



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2026

10:45 a.m. Worship



o 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.

Following Christ at Any Cost

Jesus speaks plainly about the cost and commitment of discipleship, reminding us that following Him will not always bring ease or approval from the world. He calls us to love Him above all else, to take up our cross, and to receive even the smallest acts of faith as service to Him. Yet in the midst of this challenging word, Christ also promises that those who welcome Him and His messengers receive life and blessing beyond measure. As we gather in worship today, may God strengthen our courage, deepen our loyalty to Christ, and shape us into faithful disciples who trust His promise more than the world's approval.

♪ “This is Our God”

Words and Music by Phil Wickham, Steven Furtick, Brandon Lake and Pat Barrett

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Remember those walls that we called sin and shame?
They were like prisons that we couldn't escape.
But He came and He died and He rose;
Those walls are rubble now.

Remember those giants we called death and grave?
They were like mountains that stood in our way.
But He came and He died and He rose;
Those giants are dead now.

Chorus: This is our God, this is who He is: He loves us.
This is our God, this is what He does: He saves us.
He bore the cross, beat the grave.
Let heaven and earth proclaim
This is our God, King Jesus.

Remember that fear that took our breath away?
Faith so weak that we could barely pray?
But He heard every word, every whisper.
Now those altars in the wilderness tell the story of His faithfulness.
Never once did He fail, and He never will. (*Chorus*)

Bridge: Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did.
Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus.
Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did.
Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus.
Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh.
Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Jesus.
Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh.
Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Him.

Chorus: This is our God, this is who He is: He loves us.
This is our God, this is what He does: He saves us.
He bore the cross, beat the grave.
Let heaven and earth proclaim
This is our God, King Jesus.

Ending: He bore the cross, beat the grave.
Let heaven and earth proclaim
This is our God, King Jesus.

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

P Lord, we confess.

C **Lord God, we confess that we have not always been faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We have sought comfort and approval more than faithfulness to You, and we have avoided the cost of following where You lead. We have failed to love You above all things and have often placed our own desires, fears, and relationships ahead of Your will. Forgive us for our half-hearted devotion and for the ways we have denied Your call in our daily lives. By Your mercy in Christ, renew us, strengthen our faith, and make us bold to take up our cross and follow Jesus wherever He leads.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer and die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 89:15-18; antiphon: Ps. 89:1

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,

who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted.

For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 7:1-13

Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law,

having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:34-42

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

Children's Message

Stephanie Davis

"Living Hope"

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson
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How great the chasm that lay between us.
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night.
Then through the darkness Your loving kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me His own.

Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope. (*Repeat*)

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.
Jesus, Yours is the victory!

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope. (*Repeat*)

Jesus Christ, my living hope.
O God, You are my living hope.

Sermon

Offering

Send-off for Senior High Youth Gathering

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.

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.

🎵 “Chain Breaker”

Words and Music by Jonathan Smith, Mia Fieldes and Zach Williams
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Tunes | Upside Down Under | Wisteria Drive

If you've been walking the same old road for miles and miles;
If you've been hearing the same old voice tell the same old lies;
If you're trying to fill the same old holes inside,
There's a better life, there's a better life.

Chorus: If you've got pain, He's a pain taker.
If you feel lost, He's a way maker.
If you need freedom or saving,
He's a prison shaking Savior.
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker.

We've all searched for the light of day in the dead of night.
We've all found ourselves worn out from the same old fight.
We've all run to things we know just ain't right,
When there's a better life, there's a better life. (*Chorus*)

If you believe it, if you receive it;
If you can feel it, somebody testify.

If you believe it, if you receive it;
If you can feel it, somebody testify, testify.
If you believe it, if you receive it;
If you can feel it, somebody testify.

Chorus: If you've got pain, He's a pain taker.
If you feel lost, He's a way maker.
If you need freedom or saving,
He's a prison shaking Savior.
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker.

Ending: Oh, if you need freedom or saving,
He's a prison shaking Savior.
If you got chains, well, He's a chain breaker.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the peace of Christ strengthen you, uphold you in faith, and keep you steadfast in His grace to follow Him all your days.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Announcements

SJL Men's Softball! Come cheer on the St. John's men's softball team **this Monday at 7:45 at RC 6**. You can find the season schedule along with directions to the fields on the bulletin board and the church website. See you there!

The **church office** will be **closed** on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day!

Family Fun Meetups Join us this summer at St. John's playground for Family Fun Meetups! Drop in anytime between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM for a morning of play, connection, and community. This open-house style event invites caregivers and children to enjoy time together, build relationships, and end the morning with a short devotional. We'll meet on July 1, 15, 29, and August 12.

4th - 6th Grade Game Nights Join us this summer for Game Nights in the St. John's gym! These evenings are open to students entering 4th through 6th grade for the 2026–2027 school year. Come enjoy a night of games, fun, fellowship, and pizza. Game Nights will take place on July 1 *and* August 5 from 6:00–7:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

After months of planning and preparation, the time has finally come for the **MI District Youth Gathering** on Mackinac Island! Please keep our students and leaders in your prayers while they're away.

- Students- Adalena Allen, Kylie Allen, Addison Butcher, Ashley Brown, Lily Brown, Kelly Derusha, Abbygail Kader, Brianna Launstein, Gabe Martin, Regan Martin, Eli Trombley
- Leaders- Joshua Burkhard, Barbara Butcher, Anna Kruger

Acknowledgments

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Business Executive:

Kris Zastrow

Facilities Manager:

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Dir. of Worship Music:

Karen Kempin (ext. 1205)

Our Mission Statement

"We are here to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 28:18-20) and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This mission begins with our St. John's family and extends to the Midland Community and the world."