



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

8 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.

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Jesus asks His disciples the question that stands at the heart of our faith: “Who do you say that I am?” Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and Jesus reminds us that this truth is revealed by God Himself. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit deepen our confession of Christ, strengthen our faith in Him, and remind us that we are built upon the sure foundation of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Preparation for Worship and Welcome

Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”

LSB 647

Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s head,

You are her one foundation;

In You she trusts, before You bows,

And waits for Your salvation.

Built on this rock secure,

Your Church shall endure

Though all the world decay

And all things pass away.

O hear, O hear us, Jesus!

O Lord, let this Your little flock,

Your name alone confessing,

Continue in Your loving care,

True unity possessing.

Your sacraments, O Lord,

And Your saving Word

To us, Lord, pure retain.

Grant that they may remain

Our only strength and comfort.

Help us to serve You evermore

With hearts both pure and lowly;

And may Your Word, that light divine,

Shine on in splendor holy

That we repentance show,

In faith ever grow;

The pow’r of sin destroy

And evils that annoy.

O make us faithful Christians.

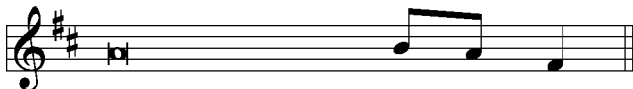
And for Your Gospel let us dare
 To sacrifice all treasure;
 Teach us to bear Your blessed cross,
 To find in You all pleasure.
 O grant us steadfastness
 In joy and distress,
 Lest we, Lord, You forsake.
 Let us by grace partake
 Of endless joy and gladness.

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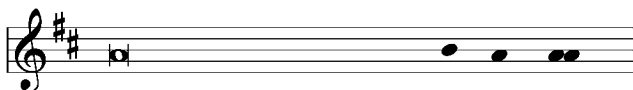
Opening Versicles



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to you, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Antiphon

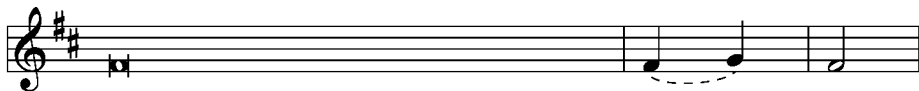


L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.

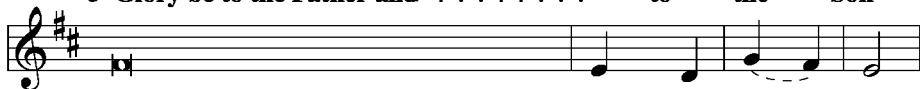


C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

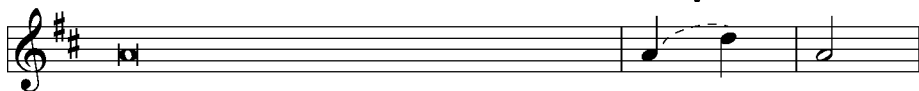
Venite



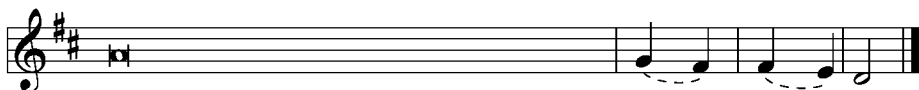
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son



1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 let us make a joyful noise to | Him with songs of praise. |
| 2 the strength of the hills is | His— al - so. |
| 3 let us kneel before the | Lord, our mak - er. |
| 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the | sheep— of His hand. |
| 5 is now, and will be for - - | ev - er. A - men. |

Antiphon



☐ Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir-it.



☐ O come, let us wor-ship Him.

Introit

Ps. 2:6-7; Ps. 117:antiphon Ps. 115:18

But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.

I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

**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.**

But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. “Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 11:33-12:8

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

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

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

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus

answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children’s Message

Chris Townley

Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

LSB 644

The Church’s one foundation

Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;

She is His new creation

By water and the Word.

From heav’n He came and sought her

To be His holy bride;

With His own blood He bought her,

And for her life He died.

Elect from ev’ry nation,

Yet one o’er all the earth;

Her charter of salvation:

One Lord, one faith, one birth.

One holy name she blesses,

Partakes one holy food,

And to one hope she presses

With ev’ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder

The world sees her oppressed,

By schisms rent asunder,

By heresies distressed,

Yet saints their watch are keeping;

Their cry goes up, “How long?”

And soon the night of weeping

Shall be the morn of song.

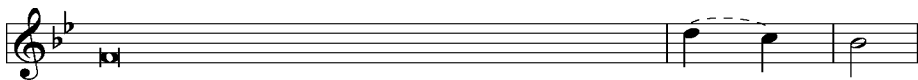
Through toil and tribulation
 And tumult of her war
 She waits the consummation
 Of peace evermore
 Till with the vision glorious
 Her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great Church victorious
 Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union
 With God, the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won.
 O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
 Lord, save us by Your grace
 That we, like saints before us,
 May see Your face to face.

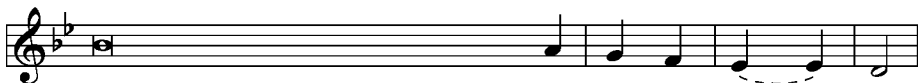
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Sermon

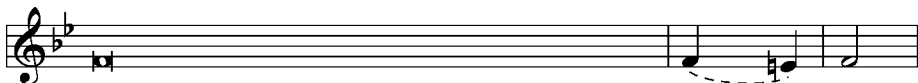
Te Deum



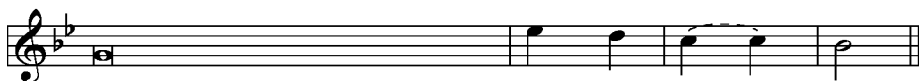
- 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 3 The noble army of martyrs praise — You.



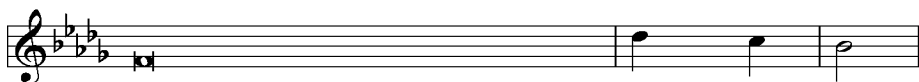
- 1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
 2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
 3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



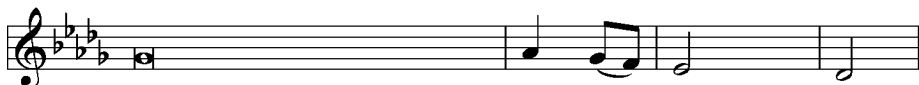
- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise — You.
 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
 4 You are the king of glory, O — Christ;



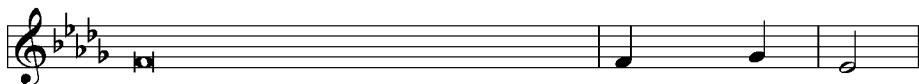
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



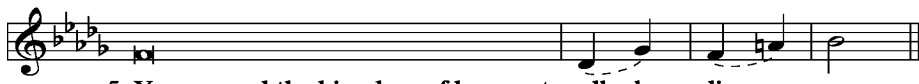
- 5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



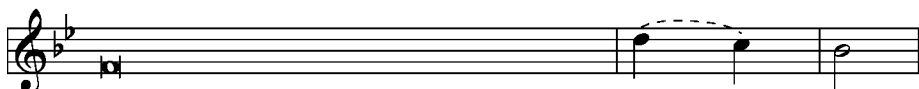
- 5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



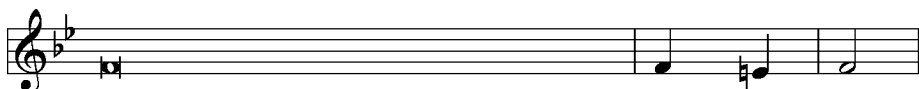
- 5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



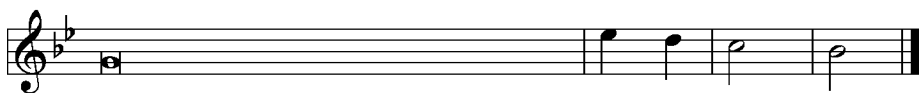
- 7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



- 7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.



- 7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
 8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
 9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

Offering

Vocal Duet

“Here I Am, Lord”

Brad and Alaine Massey

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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.

Dedication of Our Staff

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.



C And with your spir - it.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

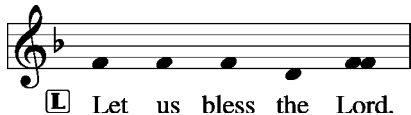
C Amen.

Collect for Grace

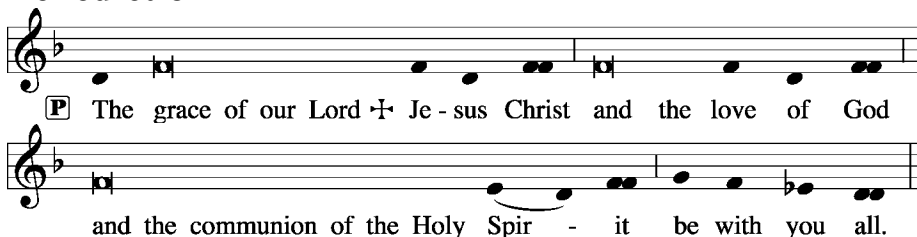
P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benedicamus



Benediction





Hymn

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

LSB 783

Take my life and let it be

Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;

Take my moments and my days,

Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move

At the impulse of Thy love;

Take my feet and let them be

Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing

Always, only for my King;

Take my lips and let them be

Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,

Not a mite would I withhold;

Take my intellect and use

Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine,

It shall be no longer mine;

Take my heart, it is Thine own,

It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour

At Thy feet its treasure store;

Take myself, and I will be

Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Public domain

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the Lord strengthen you in the true confession of Christ, build you firmly upon His promises, and preserve you in faith until life everlasting.

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

Please check the new display of artifacts in the Archive Display Case at the back of the Lounge. We have a mystery to solve that requires your help about a handmade wooden mallet from the Men's Softball Team. Please call or email the church office with any information you have.

SAVE THE DATE: SJL is hosting a "Ministry Fair" on Sunday, September 13 between services from 9:15 to 10:30 am. All members are encouraged to visit centers in the lounge, alcoves, and meeting rooms. Learn about the many opportunities at SJL for **Spiritual Growth, Christian Fellowship, and Service!** Coffee, juice, & pastries will be available in the lounge and the new kitchen floor will be accessible for viewing.

PART I: THE CHURCH In *Hebrews 10:24-25*, the writer challenges us not to neglect meeting together, understanding that regular gathering is essential for mutual encouragement and spiritual growth. In an age of online options, this reminder of the irreplaceable value of physical presence and face-to-face fellowship becomes increasingly vital. The church isn't meant to be a spectator sport where professional Christians perform for an audience, but a training ground where every believer is equipped for ministry. Growth happens as each member actively participates in the body's life and mission.

*Altar flowers are given in celebration of
David and Jan Thompson's 39th Anniversary!*

Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church & School
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Daniel Kempin (ext. 1201)

Associate Pastor:

Joshua Parsons (ext. 1202)

Dir. of Family Life Ministry:

Anna Kruger (ext. 1204)

Dir. of Young Families Ministry:

Stephanie Davis (ext. 1204)

School Secretary:

Sarah Graham (ext. 1301)

School Principal:

Brad Massey (ext. 1300)

Business Executive:

Kris Zastrow

Facilities Manager:

Ian McDonald

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."