

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

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

If you join us online, please "Connect With Us!" Go to our Worship Online archive page, click on the "Connect With Us" box, and let us know who and how you are. Thank you!

June 14, 2020

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we are experiencing both the relief and the dangers of back-sliding. We feel the relief as our communities return to pre-COVID lifestyles. We see the dangers of back-sliding as we see the anger, hurt, and heartache shown in this summer's protests. Back-sliding is natural and "freeing," but it comes at a cost.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY... we see the danger and cost of back-sliding in our relationship with God. God bless us to always "Fight the Good Fight," to always "Run the Straight Race!"

OPENING HYMN

"Forgive Us, Lord"

Hymn 482

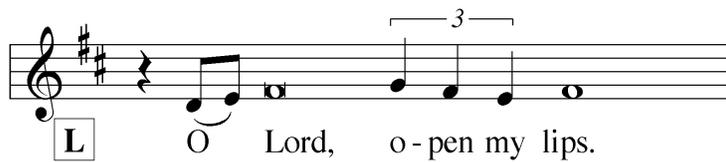
As our communities re-open, it's easy to settle for "shallow thankfulness" and "dull content."

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for worldly wealthiness,
While of your richer gifts we're unaware.

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ, your Son, and for each human face
That shows your message ever new and near.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,
For words that speak at variance with deeds.
Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways,
Unmindful of a broken brother's needs.

Open our eyes to see your love's intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.
Let thankful days in loving labor spent
Reflect the truly Christ-like life and light.



Musical notation for the first line of the hymn. It features a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. A triplet of eighth notes follows: G4, A4, and B4. The line ends with a half note G4. A box containing the letter 'L' is positioned below the first note.

L O Lord, o - pen my lips.



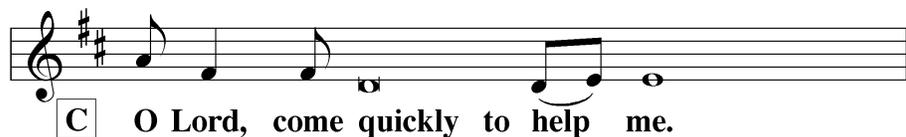
Musical notation for the second line of the hymn. It features a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a half note G4. A box containing the letter 'C' is positioned below the first note.

C And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Musical notation for the third line of the hymn. It features a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a half note G4. A box containing the letter 'L' is positioned below the first note.

L Hasten to save me, O God.



Musical notation for the fourth line of the hymn. It features a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a half note G4. A box containing the letter 'C' is positioned below the first note.

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.

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 mountains 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.

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FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Psalm 1

Refrain

Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Blessed is the man

who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
whatever he does prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.' Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? Now therefore I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you." When the angel of the LORD had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, and they called that place Bokim. There they offered sacrifices to the LORD. After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to his own inheritance.

The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel. ... After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. Unlike their fathers, they quickly turned from the way in which their fathers had walked, the way of obedience to the LORD's commands.

Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant that I laid down for their forefathers and has not listened to me, I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their forefathers did."

Verse of the Day

"A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." (Psalm 51:17)

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 12:15-21

Many followed [Jesus], and he healed all their sick, warning them not to tell who he was. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope."

HYMN OF THE DAY

"How Firm a Foundation"

Hymn 768

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

“Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed;
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace all-sufficient shall be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love,
And then, when gray hair shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still on my shoulders be borne.”

*The beloved words of this hymn are wed to its traditional American melody.
Text: A Selection of Hymns, London, 1787, alt.*

SERMON

JUDGES 2

Have you ever felt it? Your patience tested, stretched, strained, and then what? Have you ever felt it - disrespected, treated like a nothing, or worse? When you feel that disrespect, that scorn, what happens inside? Some people are so broken and disrespected, they accept it, even almost welcome it. Until what? They can’t take it; they won’t take it any more - “Not again. Disrespecting me again? Not again you don’t.” Have you ever felt that anger inside you?

What do you think happens inside when our Black or African American neighbors, or when our Hispanic or ___you fill in the blank___ neighbors, when they feel disrespected? What do you think happens inside when our police are disrespected day after day? What do you think happens inside? You can hear it, can’t you? “You disrespecting me again? Not again. Not again you don’t.”

Takes some of the surprise out of these past few weeks, doesn't it? Takes some of the surprise out of what we have coming this summer. Takes some of the surprise out of our lesson. Our lesson is the kind of lesson people don't want to hear. It's the kind of lesson that can really hurt and scare.

We're going back in time. Before Jesus was born, before David was king - some 1300 years before Jesus was born. God's people had been slaves in Egypt - beaten, whipped, and crushed; their baby boys taken from them and drowned. They cried out to the Lord, and the Lord answered them. He called Moses to stand up to Pharaoh and deliver his people out of Egypt. Through the Red Sea, through the Sinai Wilderness, God kept his promise, he delivered his people to the Promised Land. Then God set up Joshua to lead his people to take the Promised Land as their inheritance. First, Jericho and the walls came tumbling down. Then to the south and to the north, when God's people stepped up, God blessed.

Now God's people are in the Promised Land. God has opened his heart, his hands, his lands for his people. God has set his people up to rule and to bless the world through them. And what do they do? They blow God off. They disrespect him. Instead of stepping up with God, they step down, they relax, they take the easy way out. They don't do, they don't finish what God gave them to do. Instead, they make themselves busy, busy doing their own thing, busy taking care of their own thing, too busy to show their children the wonders and ways of God. And it shows. Instead of stepping up with God, they settle in with their neighbors. They live the life of their neighbors; they worship the gods of their neighbors. Instead of living as children of God, they live as children of the world, selling their souls to fit in with the world, living like God doesn't matter.

Sound familiar? It sounded familiar to God, too familiar. His children wanted to run with the world, so he handed them over to run with the world, and worse, to be run over by the world. What happened? When life got hard enough, God's children remembered God and called out to him, but only for a moment. When God answered, when God delivered, when the pressure was off, it didn't take long and his people went back to living the life of the world. We see it in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Read through Judges and you'll see it before and after Gideon, Deborah, Ehud, Samson. And today? Some of you are old enough to remember 9/11 back in 2001, when the terrorists used airline jets to bring down the Twin Towers in New York City. The nation was shook; churches were full. Do you remember how long that revival lasted before church life went back to normal? Weeks ... and then God's people got busy back to living the life of the world. Then there was the crash of 2008, a wave of people looking to God? No, hardly a ripple.

And the last ten years? Just like the thousands of years before. Time and again God sees his people disrespecting him, chasing after the world. Time and again, he rocks

our world: “You’ve been disrespecting me.” Time and again, he shakes our families: “You’ve been dissing me.” Time and again, he puts the squeeze on us: “Where have you been?” And when we cry out and God delivers, when the pressure is off, what so often, what so easily happens? Instead of stepping up with God, God’s people settle in with the world, making themselves busy with the world, leaving God further and further behind. Not knowing, perhaps not caring that God might finally say: “Enough. If you insist on living with the world, you will die and be damned with the world.”

If the book of Judges were turned into a movie it would be rated R for violence and cheap, tawdry sex. And the movie reviews would have to say: “Unbelievable! What kind of self-respecting God would be so patient?” But our God is so patient. When our world is rocked, and our family is shook, and our hearts are squeezed, and we cry out to him: “Lord, have mercy,” a broken and contrite heart he will not despise. When we struggle to do right by God, even when we get more wrong than right, when we cry out to him: **“Lord, what a wretch I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?”** he gives us reason to shout out: **“Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!”**

In the book of Judges we see God answer the cries of his people by raising up judges, mighty warriors who were incredibly imperfect. Mighty warriors who even as they brought God’s deliverance, they brought shame on themselves and shame to God’s people. Mighty warriors who one after another died with little to show for all they had said and done.

Thank God, today, when we cry out: Lord, have mercy!” when we cry out: “Who will rescue me from this body of death?” today, when we cry out, God has for us an answer better than a book of Judges. God has for you and for me a Jesus, a Savior. I know with Jesus we don’t see the Mighty Warrior working the justice we want in our here and now world. I know that can be disappointing. But what do we see? We get to see Jesus as the Lamb of God crucified on a cross. It’s so easy to think: “That’s not good enough!” But in Jesus, God gives us a far better justice - with Jesus, God sets you right for life with him forever in heaven.

In heaven, you will never again be disrespecting. In heaven, you will never again do the disrespecting. In heaven, you will never have your patience tested. In heaven, you will never test God’s patience. In heaven, you will never again have your world rocked, your family shook, your heart squeezed and crushed; the only squeeze you’ll feel from God will be his hand holding your hand, his hug holding your hug.

With Jesus, God doesn’t say: “Not you again.” With Jesus, God doesn’t see you as a repeat offender. Instead, with Jesus, God says: “I forgive you; you’re right by me.” And more than that, with Jesus, God calls you to step in and step up with him, to step in and step up with him as his people, to step in and step up against the evil of this world, to

step in and step up with him for the hurting and the heartbroken to share his healing - not just for a day, or a season, not just as long as COVID or the protests last, but as long as he gives us life in this world.

Here's a question for you. You know the cycle. You know how God's people are tempted to let up and slide, to let up and settle in with the world. When things relax, how will you work to break that cycle? Amen.

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

"Our Father, Who from Heaven Above"
Hymn 410 (vv 6-9)

Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,
That they may trouble us no more;
We, too, will gladly those forgive
Who hurt us by the way they live.
Help us in our community
To serve each other willingly.

Into temptation lead us not.
When evil foes against us plot
And vex our souls on ev'ry hand,
Oh, give us strength that we may stand
Firm in the faith, a mighty host,
Through comfort of the Holy Ghost.

From evil, Lord, deliver us;
The times and days are perilous.
Redeem us from eternal death,
And, when we yield our dying breath,
Console us, grant us calm release,
And take our souls to you in peace.

Amen, that is, it shall be so.
Make strong our faith that we may know
That we may doubt not but believe
What here we ask we shall receive.
Thus in your name and at your Word
We say, "Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!"

PRAYER AND 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.



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.

CLOSING HYMN

"Fight the Good Fight"

Hymn 457

Fight the good fight
With all your might;
Christ is your strength and Christ your light.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race
Through God's good grace;
Lift up your eyes and seek his face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside,
Lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear;
His arms are near.
He changes not, and you are dear.
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is Lord eternally.

OFFERING (Please fill out the friendship pads on the pews)

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



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

Prayer Response, "You Are God; We Praise You" ...Marty Haugen. Text, Tune, Setting: © 1995, 1996 by GIA Publications, Inc.

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Preparing to Re-Open

You may have heard that some of the churches in our communities are re-opening for public worship. You may also know that many of the churches in our communities are planning on staying "online only" into July. We are making our plans to re-open. Before we can re-open we have a major church cleaning project ahead of us. Then, each weekend, and with each service, we will again need to clean/disinfect our facility. On the next page are listed some opportunities for you to join us in worshipping the God who is so good to us!

Worship Registration Coordinator

Unless the situation improves drastically, we can expect that we will be registering ahead of time for worship. Most of us will be able to register online through one of the many online tools available for registrations. Some of those online tools are doodle.com, ivolunteer.com, signup.com. There are many more. If online tech is your thing, you can help us select, set up, and show the way! If you would be able to help (or have questions), please reply to this message.

Church Cleaning (before re-opening)

Before we re-open, we need to accomplish:

- clean pew cushions and set in storage
- clean pews (tops and bottoms ((spiders)))
- move pew materials into storage
- clean floors, sills ...
- clean hand areas - door handles, push plates and bars ...
- deep-clean restrooms (church and school)

We are NOT planning a get-together work day. Instead, if you can help us, let us know and we will set you up with what needs to be done!

Saturday - Weekly Before Church Clean

Each Saturday (until our school-year cleaning crew is back), we will need to:

- clean / disinfect pews
- clean floors, sills ...
- clean / disinfect restrooms (church and upper school)
- mark pews for use / non-use
- clean / disinfect hand areas - door handles, push plates and bars, railings ...

If you would like to be part of our weekly Saturday cleaning crew, please let us know!

After Church Clean (each service)

After each service, we will need to:

- disinfect pews
- check floors ...
- disinfect restrooms
- mark pews for use / non-use
- disinfect hand areas - door handles, push plates and bars, railings ...

If you would like to be part of our after-service cleaning crews, please let us know!
