

# 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)

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

## To Our Guests

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

## Our Communion Practice

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

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

## We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

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

## We Care about Your Special Needs

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



## Our Facilities

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

## Our Ministry

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

August 30, 2020

## DIVINE SERVICE II

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** we are surrounded by chaos, danger, darkness, and dishonor.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** we see how God's people have stood out in such times as people of love and honor. And we hear our Savior's call for us today!

**OPENING HYMN**

*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*  
**Hymn 771**

I want to walk as a child of the light;  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world;  
The star of my life is Jesus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no darkness at all;  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God;  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path  
And show me the way to the Father.

*Refrain*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ;  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

*Refrain*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 © 1970, 1975 Celebration. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,**

**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**

**I deserve to be cast away from your presence forever.**

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY †

### *Kyrie*

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

† Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: **Amen.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, Now and forever. Amen

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Ruth 2:1-12, 17-20

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz.

And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."

Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!"

"The LORD bless you!" they called back.

Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, "Whose young woman is that?"

The foreman replied, “She is the Moabitess who came back from Moab with Naomi. She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.’ She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.”

So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.”

At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?”

Boaz replied, “I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.” ...

So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough. Her mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!”

Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. “The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” she said. “The LORD bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers.”

HYMN

*"O Master of the Loving Heart"*

Hymn 491

O Master of the loving heart,  
The friend of all in need,  
We pray that we may be like you  
In thought and word and deed.

Your days were full of kindly acts;  
Your speech was true and plain;  
Of those who ever sought you, Lord,  
None came to you in vain.

Your face was warm with sympathy;  
Your hand God's strength revealed;  
Who saw your face or felt your touch  
Were comforted and healed.

Oh, grant us hearts like yours, dear Lord,  
So joyous, free and true,  
That all your children, ev'rywhere,  
Be drawn by us to you.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON (CONTINUED)**

Ruth 3:1-13

One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

"I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet.

"Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer."

"The LORD bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character. Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I. Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. ..."

## HYMN

## *"Love Is the Gracious Gift"* Hymn 505

Love is the gracious gift of your goodness;  
Love is the patient fruit of your care;  
Love is the gentle work of your Spirit,  
Who is the source of love ev'rywhere.

You loved me first, Lord, sending me Jesus.  
Then I responded, trusting your Son.  
Now you invite me to love my neighbor,  
Showing your true love to ev'ryone.

Love means forgiveness, patience, and kindness;  
Love is not jealous, boastful, or rude.  
Love endures all things, bearing, believing;  
Love hope forever, rejoices in truth.

Love in a marriage, love freely given,  
Love of a husband, love of a wife —  
Made to continue, blossom, and flourish,  
Grow ever deeper throughout this life.

Love among Christians, love in the fam'ly,  
Love for the Savior, whose blood was shed,  
Love and submission one to another  
As unto Christ, who reigns as our head.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 15:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY

*"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

Hymn 523

God of grace and God of glory,  
On your people pour your pow'r;  
Crown your ancient Church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom; grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn the Christ, assail his ways.  
From our fears that long have bound us,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;  
Bend our pride to your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal, Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving you whom we adore, Serving you whom we adore.

SERMON

She had a reputation, already. She wasn't in town long, but she already had a reputation. Boaz hadn't met her yet; he didn't know who she was; but he knew about her. She had a reputation. And not the easy kind of reputation to get. You know the easy kind, the kind of reputation that's easy to get and hard to shake -

lazy, loose, liar; screw-ball, screw-up, screw-loose; stuck-up, brat, pushy, jerk. She didn't have that kind of reputation, the easy kind of reputation. No, she had the kind of reputation that's hard to make and easy to lose. Hard-working, unselfish, caring. She hadn't been in town long, but already she had that kind of reputation.

She didn't get her reputation by making a show of herself - "Look at me! Like me! Friend me!" No, she got her reputation the old-fashioned way - she earned it by working hard, by caring unselfishly. It's been a long time since I've worked in the fields - walking soybeans, pulling weeds; de-tasseling corn. When I hear of Ruth working the harvest from morning til evening - bending over and picking up, bending over and picking up, bending over and picking up from morning til evening. And then what? Time to go home? No. After bending over and picking up from morning til evening, she threshed that grain she had gathered, beating the grain off the stalk, whacking it, whacking it, whacking it. Finally, after all that, she went home, hauling her harvest with her. Ruth didn't have the easy kind of reputation. No, she earned her reputation the hard way - working hard, caring for others.

He had a reputation, not already, but still. It wasn't a new reputation; Naomi knew about him from years ago. He had a reputation, a way about him, and he didn't hide it. When he greeted you in the morning, he didn't just drop a "How you doing?" He greeting you with a blessing: "The LORD bless you." When he saw a young woman gleanng with his workers, he didn't treat her as eye-candy. When he saw a foreigner in his fields, he didn't treat her as an outsider. He treated her as family; and he made it clear to everyone on his team, everyone in his fields: "Treat her right, look out for her right, make sure she's safe and cared for right." He had a way about him, a way of taking care of business, a way of taking care of people, a way of setting the tone - a tone in tune with the Lord - kind and caring.

He had a reputation, a reputation of someone you could trust to do the right thing, even after downing a few beers. Naomi trusted him; she figured he was the right one for her daughter-in-law, for Ruth. What did you think of Naomi's plan for Ruth? "When he's had his supper, when he's had his drink, when he's sleeping out under the stars, get under his blanket with him." A plan like that could go so wrong, in so many ways, but Naomi trusted him. Ruth trusted him. Boaz had the reputation of someone you could trust to do the right thing, someone you could count on to be family.

Boaz had a reputation; Ruth had a reputation. Someone else had a reputation - the people of Israel. When God had work for them, they quit on him, took the easy way out. When life was good, they chased the gods of their neighbors. They were liars, cheaters; they stabbed each other in the back. Women, children, strangers - none of them were safe. Neighbors couldn't trust neighbors; family couldn't trust family; God couldn't trust hardly a one of them. The people of Israel had earned the reputation for quitting on God and running with the world - anything to satisfy their wants, their urges, their anger, their hurts, their hatred; anything to satisfy themselves.

But not Boaz, not Ruth. It couldn't have been easy. When our world is dark and evil, when our world is storming with evil, it can be so easy to give in, give up, get swept along; to go along and run with the world. When we're surrounded by godlessness, it can be so easy to run with the world and settle for the easy reputation. Or when we're surrounded by godlessness, it can be so easy to fit in with the world and - I don't know if this is really better - settle for no reputation. Either way - running with the world or fitting in with the world - what's in store for the world? The fires of judgment. **“The LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.”** **“Depart from me into the fires prepared for the devil and his angels.”**

Ruth and Boaz knew that. They knew the reputation of the LORD. They had heard of the plagues in Egypt and the 40 years in the wilderness. If you think we've had it tough with 5 months of COVID .... In Egypt God kept hammering away with plague after plague after plague until he got the attention he deserves. For forty years, God kept his people wandering in a wilderness-time-out until his judgment was complete. Ruth and Boaz knew God's reputation - **“the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.”** They saw it, not only in history; they saw it in the world around them.

But that's not all Ruth and Boaz knew of the LORD's reputation. They knew of the LORD's compassion and grace. In Egypt, God heard his people cry out for help and he delivered them. In the wilderness, God heard his people cry for mercy, and he forgave them, giving them the Promised Land. Ruth and Boaz knew God's reputation for mercy and for grace.

And what about us? We know God's reputation. In fact, God's ways should be even clearer to us. Why? Not just an added 3300 years of judgment and grace, but we have Jesus. In Jesus, we get to see what God is about. Look up and see your Good Shepherd. Listen in and hear Jesus the Jew reach out to the Samaritan

woman - no racism, just love for a fellow human with a messed up life. Listen in as Jesus hears and heals the leper calling out to him; watch as Jesus reaches out and touches him - no fear, just love for someone scared, beaten down, marginalized. Then, listen in as Jesus answers the cold callousness of the Roman soldiers nailing him to the cross: “**Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing**” - no anger, no cry to get even. Yes, look to Jesus and see not only your Good Shepherd, but see the Lamb of God. See Jesus take your sin, your guilt, your reputation as sinner; see Jesus take it all as his own - and remember - the LORD does not leave the guilty unpunished. For you and for me and all the world out there, see Jesus on the cross pay the price for our running with the world; see Jesus on the cross pay the cost for our fitting in with the world. And listen - hear Jesus shout out: “**It is finished!**” Hear Jesus whisper: “I forgive you.” God’s judgment is finished; your guilt is finished; before God your reputation is cleared. You are forgiven full and free - to walk with God, talk with God, to live safe and secure with your Good Shepherd.

We don’t always feel that way inside, do we? We don’t always feel God’s grace and mercy in us or around us. And that shouldn’t surprise us. Out there in the world, in here in our hearts, sin and Satan are fighting for our souls. And God’s reputation gets twisted. If you want to see what God is really about, if you want to see what God has for you, don’t just look out and about, don’t rely on your feelings - look to Jesus.

In Jesus, we see what God is about. And in Jesus, we see what we are about. In a world of darkness, it’s easy to reflect darkness. But “that’s not what we’re about, is it?!” We’re not about the darkness. Jesus says: “**You are the light of the world.**” You get to be Ruth, Boaz, Jesus - sharing fearless love and kindness. You get to be Ruth, Boaz, Jesus - looking out for the beaten down, the marginalized, the have-nots. Yes, you get to be Ruth, Boaz, Jesus - shining light and love, hope and peace. That’s the reputation God has given you, that’s our reputation to live. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## 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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **(Spoken) And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †

M: Blessed are you, O God Almighty, who through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, created all things and made mankind in your own image.

Blessed are you, O merciful Father, for when Adam sinned and lost your image, you did not forsake the people you had created. You sent your only begotten Son to take on human flesh through the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary. As our substitute, he fulfilled all of your laws in our place and died the death we deserve because of our sin.

Blessed are you, O God, our Savior, for you have gathered us here to remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. In this meal you give us his true body and blood, which paid our debt to you and assures us of your forgiveness.

For all of your undeserved love toward us, we give thanks and praise to your living and life-giving name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

† Jesus took bread and *gave thanks* (Matthew 26:26).

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

### CHOIR SONG

### DISTRIBUTION

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”*  
Hymn 318

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from his dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended; Oh, be now extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of his teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us; His love shall unite us  
To work for God’s kingdom and answer his call.

With praise and thanksgiving, To God ever living,  
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,  
Embracing his children of each tribe and race.  
With your feast you feed us; With your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

## OFFERING

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



**Acknowledgements:** 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](http://www.zondervan.com) The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™  
*Divine Service II Glory Be to God and Lamb of God* © 2006 Stephen P. Starke. *Lamb of God* © 2005 Dale Witte.