

February 13, 2022

Luke 6:17-26

Be ready to cover your ears; be ready for the coyotes to howl!

Oh, what a beautiful morning,
Oh, what a beautiful day,
I've got a wonderful feeling,
Everything's going my way.

How many of you have heard the song? From the musical _____. Curly is on his way to see Laurey; he's twitterpated, bursting into song - "Oh, what a beautiful morning,

Oh, what a beautiful day,
I've got a wonderful feeling,
Everything's going my way.

Ever feel that way? We could use more days, even some days like that, right? Days with everything going our way. Imagine a day like that. You wake up when you want to. You wake up refreshed, with a smile, and everyone you see has a smile. You go to work, and everything works. You go to school, and all is cool. You go to the store, and everything is on sale. You go to the doctor, and you go home cured. You go on vacation; the plane lands early; your rental car is upgraded; the sun shines every day. Everything goes your way. We could use some days like that, right?

Jesus was having one of those days. After days of people picking at what he said, picking at what he did, after days of people getting in his face, against him, looking to turn others against him, Jesus goes off and away; he spends a night praying on the side of a mountain. He wakes up the next day with a smile, calls his disciples close, chooses 12 of them to be apostles. He leads and brings his disciples down the mountain to a level place. And what he saw could have had him singing: "Oh, what a beautiful morning, Oh, what a beautiful day, I've got a wonderful feeling, Everything's going my way." Instead of people looking to cause him trouble, Jesus saw disciples looking to be close. Instead of people against him, Jesus saw disciples coming from north and south, coming from days away. Jesus saw people coming to him for help. "Oh what a beautiful day!"

And those people going to see Jesus, what kind of song do you think they could have been singing? Think about it - for the most part, what kind of people were looking to Jesus? People who had something wrong in their life, right? Their bodies sick, broken, tormented by evil spirits; their hearts hurting and broken; their lives, their communities feeling kicked around, crushed, by injustice and evil. What kind of song could they have been singing? Ballads bitter, broken, and blue.

But they're on their way to see Jesus. And what have they heard about Jesus? He's healing the sick, casting out demons; with a word, he's making the crippled well to walk. And when the people coming to see Jesus get close, when they hear what's happening, what do they hear? People are healed just by touching Jesus. Can you imagine the song in their hearts? "I've got a wonderful feeling, Everything's going my way." Can you imagine what they might be hoping? "Healthcare today! What's next? How about freedom, so we can be free to live our own lives? How about justice, a life where we're treated right? How about the good life, so we can live in comfort? Life is looking up!"

"Oh, what a beautiful morning,
Oh, what a beautiful day,
I've got a wonderful feeling,
Everything's going my way."

It's then that Jesus looks into the eyes of his disciples: "**Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.**"

I'm not sure I like what Jesus is saying. "**Blessed are you who are poor, hungry, weeping**"? I don't want to be poor, hungry, weeping. I want more; I want better; I want happy. I want the good life; I want everything going my way.

But what does Jesus say about the "good life"? "**Woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.**"

Before I said: "I'm not sure I like what Jesus is saying." Now, with these "Woes," I'm pretty sure I don't like what Jesus is saying. I have a nice house, and I like it. I'm well fed, and I like it. Most every day, I get to laugh. In so many ways, life is good. But what does Jesus say? "Woe." And not just "woe," Jesus says the good life of this world will be gutted, reversed, turned upside down. Not just for the snoots and snobs. Not just for the 1%. Not just for those who live off the rest of us, who live high by stepping on the rest of us. The good life of the world that we so easily chase and long for, the good life of the world that we so easily get caught up in working for, the good life of the world that we so dangerously put ahead of God's life for us - the good life of this world will be gutted, reversed, and left empty.

That kind of sucks the life and the joy out of “I’ve got a beautiful feeling, everything’s going my way,” doesn’t it? Does that mean life here is pointless? That the best we can look forward to is gathering and garbaging? Living the life of the world is - in the end, a life of gathering and garbaging, either a life of hurt and heartache followed by a worse hurt, or a life of pretending followed by the ugly, awful reality of God’s judgment. But living the life of the world, chasing the life of the world, gathering and garbaging, pretending goodness and then forever weeping and gnashing - that’s not our only option.

You may remember something Jesus said in our lesson. Jesus looked into the eyes of his hurting people and spoke to their hurting hearts: “**Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.**” Jesus has hope; he has a promise for us. And you may have noticed that I skipped a couple verses. “**Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.**” And “**Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.**” That doesn’t sound good, does it? But listen to what Jesus says next: “**Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.**” There is a different life to live than the life of the world that ends gutted and empty. Jesus offers a life that celebrates forever in heaven.

How do we get that life? Not by living poor, hungry, and hurting. And not by living: “I’ve got a wonderful feeling everything’s going my way.” No, the way to God’s good life, the way to God’s best life, is through Jesus. Not Jesus the healer; not Jesus the teacher; but Jesus our Savior. He doesn’t just teach us how to live right by God; he lived life right by God for us. He doesn’t just heal our bodies; he heals our hearts and souls and sets us right with God.

How? Not by chasing the good life and serving it up for us on a platter. No, but by sacrificing himself and serving his life up for God and for us - how? By living a life of love for others, and then by sacrificing himself for God and for us on the cross. By his sacrifice of self on the cross, Jesus paid for the way we put living the good life of the world ahead of living the life God has for us. By his sacrifice of self in life, Jesus lived for us the life we need to be right by God. And now what? Jesus isn’t living a life of sacrifice, forever hungry, poor, sad, and empty. No, today Jesus is living and celebrating in heaven, sitting at God’s right hand, approved by God, sharing God’s blessing and approval - inviting “**Come to me all you who are weary and burdened,**” promising “**and I will give you rest,**” forgiving “**Peace, your sins are forgiven you!**” and promising and pointing to heaven “**in my Father’s house are many rooms ... I am coming back to take you to be with me, that you may be where I am.**” In heaven

where “**there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.**” In heaven where we will be face to face with God living and celebrating the good life, living and celebrating the best of life.

How do we live that life today? It’s not a matter of living poor, hungry, and hurting. We get to live with Jesus and his promise ahead of us. With Jesus at our side and his promise ahead of us, we don’t need to get stuck living the life of the world like this world and this life are all that matters. We get to live God’s life sharing the love of God, even if it costs us friends or family. We get to live God’s life sharing the treasures of heaven, even if it costs us lifestyle and comfort. We get to live God’s life even if it costs us here, because with Jesus we have the best of life coming.

Think about it. Whether you’re living with plenty or in want, with family and friends or with the world against you, healthy or not - with Jesus, you have your best life ahead of you. And that’s why we get to live: “Oh, what a beautiful morning, Oh, what a beautiful day, I’ve got a wonderful feeling, Everything’s going my way.” Amen.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Family Connecting in Christ



Pastor Kevin Raddatz
Principal Jon Woldt
501 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
847-362-4424
www.StJohnsLib.com

THE SERVICE

IN OUR WORLD TODAY... we have "our" way of seeing success and making sense.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY... we see Jesus has a whole different perspective on sense and success. Blessed are those who see sense and success Jesus' way.

OPENING HYMN

"All Depends on Our Possessing"
Hymn 807

All depends on our possessing God's abundant grace and blessing,
though all earthly wealth depart. They who trust with faith unshaken
in their God are not forsaken and will keep a dauntless heart.

He who to this day has fed me and to many joys has led me
is and ever shall be mine. He who ever gently schools me,
he who daily guides and rules me, will remain my help divine.

Many spend their lives in fretting over trifles and in getting
things that have no solid ground. I shall strive to win a treasure
that will bring me lasting pleasure and that now is seldom found.

When with sorrow I am stricken, hope anew my heart will quicken;
all my longing shall be stilled. To his lovingkindness tender
soul and body I surrender, for on God alone I build.

Well he knows what best to grant me; all the longing hopes that haunt me,
joy and sorrow, have their day. I shall doubt his wisdom never;
as God wills, so be it ever; I commit to him my way.

If my days on earth he lengthen, he my weary soul will strengthen;
all my trust in him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,
like a stream away is gliding; safe I anchor in his grace.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Υ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

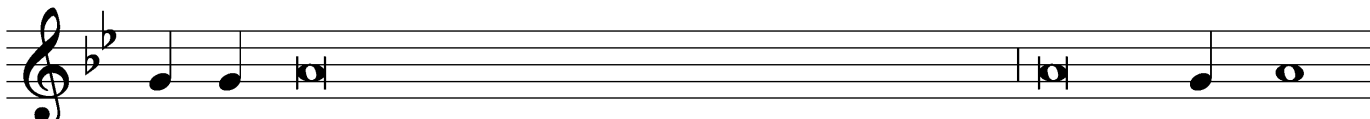
Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

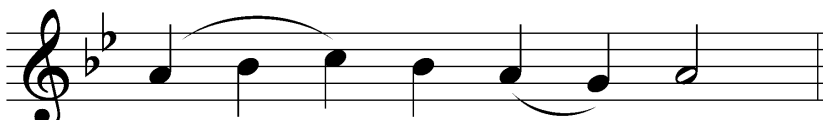
CW 174



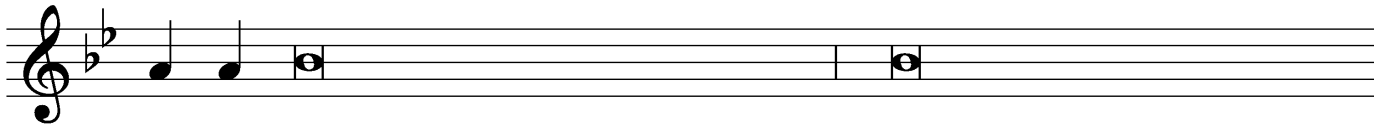
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



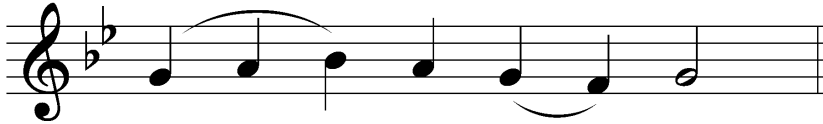
Lord, have mer - cy.



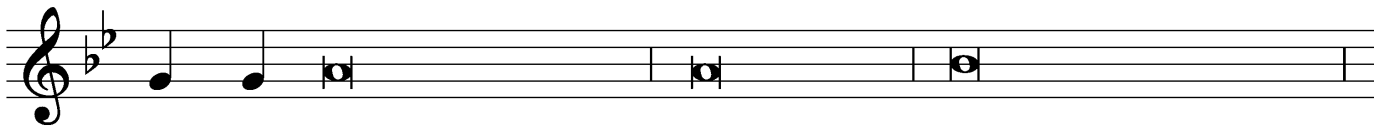
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of



God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



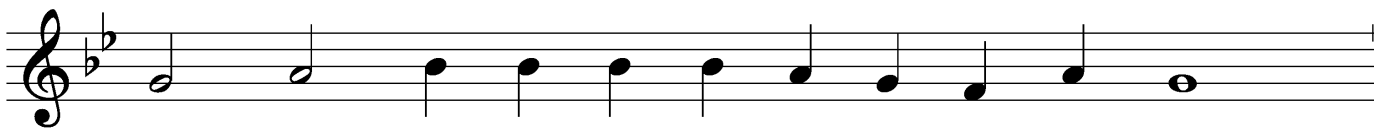
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



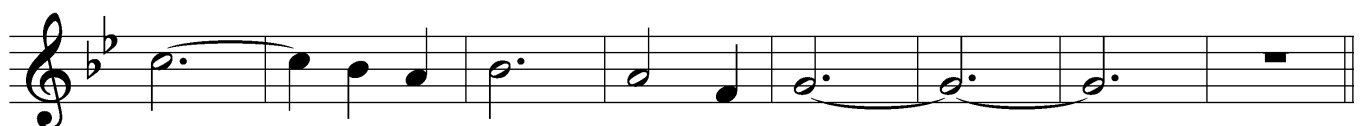
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



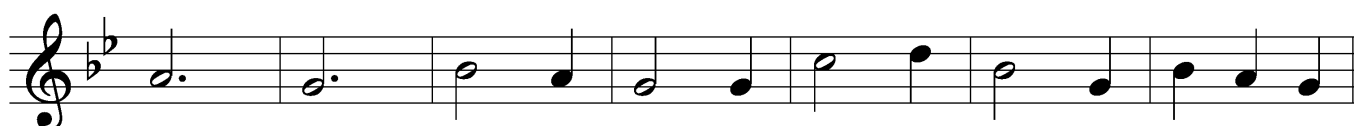
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



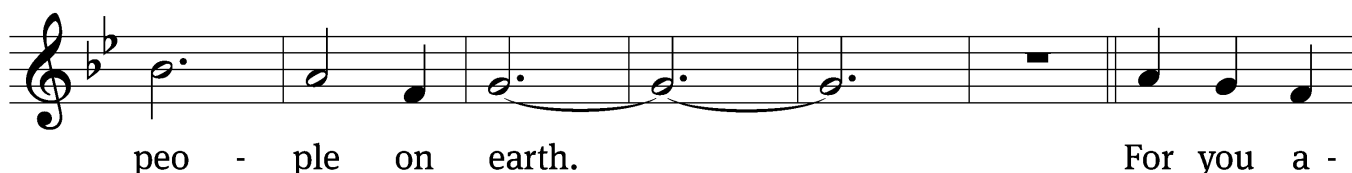
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -



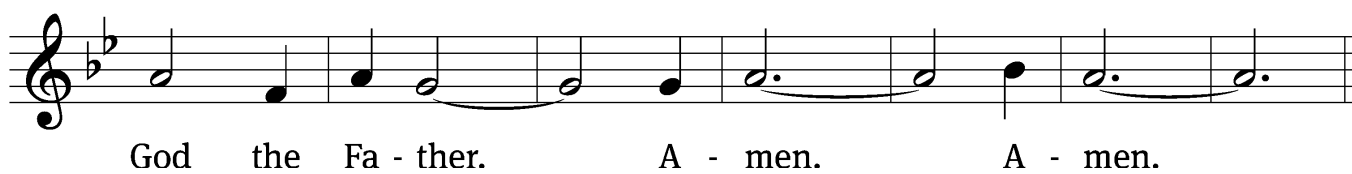
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17:5–8

This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Refrain

Bless - ed are they, bless - ed are
they who hope in the LORD.

Tone

Blessed is the one who / does not walk
in step with the / wicked
or stand in the way that / sinners take
or sit in the company of / mockers,
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law / day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,
which yields its fruit in / season
and whose leaf does not / wither—
whatever they do / prospers. *Refrain*

Not so the / wicked!
They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

SECOND READING*2 Corinthians 12:7b–10*

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Rejoice in the Lord

For his love and faithfulness.

*Refrain***GOSPEL***Luke 6:17–26*

He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.
Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.
Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Blest Are They”
Hymn 690
Choir sings v. 1 & 2
Congregation sings v. 3-5

Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill. *Refrain*

Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God! *Refrain*

Blest are they who seek peace, they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs. *Refrain*

Blest are you who suffer hate all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see. *Refrain*

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal Father, your Word is a lamp for our feet and a light to our path. You inspired the Scriptures for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that your servants might be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Lead us to love your Word more and more and to receive your message with great eagerness.

You have given us your Word that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in his name. Enable us to see the wonders of your love in Christ from the beginning to the end of your holy book.

Help us to see Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Work in all your people, especially in parents, the resolve and patience to teach little children the simple truths about the Savior who loves them. Walk with us as we take our children to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb. Let them find Jesus in stories, songs, and prayers.

Move us to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Provide wisdom and commitment to teachers who train our young people in Sunday Schools and youth Bible classes. Deepen their knowledge of your Word as they prepare and share the lessons they teach. Move them to model a sincere devotion to the Scriptures.

Lead us to plan for and support the Christian training of children.

We thank you for enabling our congregation to provide elementary (and secondary) education for our children. We know our schools are your special blessing, and we pray for the resolve to establish and maintain standards of excellence in all aspects of education.

Move us to be generous in our offerings so that teachers may teach and students may learn in fitting surroundings.

Lead us to provide Christian schools that reflect the immensity of your love.

Bless the schools and teachers who prepare public ministers of the gospel for service in our churches and around the world. Lead teachers and professors to be faithful to your Word and provide insights that enable them to pass on your truth to their students. Ignite the zeal of young men and women to be willing and eager to share the truths of Scripture with others. Move us to support with our prayers and gifts the schools our synod has established.

We pray that you send workers in your harvest fields.

Work in us that we may find the lasting value of growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Lead us to be faithful in our personal study of the Scriptures and in participating in regular Bible classes. Rid us of all thoughts that Christian education ends in our youth. Make us life-long students of your precious Word.

Lead us to believe that at every age your Word remains a lamp for our feet and a light to our path.

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your Word. Even when we are old and gray, lead us to meditate on your decrees that we may delight in your wonderful deeds.

Do good to your servants, Lord, according to your Word. Amen.

HYMN

"Day by Day"
Hymn 803

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, where at last I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow, I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me, you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promised land.

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus"
Hymn 816 v. 1 & 4-6

I am trusting you, Lord Jesus, trusting only you;
trusting you for full salvation, free and true.

I am trusting you to guide me; you alone shall lead,
ev'ry day and hour supplying all my need.

I am trusting you for power; you can never fail.
Words which you yourself shall give me must prevail.

I am trusting you, Lord Jesus; never let me fall.
I am trusting you forever and for all.

OFFERING

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan this
code with your mobile device.*



Acknowledgments Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712373 Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Setting Two from Christian Worship Gospel Acclamation Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Glory to God in the Highest Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Lord Have Mercy Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Psalm 1A Blessed are They Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL. Music: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Blest Are They Text: © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Day by Day Text: © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.

Registration Nights (March 8 & 22)

Sign Up for Your Time Slot Today!

Please remember to secure your child's spot at St. John Lutheran School by paying the registration fee of \$85/student. Payment can be made via a check written out to St. John Lutheran School or cash.

The registration process continues in March. The afternoon/evening of March 8 & 22 have been set aside for families to meet with Ray Linnemann, School Board Finance, and Yvonne Beres, Financial Administrator, to set the schedule of payments for the 2022-23 school year.

These are the times available on each day:

Tuesday, March 8: 2 pm – 5 pm

Tuesday, March 22: 3 pm – 6 pm

At this time each family is asked let us know your first and second choice of a time that will work for you. Please do this by emailing us via this email:

Enrollment@StJohnsLib.com or by calling the office 847-367-4424. Please let us know as soon as possible. The process for each family takes an average of 10 minutes.

Please call the office if you are interested in touring our school.