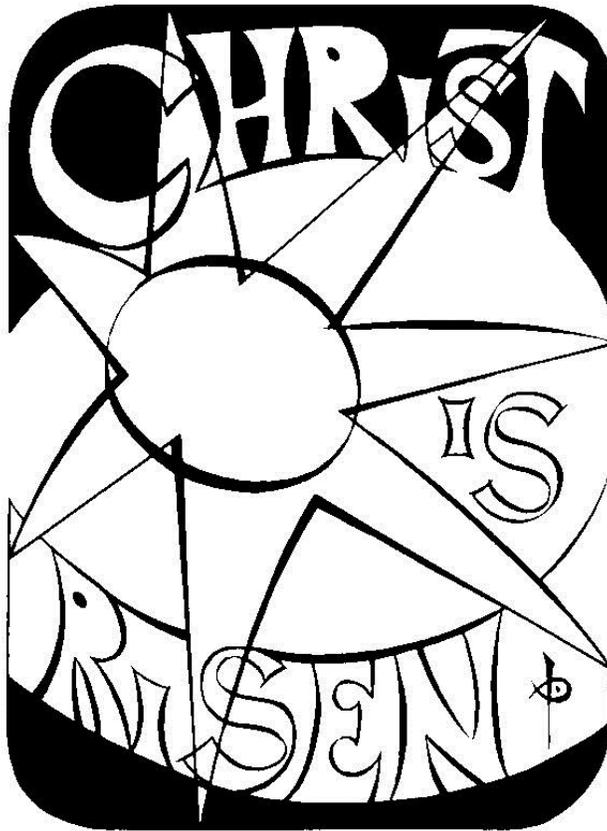


**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*A Family Connecting in Christ*



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

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## NEW MORNING PRAISE

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** is it time for blue-grass music, old-fashioned “tears in my beers” country music, summer-time-giddy-yippy pop music, or ...?

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY...** we'll focus in on an ancient love song. Like much of the best of the Church's music, this love song comes from a time of heart-rending pain and loss - pain and loss healed in the love and promise of our God!

### OPENING HYMN

### *“Be Thou My Vision”*

(Tradition tells us this hymn comes to us from an Irish-Catholic Christian over a thousand years ago. Tradition also tells us that the author had lost his eye-sight. Gives us new insight into his prayer - “Be Thou my vision,” doesn't it?)

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, in the day and the night;  
Waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
Thou my whole armor and thou my true might;  
Thou my soul's shelter and thou my strong tower.  
Raise thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance now and always;  
Thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun.  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**L** O Lord, o-pen my lips.

**C** And my mouth shall de-clare your praise.

**L** Hasten to save me, O God.

**C** O Lord, come quickly to help me.

## 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*

**1<sup>ST</sup> LESSON**

Colossians 3: 15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**HYMN**

*“Day by Day”*  
**Hymn 765**

*(By the time the author, Carolina Sandell Berg, wrote this hymn, she had as a child endured partial paralysis and then as a young adult witnessed her father drown.)*

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.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, b. 1936 © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.  
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## HYMN

## *“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”* Hymn 451

*(In 1932, the author and composer Thomas Dorsey was living in south Chicago. Dorsey wrote this song after his wife and newborn child died.)*

Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

When the way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

When the darkness appears And the night draws near  
And the day is almost gone,  
At the river I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,  
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

## GOSPEL LESSON

John 14: 1-6

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

## 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.**

**Refrain**

Do not let your hearts be troubled;  
have faith in God and faith in me.  
I will go forth to prepare a place for you;  
then I'll come back to take you with me,  
that where I am, you may also be.

In God's house there are many places  
For you alone to dwell in safety.  
You know the way to where I'll lead you;  
If you are lost, I will show the way.

**Refrain**

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life;  
Only through me can you know what I know.  
If you knew me, you would know the Father;  
If you see me, you see your God.

**Refrain**

The words I speak are not only of myself;  
It is your God who lives within me.  
If you believe that your God and I are one,  
I will provide when you call my name.

**Refrain**

Text: John 14:1-3,6,7,10-14; alt. David Haas, b. 1957  
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Let's think love songs, passionate "I want you, I need you" love songs. What comes to mind? Besides "Where's he going with this? He's in church. My kids are sitting here with me." When you think love songs, passionate "I want you, I need you" love songs, what comes to mind? Perhaps Elvis Presley - "I want you, I need you, I love you with all my heart. Ev'ry time that you're near, All my cares disappear. Darling, you're all that I'm livin' for." Perhaps Cheap Trick from Rockford, IL - "I want you to want me. I need you to need me." Perhaps Meatloaf - "I want you, I need you, but I ain't ever gonna love you." They don't begin to measure up to the love song we have today.

Our lesson today is a love song, a passionate "I want you, I need you" love song. By King David, not for Bathsheba, or Abigail, or who knows who. Our lesson is a love song, a passionate "I want you, I need you" love song for God. **"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you."**

Do you think that way, speak that way, sing that way about God? **"I want you; I need you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you?"** Hearing this psalm, I remember thinking: "That's not me. I prefer a rock-solid 'A Mighty Fortress is Our God.'" But as I get older, a quiet "Day by day your mercies, Lord, attend me, bringing comfort to my anxious soul" ... As I get older, a quiet "Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather" (we sing that one next week) ... As I get older, last week's "I am Jesus' little lamb ... loves me every day the same, even calls me by my name." ... as I get older, I never tire of singing "Lord, when your glory I shall see ... When I appear before your throne, your righteousness shall be my crown; with these I need not hide me. ... As your own bride I shall be brought to stand in joy beside you." It's a beautiful, quiet love song, but for some reason I still want to belt it out like "A Mighty Fortress." Listen to David, sing with David: **"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you."**

When? Where? Why did David sing this? It sounds like a love song for a peaceful, quiet, romantic time and place. But what does David tell us? "He's **"in a dry and weary land where there is no water."** He's in the wilderness of Judah. You've seen the old cowboy westerns - nothing around but dirt and rocks, rocks and dirt. And if the place was dry and weary, the time was even worse. David doesn't tell us, but put the clues together and this seems to be when David's son Absalom was trying to steal the throne from his father. Absalom, his followers, and his army were taking Jerusalem, while David and his family and a small unit of bodyguards were on the run. Abandoned and betrayed by his own son. Abandoned and betrayed by the people he had fought for, risked his life for. David was on the run in a land so dry and weary it would suck the life out of most anybody. And worse, what David was going through would suck the life out of most everybody.

On the run in a dry and weary land. On the run abandoned, betrayed. What would you expect David to sing? Perhaps some hell hound blues - "I got to keep movin'; I got to keep movin'; there's a hell hound on my trail." Perhaps some good old-fashioned German-Lutheran, tears in my beers country fusion - "Oh, woe is me, our God is dead!" Perhaps some angry, bitter, ripping, ranting, raging rap. Perhaps an angry shout: "Why, God?" Or a broken whimper, "Why, God?" You wouldn't expect a love song, would you? Yet that's what David gives us - **"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands."**

I'm not saying that David didn't let out some blues or tears-in-my-beers country. I'm not saying that David didn't scream "Why, God?" or that he didn't break down and whimper, "Why, God?" Read through the psalms and you can find most all of that. But here, David doesn't ask "Why?" No, here, David knows why. David knows why he can hope, why he can love, why he can look to God.

**I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. ...  
On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.  
Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.**

With what David was going through, how could David have such faith? He learned it on God's potter's wheel - as clay thrown down, squeezed, and formed. He learned it in the smelter's fires - tested and tried by God. He learned to love God and trust God growing up and bossed around by older brothers. He learned to love God and trust God as a young shepherd, out in fields alone with his sheep. He learned to love God and trust God as a young man hunted by King Saul. He learned to love God and trust God, not just by being squeezed and tested and tried. No, David learned to love God and trust God by taking hold of God's promise and facing the lion and the bear, by taking hold of God's promise and standing up to Goliath. Yes, he learned to love God and trust God by taking hold of God's promise and - get this - by going to church and filling his mind with the thoughts of God.

There's something else that's good for me to hear. David learned to love God and trust God as a failure - a moral failure, a family failure. David was supposed to take care of God's people, instead he stole Bathsheba and killed Uriah. David was supposed to lead God's people with God, instead he led them to sin. As a failure, a moral failure, a family failure, a failure before God, David learned his hardest lesson and his best lesson. Not only do we have a God who saves us from our troubles out there. Not only do we have a God who makes us strong for our troubles out there. We have a God who saves us when we are weak and broken in here [our hearts]. We have a God who saves us from

ourselves, who saves us from the holy judgment we should expect from him. David knew that a more righteous King was coming after him, a King who would do what is just and right, a King who would set his people right with God. We know that King as Jesus. With Jesus and his death on the cross, you get to hear what David heard: “You are forgiven! No matter how you have failed your God or your family - you are forgiven!” That means, with Jesus, you get to sing the same confidence as David: **“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil!”** And like David, you know what that means - **“Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!”**

That takes us back to our question - on what has to be one of the worst days of David’s life, how could David be singing God a love song? Here’s how - Even with his past, even with his past coming back to bite him, David knew he had God’s promise; he had God’s mercy and forgiveness. So even though things looked hopeless and helpless, David knew they weren’t hopeless and helpless - David had God to help him, hold him, and save him. With that - with God - David knew he could sing! David knew he would sing! God would deliver him!

What does that get to mean for us? For centuries, even millenia, yes, for thousands of years, God’s people have used this lesson, Psalm 63, as a song to start the morning off right. We might wake up with every reason to dread the day. But how do we get to face the day? Like David, we have God’s love and promise. Like David, we have God to help us and hold us. And that means, like David, we get to face the day singing - **“In the morning I will sing, I will sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to you.”**

HYMN

*“All Depends on Our Possessing”*

Hymn 421

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 e'er 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.

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 to him commit my way.

If on earth my days 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.

## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, you had a mother and made sure to care for her as you hung on the cross. Bless all mothers. Grant them strength, rest, and guidance as they care for their children. Touch their hearts anew with gladness for the gift of children and fill them with joy for their privileged role as mothers. Bless them so they might be a blessing to the next generation. Amen

(In your prayers, please remember Jim Safran who is now home after being hospitalized for well over a week (blood pressure) and Kim L'Esperance who is fighting pneumonia at home.)

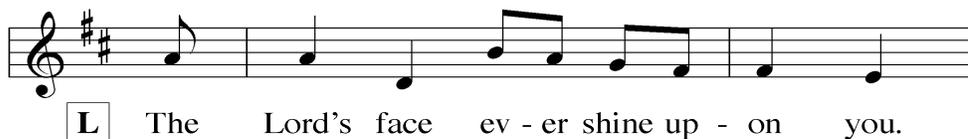
## LORD'S PRAYER

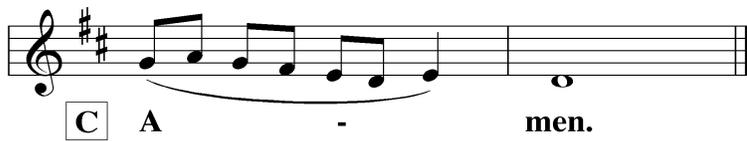
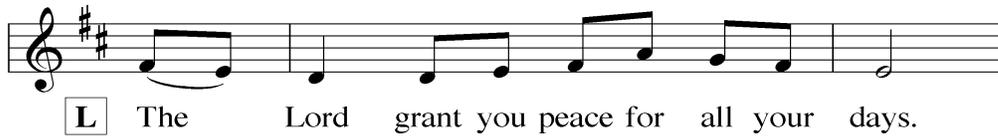
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**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.

**C:** Amen.

## BLESSING





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## CLOSING HYMN

## *“When In Our Music God is Glorified”* Hymn 734

When in our music God is glorified,  
And adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

How oft, in making music, we have found  
A new dimension in the world of sound  
As worship moved us to a more profound  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song,  
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
Borne witness to the truth in ev’ry tongue:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night  
When utmost evil strove against the light?  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let ev’ry instrument be tuned for praise;  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,  
And may God give us faith to sing always:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

This hymn—with new tune and setting—points out the blessings that come to us through our use of musical gifts in celebration of God and his love.

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***Morning Praise** Texts revised from The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941. “Blessing,” “Come, Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord,”*

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