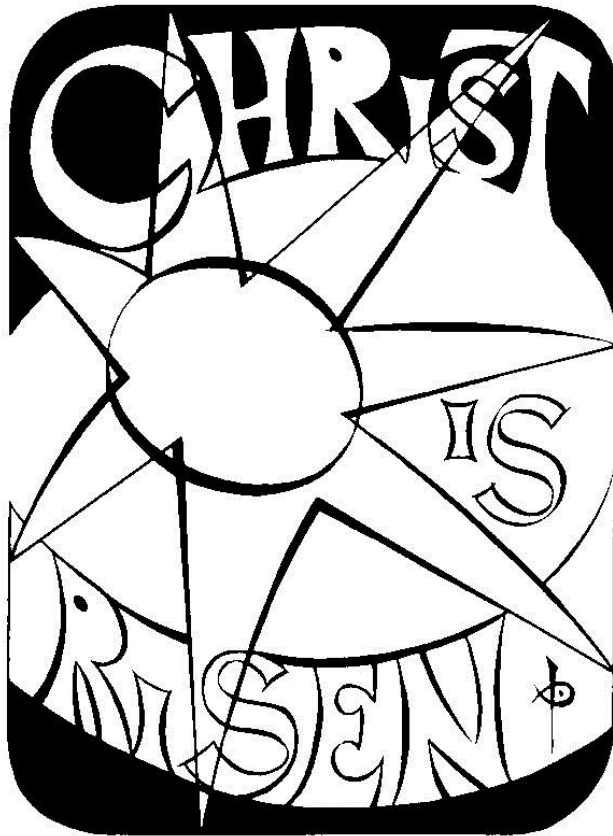


**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*A Family Connecting in Christ*



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

[www.StJohnsLib.com](http://www.StJohnsLib.com)

May 17, 2020

## GRADUATION 2020

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** we are in graduation season, a season typically filled with an ever-changing mix of joy and anxiety. This year, the mix for many may be lean on joy, leaning into anxiety.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY...** we see how God has blessed us to get this far, and we celebrate with joy as we see we have the foundation we need - no matter what comes our way.

## NEW MORNING PRAISE

OPENING HYMN

*"With the Lord Begin Your Task"*

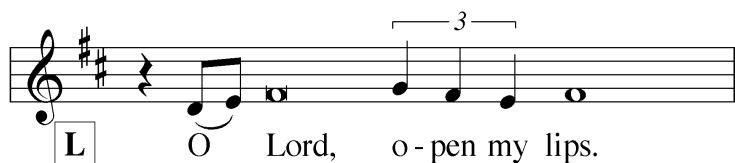
Hymn 478

With the Lord begin your task;  
Jesus will direct it.  
For his aid and counsel ask;  
Jesus will perfect it.  
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise,  
And when day is ended,  
In his name then close your eyes;  
Be to him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer,  
Praise and adoration.  
On the Lord cast ev'ry care;  
He is your salvation.  
Morning, evening, and at night  
Jesus will be near you,  
Save you from the tempter's might,  
With his presence cheer you.

With your Savior at your side,  
Foes need not alarm you;  
In his promises confide  
And no ill can harm you.  
All your trust and hope repose  
In the mighty Master,  
Who in wisdom truly knows  
How to stem disaster.

If your task is thus begun  
With the Savior's blessing,  
Safely then your course will run,  
Naught your soul distressing.  
Good will follow ev'rywhere  
While you here must wander;  
You at last the joy will share  
In the mansions yonder.



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

The first line of music is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. A fermata is placed over the B4 note. This is followed by a triplet of eighth notes: G4, A4, and B4, with a '3' above the notes and a bracket underneath. The line ends with a quarter note G4.



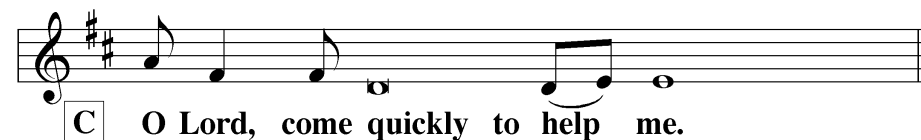
**C** And my mouth shall de-clare your praise.

The second line of music is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. It begins with a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. A fermata is placed over the B4 note. This is followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. The line ends with a quarter note G4.



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

The third line of music is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. It begins with a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. A fermata is placed over the B4 note. This is followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. The line ends with a quarter note G4.



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

The fourth line of music is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. It begins with a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. A fermata is placed over the B4 note. This is followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. The line ends with a quarter note G4.

## 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.**



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**C** Come, oh, come, let us wor - ship.

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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*

## **PRAYER**

O Lord God, heavenly Father, we live in a time with so many questions. We thank you for giving us the foundation that we need for these times and all times. By your Spirit, help us to re-set our feet, our hearts, and our minds on your foundation so that in your Son Jesus, and by your Spirit, we live the life of blessing you have for us, today and always; through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **ST. JOHN SCHOOL THEME VERSES**

2011-2012 - Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.’”

2012-2013 - Isaiah 40:31 “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

2013-2014 - Matthew 28:19 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

2014-2015 - Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

2015-2016 - Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

2016-2017 - Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in his bosom gather;  
Nestling bird or star in heaven  
Such a refuge ne'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish;  
In his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them;  
In his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord his children sever;  
Unto them his grace he showeth,  
And their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

**ST. JOHN SCHOOL THEME VERSES**

2017-2018 - John 16:33      “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

2018-2019 - Isaiah 41:10      “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

2019-2020 - Matthew 11:28      “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”



HYMN

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

**Hymn 411**

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged --  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness --  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge --  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
You will find a solace there.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 7:24-29

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

## 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.**

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare to make no other claim  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in him be found,  
Clothed in his righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before his throne.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

Are you ready? Not just are you ready to graduate, not just are you ready to get out and about, but are you ready to make your life out there in the world? The bold and brave say: "Yes." The smart and wise might say: "No," but that's alright, because today Jesus tells us how we can be ready - ready for anything.

What Jesus says can sound a bit old fashioned, but it works on our smartphones, even on zoom. It's so easy our youngest preschoolers love it, but it's so hard I'm still learning it. It's something that many of your parents started for you when you were just a little baby, when they brought you to church to be baptized. But they didn't stop there. They sang songs to you. Not just silly songs like "Ja, das ist ein schnitzelbank." No, they sang you love songs, long songs about the best kind of love - "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so." Love songs like "I am Jesus' little lamb ... he loves me every day the same, even calls me by my name." Why? Not just to put you to sleep, but they wanted you to be ready for today - they wanted you to be tight with Jesus.

And so your parents told you stories and read you books. Not just Dr. Suess and *The Little Train that Could*. But they told you and read to you the best kind of stories - true stories about Adam and Eve, and Noah and Moses, and Ruth and Esther. But most of all they told you and read to you the true stories of Jesus and his love. Why? They wanted you to be ready for today - they wanted you to be tight with Jesus.

And that's what we want for you. That's why we have church and Sunday School. That's why we have our school and Shoreland. Why? To build on what God gives moms and dads to do at home - to teach the love and the life of Jesus, to teach the heart and the mind of Jesus. That's what God gives all of us to do, isn't it? He brings us together to build each other up in the love and the life of Jesus, to build each other up to think and to live like Jesus. Why? God wants us to be ready for today - he wants us to be tight with Jesus.

Why? Jesus isn't sand - quick sand, sinking sand, shifting sand, blowing sand. We've had a lot of sand blown in our faces lately, haven't we? All sorts of plans and promises always shifting and changing and moving around. Some of that shifting sand is the best that smart minds and caring hearts can come up with - and we thank God for smart minds and caring hearts. But some of the shifting sand that's blown into our faces is sand blown around by the devil, lies that fit the heart of the devil who loves to stir things up. Sadly, so many people around us have nothing but sand to hold on to, nothing but sand to build their lives on. But it's not just them. How often don't we live like them, schnookered and suckered into building our lives on sand? But we have something more than just sand to build on. We have Jesus.

And Jesus isn't just sand - quick sand, sinking sand, shifting sand, blowing sand. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Jesus is the unchanging rock we need so we can build our lives on something sure, the one thing sure. I know some people like to have a foundation that's soft and moves around, or at least they like it until they get washed away. But let's think about how good it is that Jesus is an unchanging, unbreakable foundation. You're playing a game, a card game, a ball game. You're playing and you think you're doing pretty well; you know what to do and you're doing it. But then they change the rules. Every time you think you know what you're doing, they change the rules. How do you like that? It's maddening, isn't it? "How am I supposed to know what to do?" Jesus isn't like that.

You might think, "But that's what's going on right now. All the rules are changing. I don't know what to do." Not everything is changing. Not everything is breaking down. The foundation that God has for you in Jesus isn't changing or breaking down. When you're baptized into Jesus Christ, built on Jesus, building your life on Jesus and his Word, it doesn't matter what goes on out there, it doesn't matter how things change out there, how things break out there. This doesn't change - with Jesus, you are a child of God dearly loved by God, and God will look out for you today and forever. When you're built on Jesus, it doesn't matter how things change out there, how the rules change out there. This doesn't change - God's purpose for your life doesn't change. You are here to do what's needed now more than anything else - you are here to share the love of God in what you say; you are here to share the love of God in the way you live your life.

I know so many things are changing, breaking down. You have something that's not changing, that's not breaking down - and that's the love of God in Jesus. When you build your life on Jesus, you don't have to worry about your foundation breaking up underneath you. Jesus doesn't break. Think about it. Jesus had the devil trying to trip him up; Jesus had bullies trying to break him down. But Jesus wouldn't break. He didn't give up. He didn't mess up. Jesus was rock-solid in doing what God gave him to do. Jesus was rock-solid in keeping his promises.

No matter how hard it was, Jesus lived the life that God expects and demands of you and me. No matter how much it hurt, Jesus died the death we deserved to die. No matter how impossible it sounds, Jesus raised himself back to life. Jesus keeps his promises! That's the foundation you get to build on.

Let me put some meat on those bones. In life, you know how hard it is to always do the right thing, don't you? In life, Jesus lived as the perfect child always obeying with a smile, the perfect friend always caring, the perfect teacher - and if he had wife and children, he would have been the perfect husband and parent. And he showed his perfect love, his perfect love for God and his perfect love for you, in this - he gave his life; he died our death; he took the punishment we had coming for all our wrong.

What does that get to mean for us, for you and for me and all the world out there? With Jesus and his perfect life, God sees you as perfect, right for life with him. With Jesus and his death on the cross, God sees you forgiven. And now, with Jesus and Easter, you have life with God! That's right, with Jesus, you have life with God! You have God for you! And if God is for you, who can be against you! Not just for today. Not just for this summer when who knows what. Not just for next school year when who knows what. You have Jesus and you have God with you and for you forever, all the way into heaven forever. And that is something you can count on, no matter what goes on out there.

People are telling me that life is going to be different, the world is going to be changed. Are you ready? Remember the foundation that God gives you with Jesus and his Word. No matter what changes out there, Jesus won't change. He won't change his mind. He won't change or break his promise. He won't quit. So no matter what happens out there - you have this - you have the love of God - and that is something you can build your life on. Amen.

## HYMN

*"In Christ Alone"*

**Hymn 752**

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.  
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;  
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

This christological hymn summarizes the sacrificial, earthly life of our Savior and the glory that is now his forever and ours through faith.

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## **GRADUATION - 2020 GRADUATES OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

Yuanhao (Andy) An  
Amanda Evenson  
Muzi (Lindsey) Li  
Brooke Sparks  
Lamont Williams Anderson  
Lordes Zapata  
Zhengguan Zhang

## **PRAYER**

O Lord, we thank you that in these uncertain times you have given us a sure foundation. We thank you for the opportunity you give us with our church and school to share your foundation, to help our young ones and their families to build on your foundation. As our graduates - and all of us - head into this uncertain world, we ask that you bless our graduates - and all of us - with the faith and wisdom to continue to build our lives on your foundation. When we think the shifting sands of the world are more inviting and more reliable, show us your mercy and grace, forgive us and pull us back to your sure safety.

O Lord, we ask you to bless our leaders - our local and national leaders, our church and school leaders - to guide us and make decisions that are wise and caring with your wisdom and love. Bless us to work together and - as you determine - bless us with health to prepare for a new school year when we are again able to help young families build on your sure foundation.

We thank you, Lord, for blessing us with a teacher [we find out who this Saturday] to serve with us in our upper grades. Bless him/her and all our teachers as they prepare for a new school year. We thank you, Lord, for blessing us with Miss Alyssa Tessmer - and bless her - as she returns for her final year of college.

O Lord, you know all the prayers we could be bringing to you. Hear us as we pray:

#### **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



**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.

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## CLOSING HYMN

### *"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"* Hymn 332

Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing - You are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story;  
    Here you touched Him, saw His glory.  
Go my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you; Here his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, my children, I will keep you; And give you peace.

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