

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

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.

NEW MORNING PRAISE

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we see plans crash and burn.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY... we see how we get to live in a world of crashing and burning plans - we make our plans and promises with the Lord, and we go forward!

OPENING HYMN

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
Hymn 759

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.

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.**

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

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

© 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

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 wondrous God,
2. Come, let us worship 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.

© 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

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

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them and they wept aloud and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?"

Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— would you wait until they grew up? Would you

remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has gone out against me!"

At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-by, but Ruth clung to her.

"Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

HYMN

"Jesus, Lead Us On"

Hymn 422

Jesus, lead us on
Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow, calm and fearless.
Guide us by your hand
To our fatherland.

If the way be drear,
If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us,
For through many a woe
To our home we go.

When we seek relief
From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore
Where we weep no more.

Jesus, still lead on
Till our rest is won.
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us;
Still support, console, protect us
Till we safely stand
In our fatherland.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26:6-13

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

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

"Love in Christ Is Strong and Living"
Hymn 490

Love in Christ is strong and living,
Binding faithful hearts in one;
Love in Christ is true and giving
May his will in us be done!

Love is patient and forbearing,
Clothed in Christ's humility,
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,
Reaching out in charity.

Love in Christ abides forever,
Fainting not when ills attend;
Love, forgiving and forgiven,
Shall endure until life's end.

SERMON

She sounded so empty, her smile gone, crushed out of her. She had been so full - so full of life and love and hope and joy. Even when famine meant empty shelves, bare pantries, no food to feed the family, her heart was still full. Even when, with her husband and two young sons, they had to leave their home, their families, their neighbors behind, she still had hope. Then looking for a place to live, someplace with food, someplace to raise their family, they settle in Moab. It wasn't easy; they looked different and talked different; they had different ways than their new neighbors. It wasn't easy, but they had food for their family, and hope. But then her husband, the father of her two boys, dies, leaving her a widow. Her two boys grow, find wives, and marry. But then, one after the other, like her husband, they die. Now it wasn't just her shelves and pantry that were empty; now her heart felt empty - and her life tasted, oh, so bitter.

From full of life and love and hope and joy, to empty and bitter - can you imagine what life had become for Naomi? In her mind, what did she have going for her? - God was against her. Maybe you know someone feeling like that? Maybe some days you feel like that.

Then Naomi hears that there's food back home in Bethlehem. I won't tell you that the news filled her with life and love and hope and joy. No, just a determination to go back home. So she packs up what little she has and tells her daughters-in-law to stay and start over - she had nothing to offer them. One goes back, but not Ruth. Ruth answers: **“Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.”**

Some of you may have chosen that for a wedding text: **“Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried.”** Think of what Ruth was signing up for. Ruth and Naomi weren't two lovebirds starting a new life together filled with life and love and hope and joy. No, Naomi had lost her smile and her hope; she figured that God was against her; her life tasted bitter; and I wouldn't be surprised if she gave off a bitter taste herself. But that didn't stop Ruth: **“Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.”**

What would that mean for Ruth? Leaving behind her family, her people, her homeland to follow her mother-in-law to go and stay with a people who would look at her as different, an outsider. For what? Ruth couldn't expect the family farm, whatever might be left of that. All she could hope for was a chance to be there for her mom-in-law.

Why? How? How could Ruth make such a promise, such a commitment? The answer is tucked in the middle, tucked at the heart of Ruth's promise - "**Your people will be my people and your God my God.**" Ruth shared more with Naomi than widowhood; she shared more than the love of a lost husband and son. They had more in common than just crushed hopes, broken dreams, and lives with plans all crashed apart. "**Your God will be my God.**" For Ruth, Naomi's God wasn't just some generic god; she knew God as the LORD - with the four capital letters - "**The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.**" Ruth was ready to go with Naomi, to stay with Naomi, to be there for Naomi in their broken-ness and emptiness - why? - because squared away in her heart she had the LORD - compassionate, gracious, abounding in love and faithfulness.

How many Naomis do you think are out there today? People who used to be full of life and love and hope and joy, but now feeling empty, their lives tasting bitter, perhaps stuck thinking God is against them. How many Naomis and Ruths are out there, their plans crashed, crushed, crumbled? Anybody you know? Or maybe it's your plans crashed, crushed, and crumbled. Your hope and joy, your life and love feeling empty. Your life tasting bitter.

How do you go forward? How do you help someone else go forward? What did Ruth do? She didn't sit and stew; she didn't just set her heart on herself and her mind on her hurts. She looked up and out. Ruth looked out, outside herself and saw Naomi in her hurt, and instead of just counting Naomi as cost and burden, she counted Naomi as family and friend to be loved. Ruth looked outside of herself and she looked up. She didn't see the LORD as a burden to be avoided or skirted around. She saw the LORD - compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness - [she saw the LORD] as "**my God.**" And she lived with the LORD, not just in the center of her words, but she lived with the LORD in the center of her heart and her life - compassionate, gracious, abounding in love and faithfulness.

What does all that mean for us? In these times of plans crashing and burning, in these times of stress and fear, emptiness and bitterness, how can you be a Ruth for yourself, a Ruth for the people around you?

If you're thinking that sounds too big, too heavy, too much, I get it. Thankfully we have more than the example of Ruth as beautiful as it is. We have Jesus, not just his example, but his life and power. He saw our emptiness. He saw the bitterness we were up against. He saw how God had every right and reason to be against us. But he didn't count us as too big a burden, too big a cost. Instead, you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. Jesus didn't just step into our lives to go with us and stay with us, to help us and be with us. No, Jesus stepped into our lives to be us, to live for us and die for us, in place of us. As us, in place of us, Jesus took on himself our emptiness, our guilt, and the bitter bite of God's judgment. Why? So he can fill you and cover you with the smooth sweetness of his grace and forgiveness. With Jesus, you can say the LORD - the compassionate and gracious LORD, the slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness LORD - you can say that LORD is "my God."

Ruth didn't grow up with the LORD. So how did Ruth know about the LORD as her God? I'd like to think that Ruth's husband, before he died, did the man of God thing and told Ruth of God's plan, God's grace and promise for her. I'd like to think that Naomi, before she hurt so, did the family and friend of God thing and told her daughter-in-law of God's faithfulness and compassion. I'd like to think that Ruth's husband and that Naomi showed Ruth in the way they lived what it means to live with the LORD's compassion and grace. And I'd like to think that we're doing the same thing - setting our family and friends up to think like Ruth, to love like Ruth.

How? By sharing the LORD, living and loving like Ruth. So whom do you know who's losing their smile, their hope, their joy? Whom do you know who could use a Ruth to walk with them, talk with them, sharing the grace and the love of Jesus with them?

Lord, you I love with all my heart;
I pray you ne'er from me depart;
With tender mercies cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share;
Heaven itself were void and bare
If you, Lord, were not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in you no one could shake.
You are the treasure I have sought;
Your precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

Lord God, 'twas your rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify your lavish grace
And serve and help my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile;
Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
To bear my crosses willingly.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

Lord, let at last your angels come;
To Abram's bosom bear me home
That I may die unfearing.
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until your reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
That my own eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, your glorious face,
My Savior and my Fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise you without end.

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.

© 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

CLOSING HYMN

"I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus"

Hymn 446

(After a one-verse musical introduction...)

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 pardon;
At your feet I bow,
For your grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

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

I am trusting you for cleansing
In the crimson flood,
Trusting you who made me holy
By your blood.

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

Texts and music covered under OneLicense.net #A-712373 Scriptures taken 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. www.zondervan.com The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

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.

7404 So. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. "Lord, Have Mercy" Kermit Moldenhauer. Tune, Setting: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Opening Sentences: Marty Haugen and Kermit Moldenhauer. Text, Tune, Setting: © 1995, 1996 by GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 So. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. and © 2002 Northwestern Publishing

House. Psalm 63: ©1997 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL All rights reserved. Used by permission.