



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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 Kingdom Above All

Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is the greatest treasure we could ever receive. In the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price, we are invited to see the incomparable worth of life in Christ and the joy of belonging to His kingdom. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit deepen our faith, turn our hearts toward the treasures that endure, and strengthen us to live each day with confidence in the eternal promises of God.

♪ “Trust in You”

Words and Music by Lauren Daigle, Michael Farren and Paul Mabury

©2014 CentricSongs | See You At The Pub | Oceans Away Music | So Essential Tunes | Farren Love And War Publishing | Integrity's Alleluia! Music

Letting go of every single dream,
I lay each one down at Your feet.
Every moment of my wondering
Never changes what You see.

I've tried to win this war, I confess.
My hands are weary; I need Your rest.
Mighty warrior, King of the fight,
No matter what I face, You're by my side.

Chorus: When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move,
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through,
When You don't give the answers as I cry out to You,
I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in You. (I will trust in You.)

Truth is You know what tomorrow brings.
There's not a day ahead You have not seen.
So in all things be my life and breath;
I want what You want, Lord, and nothing less. (Chorus)

Bridge: You are my strength and comfort;
You are my steady hand.
You are my firm foundation,
The Rock on which I stand.
Your ways are always higher;
Your plans are always good.
There's not a place where I'll go
You've not already stood.

Chorus

Ending: I will trust in You. I will trust in You. I will trust in You.

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 sought first Your kingdom. Too often we have set our hearts on the passing treasures of this world, trusting in wealth, success, or our own abilities more than in Your unfailing promises. We have been slow to love You with our whole heart and slow to serve our neighbors with generosity and compassion. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who gave everything to redeem us and make us citizens of Your eternal kingdom. Renew our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may treasure Your grace above all else and follow You with joyful faith. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in His great mercy has given 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord fill you with the riches of His grace, strengthen your faith in His promises, and keep you steadfast in the hope of His everlasting kingdom.

C Amen.

Introit

Ps. 105:2-6; antiphon: Ps. 105:1

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 8:28-39

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

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

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

[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad.

So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Jan Sleight

♪ “Simple Kingdom”

Words and Music by Cody Carnes, Bryan Torwalt, Katie Rorwalt and Paul Duncan

© 2022 Capitol CMG Genesis | Captiol CMG Paragon | Centricity Music Publishing | Jesus Culture Music | Jesus Culture Music Group | Shi-Lily Songs | Torwalt Music | Torwalt Music Publishing Global | Writer's Roof Publishing

Your kingdom is simple, as simple as love.
You welcomed the children, You stopped for the one.
We want to see people the way Jesus does.
Your kingdom is simple, Lord, teach it to us.

Your kingdom is humble, as humble as death.
His King is a savior who gave His last breath,
So may we die daily, our pride laid to rest.
His kingdom is humble and the broken are blessed.

Chorus: Hallelujah, hallowed be Your name,
May we live and breathe Your praise.
Hallelujah, let all creation say,
Oh, the King of heaven reigns.
Your kingdom is coming, Your kingdom is here,
Alive in our waiting, at work in our tears.
So come to us quickly, forever our prayer.
Your kingdom is coming, Lord Jesus come near. (*Chorus 2x*)

Your kingdom is backwards, it flows in reverse.
What You call a treasure, this world calls a curse.
The small become great and the last become first.
Your kingdom is backwards, Lord, teach us to serve.
As it is with Your kingdom, let it be with Your church. (*Chorus 2x*)

Ending: Oh the King of heaven reigns.
Oh the King of heaven reigns.

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.

"Battle Belongs"

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson CCLI #1367966
© 2020 Phil Wickham Music | Simply Global Songs | Bethel Music Publishing

When all I see is the battle, You see my victory.
When all I see is the mountain, You see a mountain moved.
And as I walk through the shadow, Your love surrounds me.
There's nothing to fear now for I am safe with You.

Chorus: So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees
 With my hands lifted high,
 O God the battle belongs to You.
 And every fear I lay at Your feet,
 I'll sing through the night,
 O God the battle belongs to You.

And if You are for me who can be against me?
For, Jesus there's nothing impossible for You.

When all I see are the ashes, You see the beauty.
When all I see is a cross, God You see the empty tomb. *(Chorus)*

Bridge (3x): (An) Almighty Fortress You go before us.
 Nothing can stand against the power of our God.
 You shine in the shadows, You win every battle.
 Nothing can stand against the power of our God.

Chorus

Ending: O God, the battle belongs to You.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the God of all grace fill your hearts with the joy of His kingdom, strengthen your faith in Christ, and keep you steadfast in His everlasting promises.

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!

Announcements

The Signup Genius list is being updated. Many of the emails we have used in the past are being blocked. This could be a bad email or your email provider is blocking the invite. You can contact your email service provider to request that emails from info@signupgenius.com are delivered. The other option is to watch for the QR code and/or URL link and click on it. We will begin signups for Harvest Dinner in August. Please contact me if you have any questions. Cynthia Benner

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 29 and August 12.

SJL Men's Softball! It's tournament time - but as of printing time, Midland Softball Association had not yet released the schedule. It will be posted outside the office once it has been made available, so we hope it will be there by Saturday and Sunday! If you have questions on when the game will be, please text Robin Steinke at 989.859.7148.

*Altar flowers are given in celebration of
Mike and Deb Stark's 28th wedding anniversary!*

***Pulpit flowers are given in celebration of
Byron and Karen Huber's 30th wedding anniversary!***

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



(989) 835-5861
sjlmidland.org