

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

*A Family Connecting in Christ*



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

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Masked

With the renewed mask mandate across Illinois, we now offer masked worship - Saturdays at 5 and Sundays at 9. If you have questions, please ask!

## 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.
- Please join us after Sunday service for fellowship and Family Bible Hour.

## 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.

- Children's worship bulletins and "church bags" (with paper, colors, and Bible story books) are available in the Narthex Gathering Area.
- 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).

## The Service

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** we are faced by battles and struggles over the value of life. We see God's gift of life trashed instead of treasured in so many sad ways.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** we welcome Rev. Jeff Samelson of Christian Life Resources. Christian Life Resources (CLR) seeks to help us understand God's will for life along with current issues in life science, politics and law, and culture. But CLR seeks to do more than help us understand, CLR helps us treasure God's gift of life and equip us for the struggles of (and battles over) life - all in a way that helps us share the grace and power of Jesus with others! During Family Bible Hour, Rev. Samelson will present on the work and the blessings of the CLR. Then our Women of St. John will host a brunch and we will hear of the work and blessings of our local Pregnancy and Life Resources Center in Mundelein.

### OPENING HYMN

### *"God of Grace and God of Glory"* Hymn 770

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 the 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.

#### INVOCATION

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

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

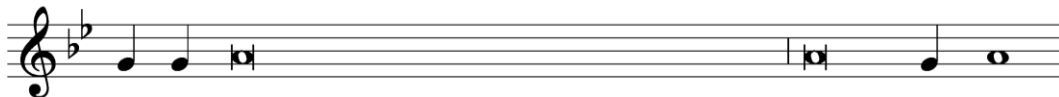
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

CW p. 174



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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 mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST (CHOIR)

CW p.176

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. Lord God,

heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

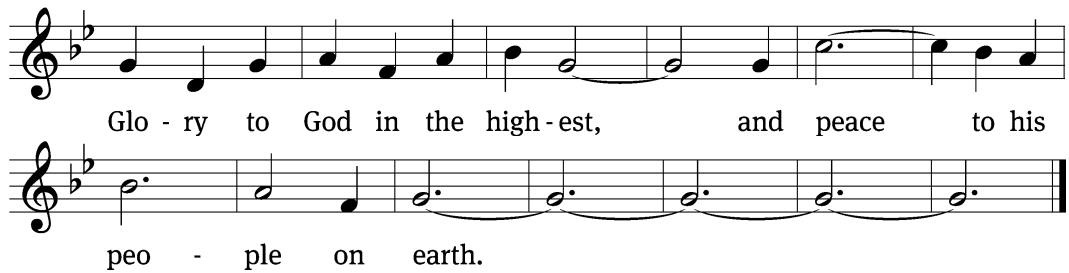
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your

glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
peo - ple on earth. For you a -  
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,  
with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of  
God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, open the eyes of all people to see life as your gift and have compassion for small and great, young and old, healthy and sick. Move us to reflect your love and value the time of grace you have given all people; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Genesis 45:3–15*

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay.



You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

“You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



Bless the LORD, my soul, and bless his ho - ly name.

Bless the LORD, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

- 1 (superimposed on ostinato refrain)  
It is God who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals ev'ry one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.
- 2 (superimposed on ostinato refrain)  
The LORD is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.
- 3 (superimposed on ostinato refrain)  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
the LORD has pity on those who fear him;  
for he knows of what we are made,  
he remembers that we are dust.

**SECOND READING**

*Romans 12:14–21*

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



#### *Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Rejoice in the Lord  
For his love and faithfulness.

#### *Refrain*

#### GOSPEL

*Luke 6:27–38*

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Son of God, Eternal Savior”*

**Hymn 729**

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, hallows all our human race,  
you our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:  
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrongs and help our need.

Bind us all as one together in your Church’s sacred fold,  
weak and healthy, poor and wealthy, sad and joyful, young and old.  
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.  
Are there spirits crushed and broken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.

As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.  
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.  
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,  
by your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,  
grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth your will be done.

**SERMON**

*"Love in Action and Truth"*

*1 John 3:18*

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**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**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Eternal God, when you finished creating the universe and everything in it, you formed a man from the dust of the ground. You breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and he became a living being. From his own flesh and bones you created a fitting helper for him and together Adam and Eve passed life on to countless human beings across the course time.

**Move us to marvel each day at the life and the bodies you create. Guide us to value all life and creatures as gifts from you.**

The fall into sin destroyed the perfection of Eden, and life became a challenge from birth to death. Because of sin our bodies experience pain and fatigue, disease and injury, the weakness of aging, and, finally, death. We are often the victims of sin worked by others, and, sadly, we often sin and work hurt and heartache in others.

**Help us to cope with the sad certainty that sin - even our sin - harms the life and the bodies you create.**

Strengthen our faith so that we treasure life and care wisely for the life and the bodies you have given us. Help us avoid temptations and overcome habits that harm our bodies. Help us live a healthy life-style.

**We thank you for the care you give us through the wonders of nature and medicine, and through the care of family, friends, and medical professionals.**

Forgive us for the times when our actions or our failure to act have brought pain to others. Give us courage to defend those who are bullied by words or actions. Work through us to provide compassion to those who are wounded in body or mind.

**Make us the kind of people others can trust and in whom they can find support.**

In your wisdom use us to care for the sick, the anxious and depressed, the young and the aging. Lead us to pray always and to help when we can. [We ask that you keep in your care... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Grant healing and hope according to your gracious will.

**Cause us to see the face of your Son in the faces of hurting people.**

We implore you, Lord, to extend your love and power especially to those who cannot defend themselves. Spare them from being abused and abandoned. Provide safety and security.

**Lead people everywhere to value and protect life from conception to our final breath.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Eternal Father, sustain and protect the life of all people and provide a time of grace so they may learn to love the blessings of life with you.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

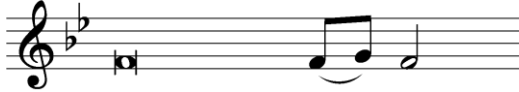
## THE SACRAMENT

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

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

### PREFACE

*CW p.183*



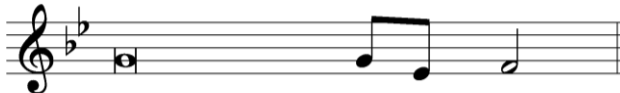
The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.



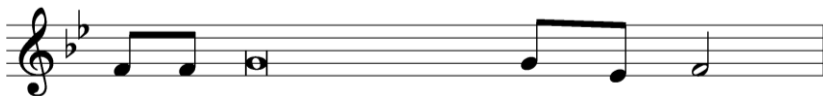
Lift up your hearts.



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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CW p.184

The musical score is written on seven staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of quarter and half notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**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.**

#### 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  $\text{T}$  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  $\text{T}$  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.

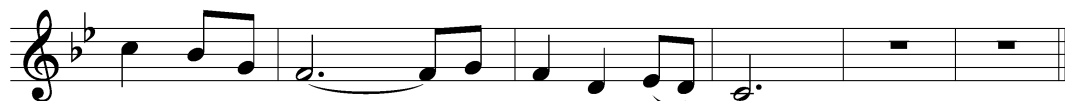
**Amen.**

# JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

CW p.186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us your peace.

## DISTRIBUTION (CHOIR)

### 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

*“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Hymn 617

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## OFFERING

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