

September 30 & October 1, 2023

THE SERVICE

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we welcome Rev. Michael Zarling who serves at Water of Life Lutheran Church in Racine and Caledonia. As Mission Board Chairman for our Southeastern WI District of WELS, Rev. Zarling is specially qualified to encourage us as we partner together with the WELS to Open 100 New Mission in 10 Years!

OPENING HYMN

"Rise, Shine, You People"

Hymn 744

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.

See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.

Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation his new creation.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY (SUNG)

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST (SUNG)

CW 176

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful Father, your kindness caused the light of the gospel to shine among us. Use us now as instruments of your love to reach out with the message of salvation to all people. Bless those who labor in the mission fields far off and near, and grant success to their witness that many may be freed from sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Jonah 3

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 96A

Refrain

Let the heav-ens re-joice, let the earth be glad, let all that is
in them sing to the LORD. Let the heav-ens re-joice, let the
earth be glad, let all that is in them sing to the LORD.

Sing to the LORD a / new song;

sing to the LORD, / all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, / praise his name;

proclaim his salvation day / after day.

Declare his glory among the / nations,

his marvelous deeds among all / peoples.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory / due his name;

bring an offering and come in- / to his courts. *Refrain*

Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, / for he comes,
he comes to / judge the earth.

He will judge the world in / righteousness
and the peoples in his / faithfulness.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:14–21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 28:19-20

Alleluia. "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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"

Hymn 716

O Christ, who called the Twelve to rise and follow you,
forsaking old, familiar ways for ventures bold and new:
grant us to hear your call to risk security
and, bound in heart and will to you, find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve the truth for ages sealed,
whose words and works awakened faith, the ways of God revealed:
instruct us now, we pray, by your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve on roads they'd never trod
to serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim the nearer reign of God:
send us on ways where faith transcends timidity,
where love informs and hope sustains both life and ministry.

O Christ, th' _apostles' Lord, the martyrs' strength and song,
the crucified and risen King to whom the saints belong:
though generations pass, our tribute still we bring,
our hymns a sacrifice of praise, our lives an offering.

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 truly 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jesus Christ, to you be all glory, power, and praise!
Yours is the only name under heaven that saves.

By your grace we know the peace of God that transcends all understanding.
We thank and praise you for the hope and joy your peace gives.

Lord Jesus, you know better than we that countless souls are lost, still searching for this peace. You have commissioned us to go out and find the lost and you have powerfully equipped us with your Word and Sacraments and your faithful promises.

You are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

We humbly and boldly ask for your rich blessing on our efforts to open more missions and expand your ministry. Bless the recruitment and training of our future missionaries, and bless our missionaries and the fields where they serve. Through your people provide us with ample financial resources. Thwart the efforts of those who hinder our work. Grant wisdom, strength, perseverance, and joy to our mission and ministry leaders, our pastors and missionaries, and our congregations as we face challenges in our work.

In all we do, move all of us to see and do our part in spreading the gospel so that more may know your saving peace. May all we do and accomplish be to the glory of your name. Amen.

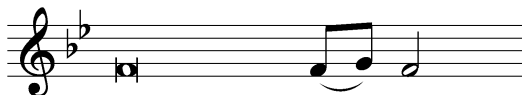
LORD'S PRAYER

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.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)



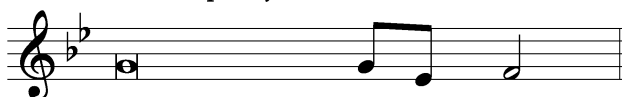
The Lord be with you.



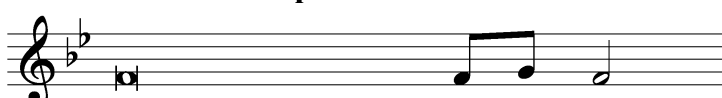
And al - so with you.



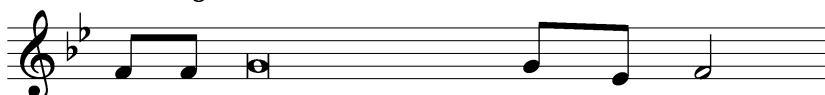
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SUNG)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 τ 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 τ 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"On Galilee's High Mountain"

Hymn 742

On Galilee's high mountain Christ gave the great command
in words of strength and promise which all can understand:

"All pow'r to me is given to do what I shall choose;
therefore I send my children, their witness I will use."

The Lord, who, born of Mary, came down as man and died,
who preached to all who listened, for us was crucified.

This Lord, our living brother, in pow'r at God's right hand
has chosen us to carry his truth to ev'ry land.

His strength within my weakness will make me bold to say
how his redeeming power transforms my stubborn clay.
His touch of fire ignites me, with courage I am sent,
my tongue-tied silence broken, with grace made eloquent.

And not alone to nations in faraway retreats,
but ev'rywhere I broadcast his love through crowded streets.
The lives that my life touches, however great or small—
let them through me see Jesus, who served and saved us all.

Lord, gather all your children, wherever they may be,
and lead them on to heaven to live eternally
with you, our loving Father, and Christ, our brother dear,
whose Spirit guards and gives us the joy to persevere.

CLOSING PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you
have given us 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

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

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”

Hymn 745

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting; who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth; rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me”?

If you cannot speak like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, you can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked with the judgment’s dread alarms,
you can lead the little children to the Savior’s waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, standing high on Zion’s wall,
pointing out the path to heaven, off’ring life and peace to all,
with your prayers and with your off’rings you can do what God demands;
you can be like faithful Aaron, holding up the prophet’s hands.

Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”
while the multitudes are dying, and the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly, let his work your pleasure be;
answer quickly when he calleth, “Here am I, send me, send me!”

OFFERING

*If you prefer online giving, you may scan this code
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EVERYONE OUTREACH

BUILDING A CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH CULTURE

Register today for the Everyone Outreach workshop!

Our St. John family is participating in an exciting new program called Everyone Outreach. The program will help us build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is encouraged and equipped to reach the lost in our community.

Everyone Outreach kicks off with a 2-day workshop on Saturday and Sunday, October 14-15.

- Our Saturday session begins at 8:30 am, until about 12:30.
- Our Sunday session begins at about 10:30, until mid-afternoon (lunch break TBD)

The interactive workshop will help us discover some of our hidden thought habits that may keep us from being active in outreach. Then, we will learn ways to change those thought habits so that, as a result, our outreach actions change as well. Each participant will leave the workshop with sustainable ways to personally help build our congregation's outreach culture.

Disclaimer: Joining us for this workshop does not mean that you are committing to join a St. John cold-call team or a St. John guest follow-up team. You are simply committing to want to be better at sharing Jesus with the people you know, and encouraging us to be better at sharing Jesus with the people God puts in our lives.

To register for the workshop, you can register at church, or use the QR code (left) to sign up at signup.com (you don't need a signup.com account).



For more information, visit EveryoneOutreach.com (QR code bottom right) or contact any of our Outreach Team - Nic Holter, Dan Freeck, Denise Fullerton, Dave Knight, Steve Lemerand, or Pastor.

We encourage every member of our congregation to attend the workshop and participate. In fact, the more of us who attend, the more likely our culture shift in sharing Jesus will be successful!

