



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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.

Faith That Clings to Christ

Today we encounter a Canaanite woman whose persistent faith refuses to let go of Jesus, even when His response seems difficult to understand. Her humble trust points us to a Savior whose mercy reaches beyond every boundary and whose grace is greater than our circumstances. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit strengthen our faith to persevere in prayer, trust Christ even when we cannot see His purposes, and cling confidently to His mercy and promises.

♪ “Who You Say I Am”

Words and Music by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan
©2017 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in. Oh, His love for me. Oh, His love for me.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed. I'm a child of God, yes I am.

Free at last, He has ransomed me, His grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me. Yes, He died for me.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed. I'm a child of God, yes I am.
In my Father's house there's a place for me. I'm a child of God, yes I am.

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.
I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.
I am who You say I am.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed. I'm a child of God, yes I am.
In my Father's house there's a place for me. I'm a child of God, yes I am.
In my Father's house there's a place for me. I'm a child of God, yes I am.

(Instrumental)

I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.
I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.
Oh, I am who You say I am. Yes, I am who You say I am.

Who the Son sets free, oh is free indeed. I'm a child of God, yes I am.
In my Father's house there's a place for me. I'm a child of God, yes I am.

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 God, we confess.

C **We confess that our faith is often weak and our trust in Your promises is easily shaken. We often bring our needs before You, yet we sometimes doubt Your goodness when Your answers do not come as we expect. We have allowed fear, discouragement, and pride to take root in our hearts, and we have failed to love You and our neighbors as we ought. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith to cling to Your mercy, even in difficult times, and teach us to trust Your loving purposes in all things.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer and die for your sins and to rise again for your justification. 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 strengthen you in faith, preserve you in His grace, and give you the confidence to trust His promises, knowing that His mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

Introit

Ps. 28:1-2,6-7; antiphon: Ps. 28:8

The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,

lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

Blessèd be the LORD!

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;

my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

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.

The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?...Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?... As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

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

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

Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Anna Kruger

♪ "Holy Forever"

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson, Jenn Johnson and Jason Ingram
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A thousand generations
Falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb,
And all who've gone before us
And all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

Chorus: And the angels cry, "Holy."
All creation cries, "Holy."
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.

If you've been forgiven
And if you've been redeemed,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
If you walk in freedom

And if you bear His name,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
We'll sing the song forever and amen.

Chorus: And the angels cry, "Holy."
All creation cries, "Holy."
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy forever.
Hear Your people sing, "Holy."
To the King of Kings, "Holy."
You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.

Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

Jesus, Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all.
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all. (*Chorus*)

You will always be Holy, Holy forever.

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 Merciful Lord, as we come to Your Holy Table, humble our hearts and strengthen our faith to cling to Christ and His promises. Prepare us to receive His true body and blood with repentance, faith, and thanksgiving. Forgive our doubts, fears, and sins, and assure us of Your unfailing mercy. Through this holy meal, nourish us with Your grace, deepen our trust in You, and strengthen us to persevere in faith and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Words of Institution

🎵 “Grace Flows Down”

Words and Music by David E. Bell, Louie Giglio and Rod Padgett
©2000 sixsteps Music | worshiptogether.com songs

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound;
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me.

It covers me—, it covers me—
It covers me—, and covers me.

🎵 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Words and Music by Charles Crozat Converse, Joseph Medlicott Scriven, Adam Westlake and Ross Fishburn
©2020 The Worship Initiative (Admin by Wellhouse Entertainment)

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear,
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Chorus: Precious Jesus, Lord and friend,
I give everything to You.
Shelter, Shepherd, Savior, King,
I give everything to You.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.
Thou wilt find a solace there. (*Chorus 2x*)

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
©2015 Capitol CMG Paragon | Thankyou Music

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!

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the Lord strengthen your faith, deepen your trust in His mercy,
and give you perseverance to cling to Christ in every circumstance.

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

PTS

The PTS team is collecting donations of gently used SJL spirit wear. A collection bin will be located inside the church office for easy drop off from Aug 5th to Aug 19th. All attire donated will be available FREE of charge to school families at the Spirit Swap table during the Welcome Back to School Night August 20th from 10-2 and 5-7. Please consider donating any unwanted spirit wear so current students can display their SJL pride!

Women of St. John's

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

Acknowledgments

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