

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*A Family Connecting in Christ*



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# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**At this time our services are for people wearing masks and social distancing!**

Please know that even as we experience this awkwardness, your Good Shepherd holds you close to his heart and goes with you to share his love!

## To Our Guests

- We pray that you receive a warm welcome and are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns. If you have questions, please ask!
- Our service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ – forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven.

## Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church.

We invite our congregation members and visitors from sister WELS or ELS congregations to join us, but ask Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice. Further explanation is in the pew racks or from our pastor.

## We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

- If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

## We Care about Your Special Needs

- **Large Print** Service Folders are available from an usher.
- **Hearing Assistance** for those with hearing aids is provided through our Hearing Loop or personal hearing devices available at the "sound table."
- A **wheelchair lift** is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.



## Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.

## Our Ministry

St. John offers an excellent preschool-8th grade school program. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net).

January 24, 2021

## NEW MORNING PRAISE

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY...** we hear a lot of nice words - some coupled with good intentions, some coupled with deceit from beginning to end. But nice words don't tell the whole story, do they?

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY...** we welcome back Seminary senior Adam Marley who reminds us that there is something better than nice words.

### OPENING HYMN

*"To God Be the Glory"*  
Hymn 399

To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice!

*Refrain:*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice!*

*Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son*

*And give him the glory -- great things he has done!*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice!

*Refrain*

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see.  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear his voice!

*Refrain*

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** **Amen.**



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# COME, OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

1

Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,

2

let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;

3

come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,

*Repeat for use with canon*

come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

*Verses*

1. You are a great and a won - drous God,

2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,

cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.

You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
You are the God whom we call our own,

*to Refrain*

you made the seas and the dry land.  
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

PSALM 63

*Refrain*



In the morn-ing I will sing, I will  
sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to  
you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

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1. O God, you are my God; for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.  
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.

*Refrain*

2. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.  
So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,  
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

*Refrain*

3. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night,  
for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

*Refrain*

The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

"The fathers eat sour grapes,  
and the children's teeth are set on edge'?"

"As surely as I love, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son - both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear, O house of Israel: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin, he will die for it; because of the sin he has committed he will die. But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life. Because he considers all the offenses he has committed and turns away from them, he will surely live; he will not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Are my ways unjust, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?"

"Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord God. "Therefore, repent and live."

## GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 21:28-32

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

## 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.**

HYMN

*“Jesus Sinners Does Receive”*  
(Vs. 1-3)

Jesus sinners does receive;  
Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live  
And from God and heaven wander.  
Here is hope for all who grieve--  
Jesus sinners does receive.

We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet his words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
Here their ills have perfect healing  
Who with humble hearts believe--  
Jesus sinners does receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray  
Are not by the Lord forsaken;  
Wearied souls who lost their way  
Are by Christ, the shepherd, taken  
In his arms that they may live--  
Jesus sinners does receive.

SERMON

Matthew 21:28-32

HYMN

*“Jesus Sinners Does Receive”*  
(Vs. 4-7)

Come, O sinners, one and all,  
Come, accept his invitation.  
Come, obey his gracious call;  
Come and take his free salvation!  
Firmly in these words believe--  
Jesus sinners does receive.

I, a sinner, come to you  
With a penitent confession.  
Savior, show me mercy, too;  
Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve--  
Jesus sinners does receive.

Oh, how blest is it to know,  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By your blood and bitter passion,  
For these words I do believe--  
Jesus sinners does receive.

Jesus sinners does receive.  
Even I have been forgiven.  
And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to him I cleave--  
Jesus sinners does receive.

#### **PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord God, ruler of all, we commend our nation and its leaders to your care. Bless our president, the members of Congress, and all officials who serve us in state, county, and local governments. Impress on all who are in authority the sacredness of the responsibility you have placed on them. Give them the gifts required for leadership, wisdom to make laws that will bring order and justice to our society, and compassion for the downtrodden and the poor. Purge our land of dishonesty and corruption in government. Teach us to honor all civil authorities as your representatives. Through stable government provide throughout our land an atmosphere in which your Church can do its work in peace.

**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.**

**M:** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

**BLESSING**



**L** The Lord bless and keep you.



**C** A - men.



**L** The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



**C** A - men.



**L** The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



**C** A - men.

## OFFERING

(Please fill out the friendship pads on the pews)

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



## CLOSING HYMN

*“Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound”*

**Hymn 379**

Amazing grace – how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now and found, was blind but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me; his Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers toils, and snares I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

### **Acknowledgments**

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