

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Family Connecting in Christ



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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

- **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.

DIVINE SERVICE I

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...we have families suffering such heart ache.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...we see our Father in heaven with heart and ears open to the prayers of his hurting people.

OPENING HYMN
Above"

"All Praise to God Who Reigns

Hymn 236

All praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of wonders, pow'r, and love, The God of our salvation!
With healing balm my soul he fills, The God who ev'ry sorrow stills --
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, oh, hear my calling!
For death he gave me life indeed And kept my feet from falling.
For this my thanks shall endless be;
Oh, thank him, thank our God with me -- To God all praise and glory!

The Lord will not forsake his flock, His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand He leads his own, his chosen band --
To God all praise and glory!

All who confess Christ's holy name, To God give praise and glory!
All who the Father's pow'r proclaim, To God give praise and glory!
All idols under foot be trod; The Lord is God! The Lord is God!
To God all praise and glory!

Then come before his presence now And banish fear and sadness;
To your Redeemer pay your vow And sing with joy and gladness.
Though great distress my soul befell,
The Lord my God did all things well -- To God all praise and glory!

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

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

C Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, 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. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants, who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 1:1-20

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD. Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Elkanah her husband would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

Trust in the LORD 'and do good;*
dwell in the land and enjoy safe 'pasture.*
Delight yourself 'in the LORD*
and he will give you the desires 'of your heart.

Commit your way 'to the LORD;*
trust in him and he will 'do this:*

He will make your righteousness shine 'like the dawn,*
the justice of your cause like the 'noontday sun. *Refrain*

I was young and now 'I am old,*
Yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken
or their children 'begging bread.*
Turn from evil 'and do good;*
then you will dwell in the land for 'ever.

For the LORD 'loves the just.*
and will not forsake his 'faithful ones.*
The salvation of the righteous comes 'from the LORD;*
he is their stronghold in time of 'trouble.

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 7:24-30

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

"First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."

"Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."

She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

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

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Hymn 411

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.

SERMON

1 Samuel 1:1-20

What a miserable place to be. It was supposed to be a safe place. Home is supposed to be a safe place, isn't it? - a place where you can let down your guard and relax; a place where you know you are loved, and cared for, and special; a place where, instead of expecting shots, you know your heart is safe. Home is supposed to be a safe place. Even more so, church is supposed to be a safe place, God's house with God protecting, a place of peace.

*What makes a home to be a safe place?
What makes a home an unsafe place?*

*What makes a church to be a safe place?
What makes a church to be an unsafe place?*

For Hannah, home wasn't a safe place, not even God's home was a safe place, at least not safe for her heart, not safe from hurt or heartache. At home were children with the sounds of children. Each child, each sound reminding her that she didn't have children, that she couldn't have children. That's right, the children at home weren't her children; they were the children of her husband and his other wife. The other wife who could have children and did have children. Her

husband's other wife, she knew Hannah's pain, and she exploited it. She knew how Hannah hurt, and she poured salt in the wound. She knew how Hannah felt a knife in her heart, and she twisted that knife. She knew how Hannah felt forgotten, forgotten by God; and when it was church time, she made sure that Hannah hurt all the more.

Where was Hannah's husband? He was there. I think he tried. I think he tried to show his love. But it didn't do much good. He didn't know what to do, what to say. And Hannah felt tortured in her soul.

How could Hannah's husband have been a better husband?

But what about God? Hannah believed in God, didn't she? Well, for Hannah, it sure felt like God had forgotten her, like he didn't care. Worse, it felt like God was in some way responsible for Hannah's hurt and heartache. And in a way, he was.

Why might we say that God was in some way responsible for Hannah's hurt / heartache?

In what ways was God not responsible for Hannah's hurt / heartache?

What a miserable place to be; what a miserable life to live. Have you ever been there? An empty hole in your heart, an empty hole in your life? And to make it worse, instead of having somebody there for you to fill that hole in your heart with love and care, instead you've got a somebody in your life who fills that hole in your heart with hurt and hate? Instead of somebody to support you, you've got somebody always picking at you, picking, picking, picking. Ever been there? Your heart broken, afraid for your future, feeling helpless, hopeless? And the best anyone has for your broken, hurting heart is a band-aid? And as for God? You call, but he doesn't answer. It seems, it feels like he has forgotten you, that he doesn't care about you. You're afraid to think it, but some days it even feels like he's turned against you. Ever been there with God, thinking God is against you? What a miserable place to be, what a miserable way to live, isn't it?

When you are in that miserable place, what do you do?

When someone you know is in that miserable place, what do you encourage them to do?

So what do you do? In our lesson today, we see what Hannah did. (More importantly, we see what God did.) She poured out her heart to the LORD. She didn't hold back. She didn't pretend this was no big deal. She wept and she sobbed and she shook; she prayed and she prayed and she prayed. Her lips were moving, but no words were coming out. And Eli, the High Priest, thought that she was drunk.

Have you ever let loose and cried and prayed like that? Have you ever poured out your heart to God like that so that people around you thought something was wrong with you, that they tried to stop you? Listen to Hannah let loose: **“O LORD Almighty, if only you would look on your servant’s misery and remember me.”** Or listen to David let loose in the Psalms: **“Why, LORD? How long, O LORD? What are you going to do? Answer me, God! It’s time for you to answer me!”** Listen to Jesus let loose: **“Abba, Father, if it is possible, take this cup away from me.”** Over and over, he prayed. His anguish so intense, on a cold, cold night, sweat was running off his forehead. Listen to Jesus let loose: **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** At the same time, listen to Jesus keep it together: **“Not my will, but your will be done. ... Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”** It's alright to join them. To pour out your heart to the LORD.

What “let loose, pour it all out” prayers in the Bible have made an impression on you?

What might keep you from letting loose and pouring it all out?

“But who am I to talk to God like that?” “After what I’ve done?” “Who am I to think that he might ever listen to me?” Who are you? God sees you, he calls you, he hears you as his, his own child. Even if everyone around you treats you like bleep, you get to know that they don't determine who you are or what God thinks of you. Even if it doesn't look like it or feel like it - you get to know - he sees you, calls you, hears you as his child to love. Yes, even after. Even after what you did. Even after what you said. Even after what you thought inside about him. That's why the Father gave us, gave you Jesus. To take what we've said and done and thought, to take it all to the cross and to pay the price for you and for me, to clear it all away. What does that mean for your prayers? With Jesus, God doesn't hear you as “somebody who needs to keep quiet, somebody who deserves to be shut up.” No, God hears you as his son, his daughter - the son, the daughter that he loves with a big smile in his heart.

In our lesson, God heard Hannah. And when the time was right, God answered Hannah with a son. We're told Hannah named her son - "Shimu El," Samuel, "God heard."

God still hears. He hears you pour out your soul; he hears your hurt and your heart-ache; he hears your prayers. And when the time is right, he will answer. He will answer with his heart; he will answer with his head. He will answer for your good; even better, he will answer for his glory. He will answer as he promises: **"Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened unto you."**

What might be the difference between God answering with his heart and God answering with his head?

How might we say that God answering for his glory could be better than God answering for our good?

So what hurt, what heartache, what struggle are you going to pour out before the LORD? When you see family or friends pouring out their hearts to the LORD, how will you support them?

So what hurt, what heartache, what struggle are you going to pour out before the LORD?

When you see family or friends pouring out their hearts to the LORD, how will you support them?

Our lesson today comes from a dark time in Hannah's life, a dark time for God's people, a dark time in the world. Inside and out, most people thought little of God and so they saw little of God. Sound familiar? But God still kept his ears and his heart open to the prayers of his people. He heard them then. And he hears you now. Amen.

HYMN

"Come, My Soul, with Every Care"

Hymn 409

Come, my soul, with ev'ry care; Jesus loves to answer prayer.
He himself bids you to pray And will never turn away.

You are coming to a king-- Large petitions with you bring,
For his grace and pow'r are such, None can ever ask too much.

With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let your blood, for sinners spilt, Set my conscience free from guilt.

Lord, your rest to me impart; Take possession of my heart.
There your blood-bought right maintain And without a rival reign.

While I am a pilgrim here, Let your love my spirit cheer;
As my guide, my guard, my friend, Lead me to my journey's end.

Show me what I am to do; Ev'ry hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith; Let me die your people's death.

PRAYER AND THE 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; please see Pastor.)

M: The Lord be with you.

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

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to 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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.

M: Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final measure of the sixth staff contains a circled number 8, indicating an eight-measure repeat.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n 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.

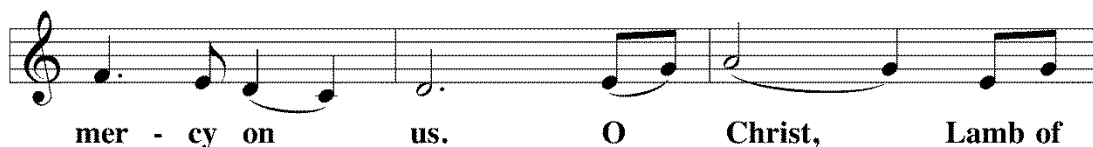
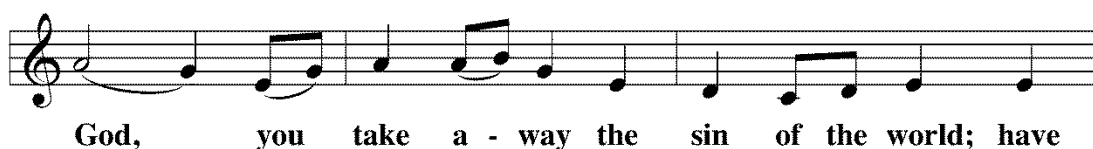
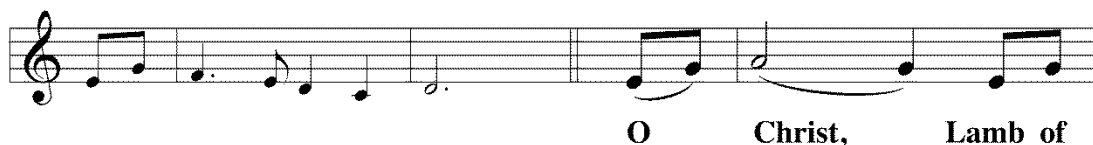
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

M: 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.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (CHOIR)

“Our Father, Who from Heaven Above”

Hymn 410

*Our Father, who from heav'n above Bids all of us to live in love
As members of one family And pray to you in unity,
Teach us no thoughtless words to say, But from our inmost hearts to pray.*

*Your name be hallowed. Help us, Lord, In purity to keep your Word,
That to the glory of your name We walk before you free from blame.
Let no false doctrine us pervert; All poor, deluded souls convert.*

*Your kingdom come, we humbly pray, That Christ may rule in us today
And that your Holy Spirit bring Still more to worship Christ as King.
Break Satan's pow'r, defeat his rage; Preserve your Church from age to age.*

*Your gracious will on earth be done Just as in heav'n around your throne,
That patiently we may obey Throughout our lives all that you say.
Curb sinful flesh and ev'ry ill That sets itself against your will.*

*Give us today our daily bread, And let us all be clothed and fed.
From hardship, war, and earthly strife, From sickness, famine, spare our life.
Let selfishness and worry cease That we may live in godly peace.*

*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!"*

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

FAREWELL FOR HANNAH KUHN

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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Christians, While on Earth Abiding”

Hymn 408

Christians, while on earth abiding, Let us never cease to pray,
Firmly in the Lord confiding As our parents in their day.
Be the children’s voices raised To the God their parents praised.
May his blessing, failing never, Rest upon his people ever.

Bless us, Father, and protect us From all harm in all our ways;
Patiently, O Lord, direct us Safely through these fleeting days.
Let your face upon us shine; Fill us with your peace divine.
Praise the Father, Son, and Spirit! Praise him, all who life inherit!

OFFERING

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