



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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.

Living Faithfully in God's World

Jesus reminds us that our lives belong first and foremost to God. When He says, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," He calls us to live faithfully in the world while remembering that we bear the image of our Creator. As we gather in worship today, may God give us wisdom to honor our earthly responsibilities, faithfulness to our heavenly calling, and grateful hearts that recognize our whole lives as gifts belonging to Him.

♪ "Open Up the Heavens"

Words and Music by James MacDonald, Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews, Stuart Garrard and Andi Rozier
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We've waited for this day, We're gathered in Your Name,
Calling out to You. Your glory, like a fire, awakening desire,
Will burn our hearts with truth.
You're the reason we're here.
You're the reason we're singing.

Chorus: Open up the heavens. We want to see You.
Open up the floodgates, a mighty river,
Flowing from Your heart, filling every part of our praise.

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face,
We're looking to the sky.
Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now.
Lord, unveil our eyes.
You're the reason we're here.
You're the reason we're singing. (Chorus 2x)

Show us, show us Your glory.
Show us, show us Your power.
Show us, show us Your glory Lord.

Show us, show us Your glory.
Show us, show us Your power.
Show us, show us Your glory Lord. (Chorus 2x)

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 remembered that our lives belong to You. We have placed our trust in earthly things, sought our own security and success, and allowed the concerns of this world to distract us from Your will. We have failed to use the time, resources, and gifts You have given us for Your glory and the good of others. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who gave Himself completely for our salvation. Turn our hearts toward You, renew our faith, and teach us to live faithfully and gratefully as Your people.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem you from sin and death. Because of Christ's perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection, your sins are forgiven. 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. 121:1-4, 7-8; antiphon: Ps. 121:5

The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

**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 your keeper;

the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; 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 45:1-7

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so

that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

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

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

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

Anna Kruger

♪ “God You Reign”

Words and Music by Lincoln Brewster and Mia Fieldes
©2008 SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia | Integrity's Praise! Music

You paint the night.
You count the stars and You call them by name.
The skies proclaim, “God, You reign.”
Your glory shines.
You teach the sun when to bring a new day.
Creation sings, “God, You reign.”

Chorus: God, You reign. God, You reign.
 Forever and ever, God, You reign.

You part the seas.
You move the mountains with the words that You say.
My song remains, “God, You reign.”
You hold my life.
You know my heart and You call me by name.
I live to say, “God, You reign.” (*Chorus 2x*)

Bridge (4x): Hallelujah! Hallelu!

Chorus (2x)

Ending: God, You reign. *(repeat)*

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 Father, as we come to Your Holy Table, remind us that
our lives belong wholly to You. Prepare our hearts by Your Holy
Spirit to receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
with repentance, faith, and thanksgiving. Forgive our sins,
strengthen our trust in Your promises, and free us from the
distractions and cares that so often draw our hearts away from
You. Nourish us with Your grace, that we may leave this Table
renewed in faith and ready to use all that You have given us for
Your glory and the good of our neighbor; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

The Words of Institution

"Shout to the Lord"

Words and Music by Darlene Zschech
© 1993 Wondrous Worship

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You,
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
My Comfort, my Shelter, Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing,

Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar, at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have (in You). *(Repeat all)*

🎵 “I See the Lord”

Words and Music by Nancy Honeytree, arr. by Lloyd Garrelts
©1993 Pioneer

I see the Lord, high and lifted up,
Seated on the throne of my life.
I see the Lord, high and lifted up,
Seated on the throne of my life.

For You are ho...ly.
You are ho...ly,
You are ho...ly,
Seated on the throne of my life.

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

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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 to live faithfully in this world while remembering that you belong wholly to Him.
- 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

Come and Join the Choir! Have you ever wanted to sing in the choir? Try it out for TWO EASY REHEARSALS on Thursday evenings, October 22nd and 29th at 7:00pm. We will be singing on Reformation Sunday, October 25th and All Saints' Day, November 1st.

Young Adult Meet Ups Monthly meet ups for mid-20s to mid-30s young adults continue this fall! Join us at Nord Social on Sunday, November 8th for a Detroit Lions watch party. Fliers are available in the Lounge with full details. Please consider those in your life who might be blessed by these events and share an invite with them!

Fall Fest Mark your calendars, invite your friends and neighbors, and plan to join us for Fall Fest happening 2:00-4:00pm on Sunday, October 25th! The event will feature music, trunk-or-treating, games, face painting, concessions, and more. Candy donations are appreciated and can be dropped off to the Church Office anytime. Interested in volunteering? Sign up in the Lounge!

Toddler Bible Time On October 27th at 8:15am, parents/caregivers and toddlers (ages 5 and under) are invited to join us for a fun Bible time filled with a Bible lesson, games, and activities designed especially for toddlers and their caregivers. Please scan the QR code to register.



Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Kevin Battjes' birthday on October 22 from his wife, Joyce Battjes, and his children, Jeremy, Daniel, and Sarah.

Pulpit flowers are given in honor of Alice Crittenden's 90th birthday!