



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 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.

The Word That Bears Fruit

Today we hear Jesus' parable of the sower, reminding us that God's Word is generously scattered among all people. Though it is received in different ways, God's Word never returns empty but accomplishes His saving purpose. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit prepare us to receive God's Word with faith and perseverance, removing all that hinders our hearing and nurturing within us a harvest of hope, love, and faithful service through Jesus Christ our Lord.

♪ “Open Up the Heavens”

Words and Music by James MacDonald, Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews, Stuart Garrard and Andi Rozier
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Essential Tunes | Stugio Mu

We've waited for this day, We're gathered in Your Name,
Calling out to You. Your glory, like a fire, awakening desire,
Will burn our hearts with truth.
You're the reason we're here.
You're the reason we're singing.

Chorus: Open up the heavens. We want to see You.
Open up the floodgates, a mighty river,
Flowing from Your heart, filling every part of our praise.

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face,
We're looking to the sky.
Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now.
Lord, unveil our eyes.
You're the reason we're here.
You're the reason we're singing. (*Chorus 2x*)

Show us, show us Your glory.
Show us, show us Your power.
Show us, show us Your glory Lord.

Show us, show us Your glory.
Show us, show us Your power.
Show us, show us Your glory Lord. (*Chorus 2x*)

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C Gracious God, we confess that we have not always received Your Word with believing hearts. Too often we have allowed the cares of this world, the distractions of daily life, and the desires of our own hearts to crowd out Your truth. We have been slow to hear, reluctant to obey, and hesitant to trust Your promises. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ. By Your Holy Spirit, soften our hearts, deepen our faith, and make our lives fruitful in love, mercy, and faithful service to You and to our neighbor. Amen.

P Almighty God, in His abundant mercy, has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise again for the forgiveness of your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit continue to plant and nourish God's Word within you, that you may grow in faith, abound in good works, and rejoice in the hope of everlasting life.

C Amen.

Introit

Ps. 103:15-19; antiphon: Ps. 103:8

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;**

for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

**The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.**

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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

Isaiah 55:10-13

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they

sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear...

Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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.

♪ "In Christ Alone"

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled when strivings cease.

My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His, and He is mine, Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Sermon

Offering

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.

“Joy of the Lord”

Words and Music by Chris Llewellyn, Gareth Gilkeson and Ed Cash
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Though the tears may fall, my song will rise,
My song will rise to You.
Though my heart may fail, my song will rise,
My song will rise to You.
While there's breath in my lungs
I will praise You, Lord.

In the dead of night, I'll lift my eyes,
I'll lift my eyes to You.
When the waters rise, I'll lift my eyes,
I'll lift my eyes to You.
While there's hope in this heart
I will praise You, Lord.

Chorus: The joy of the Lord is my strength!
The joy of the Lord is my strength!
In the darkness I'll dance, in the shadows I'll sing,
The joy of the Lord is my strength!

When I cannot see You with my eyes,
Let faith arise to You.
When I cannot feel Your hand in mine,
Let faith arise to You.
God of mercy and love,
I will praise You, Lord.

Oh, You shine with glory, Lord of light;
I feel alive with You.
In Your presence now, I come alive;
I am alive with You.
There is strength when I say:
“I will praise You, Lord!” (*Chorus 2x*)

Chorus: The joy of the Lord is my strength!

The joy of the Lord is my strength!
In the darkness I'll dance, in the shadows I'll sing,
The joy of the Lord is my strength!

When sorrow comes my way, You are the shield around me.
Always, You remain, my courage in the fight.
I hear You call my name. Jesus, I am coming,
Walking on the waves, reaching for Your light! (*Chorus 2x*)

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the God who has planted His life-giving Word within you strengthen your faith, guide your steps, and bring forth in you a rich harvest of love, joy, and faithful service.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

<p>As we conclude, please feel free to stay for a few minutes if you would like to connect or chat with people Jesus has brought together today. Remember that we are all in this together!</p>

Announcements

SJL Men's Softball! Come cheer on the St. John's men's softball team **this Monday at 7:45 at RC 4**. You can find the season schedule along with directions to the fields on the bulletin board and the church website. See you there!

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 again on July 15, 29, and August 12.

4th - 6th Grade Game Night 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. Our next Game Night will take place August 5 from 6:00–7:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Kitchen Cleanup - A huge thank you to Joyce Battjes, Steve and Brigitte Glaser, Marilyn Lefler and Janet Thompson for helping to clean out the kitchen and then doing a complete cleaning during the last couple of weeks. We have everything inside the kitchen washed and ready to be refilled. Ian McDonald has been amazing in helping us get the majority of the equipment out and now putting it back in. We will have a working dishwasher so we can wash dishes and put them away. If you have a few hours to help, we will be in the kitchen on **Tuesday and Wednesday (July 14 & 15)** beginning at 9am. We are planning to move a few things for better space use, so a few extra hands will be much appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Benner (989.600.9463).

St. John's Lutheran Church & School
Website QRC:



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