



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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.

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.

♪ “Cornerstone”

Words and Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, Edward Mote and William Batchelder Bradbury
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My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus’ name. *(repeat)*

Chorus: Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior’s love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus: Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior’s love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.
(1st time only) He is Lord. Lord of all. *(repeat Chorus)*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless to stand before the throne.

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.
C **Jesus, we confess that we have not always lived with You as Lord of our lives. We have allowed the voices of the world to compete with**

Your Word, and we have placed our trust in ourselves rather than in You. At times our words have confessed while our lives have failed to reflect Your love, mercy, and truth. Forgive us. Strengthen our faith, renew our confession, and help us to follow You faithfully each day.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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!

Glorify 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!

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.

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.**

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

Chris Townley

“Always”

Words and Music by Kristian Stanfill and Jason Ingram
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My foes are many, they rise against me,
But I will hold my ground.
I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm;
My help is on the way, my help is on the way.

Chorus: Oh, my God, He will not delay;
My refuge and strength always.
I will not fear; His promise is true,
My God will come through always, always.

Trouble surrounds me, chaos abounding;
My soul will rest in You.
I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm;
My help is on the way, my help is on the way. (*Chorus*)

Bridge (4x): I lift my eyes up; my help comes from the Lord.

Chorus: Oh, my God, He will not delay;
My refuge and strength always.
I will not fear; His promise is true,
My God will come through always, always.

Ending: Oh, my God, He will not delay;
My refuge and strength always. Always.

Sermon

Offering

Dedication of Our Staff

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.

♪ “Only King Forever”

Words and Music by Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye and Mack Brock
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Our God and firm foundation,
Our Rock the only solid ground,
The nations rise and fall.

Kingdoms once strong now shaken,
We trust forever in Your name,
The name of Jesus.
We trust the name of Jesus.

Chorus (2x): You are the only King forever
 Almighty God we lift You higher
 You are the only King forever
 Forevermore You are victorious

Unmatched in all Your wisdom,
In love and justice You will reign,
And every knee will bow.
We bring our expectations.
Our hope is anchored in Your name,
The name of Jesus.
We trust the name of Jesus. (*Chorus*)

Instrumental

We lift our banner high;
We lift the name of Jesus.
From age to age You reign;
Your kingdom has no end. (Repeat and Chorus)

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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