St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 22, 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.

Christ the King: The Shepherd Who Reigns

On this Last Sunday of the Church Year, we rejoice that Jesus Christ is our King, Shepherd, and Judge, whose reign is marked not by earthly power but by sacrificial love and mercy. In Matthew 25, Jesus reminds us that He is present with those who are hungry, thirsty, lonely, and in need, calling His people to lives of compassion and faithful service. As we close another Church Year, may we look with confidence to Christ our King, who has redeemed us by His blood, gathers us as His sheep, and will one day bring us into the eternal kingdom He has prepared for His people.

♪ "Here I Am to Worship"

Words and Music by Tim Hughes
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Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus: Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor. *(Chorus)*

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross *(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 lived as faithful subjects of Christ our King. We have placed our own desires, comfort, and priorities above Your will and have often failed to recognize the needs of those around us. We have been slow to show compassion, generous with excuses, and reluctant to serve when sacrifice was required. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our King and Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for us. Renew our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may follow Christ faithfully, love our neighbors with compassion, and gladly serve those You place in our path.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has given His Son, Jesus Christ, our King and Good Shepherd, to lay down His life for His sheep and to rise again in victory over sin and death. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins and welcomes you into His eternal kingdom. 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. 39:4-5, 7-8, 12a; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.

Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers. 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.

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray: Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice."…"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *1 Corinthians 15:20-28*

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers

the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

"King of Kings"

Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood and Jason Ingram
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In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,
Till from Heaven You came running. There was mercy in Your eyes.
To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

Chorus: Praise the Father, Praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit Three in One. God of Glory, Majesty,
Praise forever to the King of Kings.

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross.
For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died.

Chorus: Praise the Father, Praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit Three in One. God of Glory, Majesty,
Praise forever to the King of Kings.

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe,
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free,
For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me.

Chorus: Praise the Father, Praise the Son,
Praise the Spirit Three in One. God of Glory, Majesty,
Praise forever to the King of Kings.

Last time: (Praise forever to the King of Kings.)

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.**

♪ "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Text and Tune: Public Domain, LSB 525

1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.

3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.

4 Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns

As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May Christ our King strengthen your faith, fill you with His mercy, and lead you in faithful love and service as you await the day when He gathers His people into His everlasting kingdom.

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

Advent Wreath Workshop If you've registered, don't forget to join us TODAY following the 10:45am worship service for the Advent wreath workshop in the lounge. Please bring pruners or heavy scissors.

Oasis Bible Study Please note that the Oasis Bible Study will **not** meet on Tuesday, November 24. We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, December 1 at 10:30am.

St. John's Lutheran School Board has begun the Call process to select a K-8 School Principal beginning July 1, 2027. We sincerely ask for your prayers that the Lord will guide us in this important process. The Board is also asking our congregation for help. If you know of a principal who is an excellent leader and think they would be interested, please send info to Darlene Jones, Board Chair, at darlene141516@gmail.com (1) Their name (2) Where they are serving

Poinsettia Sale The 7/8 grade students at St. John's will once again be selling Poinsettias from Boehler's Greenhouse. Sales will start at the Holiday Bazaar and run the month of November. Please contact a 7/8 grader for details or after church services starting in November.

Thanksgiving Closures The church will be closed **Thursday**, November 26 and **Friday**, November 27.

Acknowledgments

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

(989) 835-5861
sjlmidland.org
facebook.com/sjlmidland

Church Secretary:
Kate, Carissa, & Kathy (ext. 1203)

Senior Pastor:
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."