**

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,**

who spoke by the prophets.

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Message

Deacon Chris Townley

♪ "I Will Not Be Shaken"

Words and Music by Jacob Park and Tommy Walker
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1. & 4. He is my rock, my shield, my fortress.
He's my salvation and my strength.
The cords of death, they were surrounding me,
But He heard my cry for help.
2. He is my refuge, my high tower.
He's my deliverer so strong.
The snares of death,
They were confronting me,
But He heard my cry for help.
3. & 5. So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.
I will not be shaken.
So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.
I will not be shaken.
6. Our God will not be moved.
Our God will never change.
Our God will reign forevermore. (repeat 3 times)

(continued on page 7)

7. & 9. So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.
 I will not be shaken.
 So I'll stand and trust, I'll stand in faith.
 I will not be shaken.
8. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.
 Early in the morning
 My song shall rise to Thee.
 Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty;
 God in three persons, Blessed Trinity.

Sermon

Offering

The Rite of Confirmation

Madilynn Paulowski

Makenzie Paulowski

Christopher Smith

Eli Trombley

Psalms 46:1-2

Proverbs 3:5-6

Matthew 28:19

Revelation 22:13

Prayer of the Church

The 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.

Communion Preparation

- P Let us approach this communion table in remembrance of the sacrificial
 love of Christ. This correlates with the truths in John chapter 15:
- C "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life
 for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you."

P Today, we celebrate the unity that we share in Christ’s sacrifice as He laid down His life for us—His friends. As we partake in communion together, breaking the bread and drinking of the cup, may we participate as loving people mirroring the boundless love Christ gives us.

The Words of Institution

♪ “O Come To The Altar”

Words and Music by Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye and Mack Brock
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Are you hurting and broken within,
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin? Jesus is calling,
Have you come to the end of yourself,
Do you thirst for a drink from the well? Jesus is calling.

Chorus: O come to the altar;
The Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes,
Come today; there's no reason to wait. Jesus is calling.
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy;
From the ashes a new life is born. Jesus is calling. (*Chorus 2x*)

Bridge (2x): Oh what a Savior, Isn't he wonderful;
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen.
Bow down before him, For he is Lord of all;
Sing alleluia Christ is risen.

Chorus (2x)

Instrumental section

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown;
Tell the world of the treasure you've found.

♪ “Behold the Lamb”

Words and Music by Melodie Malone, Phil Wickham and Kristian Stanfill

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See Him there, the great I Am,
A crown of thorns upon His head.
The Father’s heart displayed for us.
O God, we thank You for the cross.

Lifted up on Calvary’s hill,
We cursed Your name and even still
You bore our shame and paid the cost.
O God, we thank You for the cross.

Chorus: Behold the Lamb, the story of redemption written on His hands.
Jesus, You will reign forevermore. The victory is Yours.
We sing Your praise, endless hallelujahs to Your holy name.
Jesus, You will reign forevermore. The victory is Yours.

Offer up this sacrifice.
For every sin, our Savior died.
The Lord of Life can’t be contained.
Our God has risen from the grave.
Oh, our God has risen from the grave! Oh, (*Chorus*)

When the age of death is done,
We’ll see Your face bright as the sun.
We’ll bow before the King of kings.
O God, forever we will sing. (*Chorus*)

Chorus: Behold the Lamb, the story of redemption written on His hands.
Jesus, You will reign forevermore. The victory is Yours.
We sing Your praise, endless hallelujahs to Your holy name.
Jesus, You will reign forevermore. The victory is Yours.

Ending: You reign forevermore. The victory is Yours.

Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.

C Amen.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P As 1 John 5:4 states, “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” As we depart, live as children of God, breaking down barriers and living out God’s boundless love to your families, neighbors, friends, and strangers.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

“Graves into Gardens”

Words and Music by Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick and Tiffany Hammer
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I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.
Then You came along and put me back together.
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love.

Chorus: Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You,
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.
My failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all,
and You still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again.

Chorus (2x): Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You,
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

Bridge 1 (2x)
You turn mourning to dancing.
You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory.
You're the only one who can.

Bridge 2 (1x)

You turn graves into gardens.
You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can.

Chorus (2x): Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You,
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.

Bridge 2 (2x)
You turn graves into gardens.
You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.

Ending: You're the only one who can.

Acknowledgments

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General Announcements

1. **Ascension Day Chapel Service**
 - a. **Thursday, May 9 at 12:15pm** in the sanctuary
2. **Baby Bottle Fundraiser**
 - a. St. John's will be participating in our annual baby bottle fundraiser for LifeClinic this year from Mother's Day until Father's Day.
 - b. If you wish to participate, pick up a bottle from the church lounge after worship on Mother's Day, fill it with bills, coins or a check made out to LifeClinic Community Resources and return it to the church office by Father's Day.
3. **Men of Music Concert**
 - a. A fundraiser (freewill offering) for the Toni & Trish House for care of the terminally ill.
 - b. **Monday, May 13 at 7pm** – Memorial Presbyterian Church