



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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February 22, 2025

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Contemporary Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service .

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn,
Share, and Serve'***

5:00 - Contemporary

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of
Christian faith in our community, to all generations,
wherever they may be'*

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

A Time of Preparation

Preludes

"Build My Life"

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You We live for You

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You We live for You

Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone And I will not be shaken
I will build my life upon Your love It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone And I will not be shaken

Holy there is no one like You There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone And I will not be shaken

CCLI Song # 7070345 Brett Younker | Karl Martin | Kirby Kaple | Matt Redman | Pat Barrett

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Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

Opening Song

“Who I Am”

I stand in front of the mirror But I don't like who's looking back at me
Wish I could see things clearer Like who I'm supposed to be
In every trial lift me higher Through the fire hold me tighter
Remind me again that I was made for more

Who I am in the eyes of the Father Who I am His love set free
Who I was I left at the altar I am Yours Lord I believe

It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God
And the most-high God's for me
It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God
And the most-high God's for me

Everything has been changing You haven't left a stone unturned
Anything I've been facing I'll keep standing on Your word
In the water take me under Fill my lungs to speak Your wonder
You brought me out of the darkness I was made for more

Who I am in the eyes of the Father Who I am His love set free
Who I was I left at the altar I am Yours Lord I believe

It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God
And the most-high God's for me
It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God
And the most-high God's for me

You gave up everything for me to have everything
For all of eternity a song in my lungs to sing
You gave up everything for me to have everything
For all of eternity a song in my lungs to sing

I'm a child of the most-high God And the most-high God's for me
I'm a child of the most-high God And the most-high God's for me

It's who I am in the eyes of the Father Who I am His love set free
Who I was I left at the altar I am Yours Lord I believe

It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God
And the most-high God's for me
It's who I am I'm a child of the most-high God
And the most-high God's for me

I'm a child of the most-high God And the most-high God's for me
I'm a child of the most-high God And the most-high God's for me

CCLI Song # 7192531 Ben Fuller | David Spencer | Krystal Polychronis

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Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

“Less Like Me”

Oh I have days I lose the fight, Try my best, but just don't get it right.
Where I talk a talk that I don't walk, and miss the moments right before my eyes.

Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped.
Somebody with a hand that I could have held.
When I just can't see past myself, Lord help me be

A little more like mercy. A little more like grace.
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith.
A little more like patience. A little more like peace.
A little more like Jesus. A little less like me.

Yeah, there's no denying I have changed, I've been saved from who I used to be.
But even at my best I must confess, I still need help to see the way You see.

Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped.
Somebody with a hand that I could have held.
When I just can't see past myself, Lord help me be

A little more like mercy. A little more like grace.
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith.
A little more like patience. A little more like peace.
A little more like Jesus. A little less like me.

Oh to feed the beggar on the street. Love to be Your hands and feet.
Freely give what I receive, Lord help me be.

I want to put You first above all else. Love my neighbor as myself
In the moments no one sees, Lord help me be.

A little more like mercy. A little more like grace.
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith.
A little more like patience. A little more like peace.
A little more like Jesus. A little less like me.

A little more I'm living, everything I preach,
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.

CCLI Song # 7136017 Hank Bentley | Mia Fieldes | Zach Williams © 2019 Capitol CMG Amplifier For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 2801469

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-15

³And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. ⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus

says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-36

²⁷"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. ³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Message Song

"Death Was Arrested"

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin,
Lost without hope with no place to begin;
Your love made a way to let mercy come in,
When death was arrested and my life began.

Ash was redeemed, only beauty remains;
My orphan heart was given a name.
My mourning grew quiet, my feet rose to dance,
When death was arrested and my life began.

Oh Your grace, so free, washes over me.
You have made me new, now life begins with You.
It's Your endless love pouring down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with You.

Released from my chains, I'm a pris'ner no more.
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore.
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend,
When death was arrested and my life began.

Oh Your grace, so free, washes over me.
You have made me new, now life begins with You.
It's Your endless love pouring down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with You.

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross.
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost.
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand.
That's when death was arrested and my life began.

Oh Your grace, so free, washes over me.
You have made me new, now life begins with You.
It's Your endless love pouring down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with You.

Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free.
Come join the song of all the redeemed.

Yes, we're free, free, forever, amen!
When death was arrested and my life began.

Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free.
Come join the song of all the redeemed.

Yes, we're free, free, forever, amen!
When death was arrested and my life began.
When death was arrested and my life began.
When death was arrested and my life began.

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Message

“Fire or Finer”

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

☩ 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.

Sacrament

The Words of Our Lord

Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor.11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is

possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
- 2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
- 3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
- 4. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
- 5. Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
- 6. Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.

Distribution Song

"Great I Am"

I wanna be close close to Your side
So Heaven is real and death is a lie
I wanna hear voices of angels above
Singing as one

Hallelujah holy holy God Almighty great I Am
Who is worthy none beside Thee God Almighty great I Am

I wanna be near near to Your heart
Loving the world hating the dark
I wanna see dry bones living again
Singing as one

Hallelujah holy holy God Almighty great I Am
Who is worthy none beside Thee God Almighty great I Am

The mountains shake before You The demons run and flee
At the mention of Your name King of majesty
There is no pow'r in hell or any who can stand
Before the power and the Presence of the great I Am

The great I Am The great I Am The great I Am
The great I Am The great I Am
Hallelujah holy holy God Almighty great I Am
Who is worthy none beside Thee God Almighty great I Am

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Blessing

- 🔊 The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

🔊 Amen.

Sending Song

“I Thank God”

Wandering into the night Wanting a place to hide
This weary soul This bag of bones
I try with all of my might But I just can't win the fight
I'm slowly drifting a vagabond
And just when I ran out of road I met a man I didn't know
And He told me that I was not alone
You picked me up You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart You changed my name
Forever free I'm not the same
I thank the Master I thank the Savior I thank God
I cannot deny what I've seen Got no choice but to believe
My doubts are burnin' Like ashes in the wind
So so long to my old friends Burden and bitterness
You can just keep them moving *Nah you ain't welcome here (Spoken)*
From now till I walk streets of gold I'll sing of how You saved my soul
This wayward son has found his way back home

You picked me up You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart You changed my name
Forever free I'm not the same
I thank the Master I thank the Savior I thank God
Hell lost another one I am free I am free I am free
Hell lost another one I am free I am free I am free
Hell lost another one I am free I am free I am free
Hell lost another one I am free I am free
You picked me up You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart You changed my name
Forever free I'm not the same
I thank the Master I thank the Savior I thank God

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Sermon Notes
