



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

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.

Hope in God's Kingdom

Jesus' parable of the wheat and the weeds reminds us that God's kingdom is already at work in the world, even as evil and brokenness remain. Rather than giving in to fear or discouragement, we are called to trust the Lord's patient mercy and His promise that He will one day make all things right. As we gather in worship today, may God's Word strengthen our hope, deepen our faith, and encourage us to live as faithful witnesses of His grace while we await the fullness of His kingdom.

“Your Love Awakens Me”

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Chris Quilala

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There were walls between us.
By the cross You came and broke them down,
You broke them down.
And there were chains around us.
By Your grace we are no longer bound,
No longer bound.

You called me out of the grave.
You called me into the light.
You called my name and then, my heart came alive.
Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. *(repeat)*

Feel the darkness shaking,
All the dead are coming back to life.
I'm back to life.
Hear the song awaken
All creation singing, “We're alive
'Cause You're alive!”

You called me out of the grave.
You called me into the light.
You called my name and then, my heart came alive.
Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. *(repeat)*

(3x) And what a love we've found.
Death can't hold us down.
We shout it out:
“We're alive 'cause You're alive!”

(4x) Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.

Your love awakens me.
Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.

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 **Merciful Father, we confess that we have not always trusted in Your wisdom or Your timing. We have grown impatient with others, quick to judge, and slow to examine our own hearts. Too often we have allowed anger, resentment, and fear to take root where You desire faith, hope, and love to grow. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who has shown us Your perfect mercy. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, remove all that hinders our life in You, and make us steadfast in faith as we await the coming of Your kingdom. Amen.**
P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise again for your forgiveness. 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 Lord who has begun His good work in you continue to strengthen your faith, preserve you in His grace, and bring you with joy into the fullness of His everlasting kingdom.
C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 86:11-15; antiphon: Ps. 86:6

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set you before them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 8:18-27

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings

too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

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

[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” ...

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

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 T of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Message

Brad Massey, Principal

🎵 “What He’s Done”

Words and Music by Anna Golden, Jacob Sooter, Kristian Stanfill and Tasha Cobbs Leonard
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See on the hill of Calvary
My Savior bled for me,
My Jesus set me free.

Look at the wounds that give me life,
Grace flowing from His side,
No greater sacrifice.

Chorus: What He's done, what He's done.
All the glory and the honor to the Son.
My sins are forgiven; my future is Heaven.
I praise God for what He's done.

Sing for the freedom He has won.
Even death is dead and done.
His life has overcome.

Speak, say the Name above all names
Over every broken place.
He is risen from the grave. (*Chorus*)

Now on a throne of majesty,
The Father's will complete,
He reigns in victory.

Sing hallelujah to the King,
He is worthy to receive
All the worship we can bring. (*Chorus 2x*)

Chorus: What He's done, what He's done.
All the glory and the honor to the Son.
My sins are forgiven; my future is Heaven.
I praise God for what He's done.

Ending: I praise God for what He's done.

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.**

Communion Preparation

P Let us pray.

C Gracious Lord, You have invited us to Your Table to receive the gifts of Your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Prepare our hearts by Your Holy Spirit to come with humble repentance, confident trust, and grateful thanksgiving. As You have shown us great patience and mercy, fill us with that same grace toward one another. Nourish us through this holy meal, that we may remain steadfast in faith, grow in love, and live in joyful hope as we await the fullness of Your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Words of Institution

♪ "He Will Hold Me Fast"

Words and Music by Ada Habershon and Matthew Merker
©2013 Getty Music Publishing | Matthew Merker Music

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus: He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His Promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. (*Chorus*)

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last! (*Chorus 2x*)

♪ "Better Is One Day"

Words and Music by Matt Redman
© 1995 Thankyou Music Ltd

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied, within Your presence,
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Chorus: Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts, than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts, than thousands elsewhere.
(Than thousands elsewhere.)

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells. (*Chorus*)

Bridge: My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God.
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen. Come once again to me.
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You, to You.

Bridge 2: Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day
Than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day
Than thousands elsewhere.

Chorus

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.

♪ “Everlasting God”

Words and Music by Brenton Brown and Ken Riley
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Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

Our God You reign forever
Our Hope, our strong Deliv’rer

You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God

You do not faint, You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles (*Repeat from beginning*)

Our God You reign forever
Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer

You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint, You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles (*Repeat this section*)

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the Lord, who is patient and rich in mercy, strengthen you in faith, sustain you in hope, and bear the fruit of His Spirit in your lives.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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!

Acknowledgments

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Sermon Notes

Announcements

Young Adult Summer Meet Ups

Our next meet up for mid20s - mid 30s young adults is happening Friday, July 24. We'll meet at St. John's at 6:00pm to walk downtown to enjoy live music! Please consider those in your life who might be blessed by these monthly events and share an invite with them (fliers available on table in back of Lounge).

