

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Family Connecting in Christ



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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Masked or Unmasked

We seek to serve God's people whether masked or unmasked. Therefore, we have a "mask only" area at the back of church for those who wish to be masked and together with others who are masked. For those who are fully vaccinated and wish to worship without a mask, we have a "mask optional" area in the front of the church. 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 from an usher.
- 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.

Service of Word & Sacrament

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...we see people (especially our younger generations) eager to volunteer and serve to make our world a better place.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see that we have the best reasons to get together to volunteer and serve - not just to make this world a better place, but to share a taste of the love of heaven!

OPENING HYMN

"Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying" Hymn 573

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!"

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**


+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

- M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
- 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.**
- 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 +

LORD, HAVE MERCY


M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C:  **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C:  **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C:  **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C:  **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life with your love.

You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us
pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your
name in all the earth. O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word
of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
King of glo-ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 7/8 time signature. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. There are two triplets in the second staff. The score ends with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken Together*)

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in a willing obedience; 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

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

HYMN

"Lord, You Love the Cheerful Giver"

Hymn 489

Lord, you love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true
That our life and all our living We may consecrate to you.

We are yours -- your mercy sought us, Found us in death's dreadful way,
To the fold in safety brought us, Nevermore from you to stray.
Your own life was freely given As an off'ring on the cross
For each sinner, now forgiven From eternal shame and loss.

Blessed by you with gifts and graces, May we heed your Spirit's call,
Gladly in all times and places Give to you who gives us all.
You have bought us; now no longer Can we claim to be our own;
Ever free and ever stronger We shall serve you, Lord, alone.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

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

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Hymn 469

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King.

Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart - it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee.

SERMON

Mark 2:1-12

They could have said, “No.” They could have said, “No, I’m too busy; I don’t have time.” They could have said, “No, it won’t work; it won’t do any good.” They could have said, “No, ask someone else; I’ve already done my part.” They could have said: “No, that’s really not my thing.”

When they saw the house full, no way in, they could have said, “No.” When they saw the steps they needed to climb carrying that man to the roof, they could have said, “No.” When they saw the roof, and that they would have to dig their way in, they could have said, “No.” They could have said, “No.” But they didn’t.

Somehow, those four got together. They left whatever they were doing. They dropped whatever they had planned on doing. And they came together. They put their strength together. They put their love together. They put their faith together. Together they picked up that man who couldn’t walk, and together they picked each other up. “Don’t give up; we can do this.” “Don’t give up, there has to be a way.” “Don’t quit now, think of what Jesus can do!” They came together: “Let’s do this!” One person’s timidity was overcome by the boldness of the group. Another person’s self-centeredness was overcome by another person’s care. Together their faith overcame failure. Together they did what none of them could do on his own.

Now imagine you were there, not up on the roof but in that house when Jesus said: “Get up,” and that man got up. You get to hear it and see it; feels pretty good, doesn’t it? And what are you saying when you get home? What are you saying for the rest of your life? “Wow! Do you know what I saw?” And when they tell their story, do you think they tell the truth about how they turned their backs on the four and wouldn’t let them in to see Jesus? I don’t think so. But somehow when they tell the story, what do they tell? How they made room for the stretcher to come down through the ceiling, how they were front and center in making room for the miracle. Why? Because we like to be part of God doing neat things. We like to

see God doing neat things, but to be part of God doing great things is even better, isn't it? Unless what? Unless the sacrifice is too great, then it's easier to just be part of the celebration, isn't it?

Enough of that. Now imagine you were one of the four on the roof. What do you think of your sacrifice, your sore muscles, your scrapes and cuts from digging through the roof? What do you think of your sacrifice, your inconvenience, your giving up what you were going to do? Somehow, all that, all that you gave up means nothing. And what you got to be a part of - being part of God blessing - that is your pride and joy. Not so?

And his (God's) joy too. In our lesson, we're told that Jesus saw the faith of the four, and Jesus rewarded their faith with a miracle. On another day, in another place, much closer to the cross, Jesus takes us into the future, to Judgment Day, and what do those who let go of themselves, what do those who let go of doing their own thing, what do those who come together to do God's thing get to hear? **"Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and share your master's happiness!"** When God's people get together to do God's work, when God's people get together to share God's heart - God doesn't shrug it off - "oh, that's just their job." No, God rejoices and God rewards!

How? Another day, Peter was concerned about how much they were giving up, how much they were missing out on as disciples following Jesus. And how did Jesus answer? He promised that in heaven we will receive a 100 times as much as we give up here in this life. What we have coming in heaven will make what we lose out on here in this life seem like nothing. Sounds good for then, doesn't it? But what about now. In our lesson today, we see something of a reward for the four. Not only did the four have the great satisfaction of bringing someone to healing from heaven. By getting together to serve, by getting together to be part of what Jesus was doing, they had front row seats to see and hear Jesus work his finest.

How so? Before Jesus said, "Get up," Jesus said, **"Your sins are forgiven."** Why? Jesus had some enemies, some naysayers in the crowd who needed to be put in their place. There's a whole sermon there, but we'll leave that for another time. Except for this, those four in the front row, they got to hear the master at work; they got to hear Jesus put his enemies in their place. Why did they get to hear that? Because they left doing their own thing to come together for someone else.

At the same time that Jesus put his enemies in their place, Jesus showed them and us what he is all about - not just fixing some bum legs, not just making life easier, but making us, setting us right with God for life made right with God.

We, you and me, we get to be about that same thing. Instead of just being people in the crowd, bystanders, we get to be part of sharing life made right with God. Like Jesus, with Jesus, we get to share forgiveness. Like Jesus, with Jesus, we get to share the heart of God. Like Jesus, with Jesus, we get to share life with God.

How? Sometimes by getting together to help someone who needs help. Sometimes by getting together to bring someone to Jesus. Sometimes by getting together to be part of what the church does to say what Jesus says: “**Your sins are forgiven.**” That’s what this Holes and Roles survey is about. Here, we ask your help in getting together to help someone who needs help. Here, we ask your help in getting together to bring people to Jesus. Here, we ask your help so that we as a congregation can do what needs to be done to share life made right with God.

If, as you look at this, you want to think about the cost, cost in time, cost in energy, that’s fine. We want you to be realistic. But don’t get so stuck on the cost that you miss the reward - not just the reward that Jesus has for us in heaven, but the reward of being in the front row to see what Jesus is doing, and even better, the reward of being part of what Jesus is doing. And that makes it all worthwhile!
Amen.

Bible Study Discussion Questions

1. In these COVID-times, what are some questions or considerations that might help a person to evaluate whether they are exercising a healthy respect for COVID or an unreasonable fear?

What are actions that could reflect a healthy respect for COVID?

What are actions that could reflect an unreasonable fear?

2. In these COVID-times, what are some questions or considerations that might help a person evaluate whether they are exercising healthy trust or unthinking carelessness?

What are actions that could reflect healthy trust?

What are actions that could reflect unthinking carelessness?

3. When it comes to masking and vaxing, how can I know whether I am encouraging or pushing?

How can I know whether someone is seeking to encourage me or push me?

HYMN

“Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”

Hymn 484

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly Give to God our all, our best --
Service hearty, thorough, honest, With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving, All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion; Come before him with a song.

By his mercy, by his bounty, By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us, What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely, Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us, That his wisdom all controls.

Gracious Lord, accept our service For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us; Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav’n we rest rejoicing, Praising you forevermore.

PRAYER AND 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.)

(Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

(Before and after Communion prayers are found in *Christian Worship*, page 11.)

M: The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

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



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



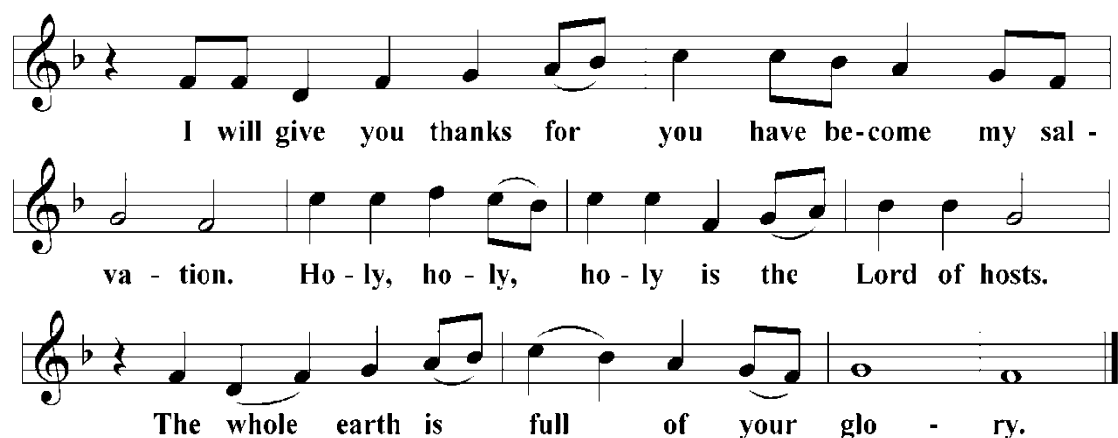
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks for you have be-come my sal -
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of 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; 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Hymn 486

Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice,
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil With your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor you have given To our humblest charity
In your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it unto me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That you need what we can do,
Saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Yes, the sorrow and the suff'rings Which on ev'ry hand we view
Channels are for gifts and off'rings Due by solemn right to you.
Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we may not choose but pay
Lest that face of love and pity Turn from us another day.

Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces, With your love our love renew.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

"We All Are One in Mission"

Hymn 566

We all are one in mission; We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission Compels us from above
To plan and work together That all may know Christ's love.

We all are called to service, To witness in God's name.
Our ministries are diff'rent; Our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others With God's surprising grace,
So ev'ry folk and nation May feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united, And let our song be heard;
Now let us be a vessel For God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission; We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.

OFFERING

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MAKE THE MOST OF WORSHIP - FIGHTING DISTRACTION

Worship does not come easily. Busy people inside of church and busy lives outside of church can easily distract us. So what can we do to help us focus? Set yourself up to focus. Select a seat away from distractions. Pray for the Lord's help - Christian Worship, pages 10-11. Use pre-service time to think about how the service theme fits your life and then during the service listen for that theme in the lessons, hymns, prayers, and sermon.