



“Called to Be Connected”

St. John's Lutheran Church & School
National Lutheran Schools Week
January 21, 2024

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHER: Pastor Greg Snow
LITURGIST: Pastor Matthew Barry
ORGANIST: Linda DeRocher

OPENING HYMN

"Oh, How Good It Is"



Oh how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God dwells to - ge - ther in
Oh how good it is on this jour - ney we share, to re - joice with the
Oh how good it is to em - brace His com - mand to re - ceive one a -



spi - rit, in faith and un - i - ty. Where the bonds of peace, of for - give - ness and
hap - py and weep with those who mourn. For the weak find strength, the af - flic - ted
no - ther, for - give as He for - gives. As we live as one, we re - ly on the



love are the fruits of His pres - ence here a - mong us.
grace in the words of for - give - ness from the Sa - vior. So
love of the Son and the Fa - ther and the Spi - rit.



with one voice we'll sing to the Lord; and with one



heart we'll live in His Word. Let the whole earth see the Re - deem - er has



come And He dwells in the pre - sence of His peo - ple.

OPENING SENTENCES (from John 15:4-5 and selected Scripture)

The Lord called to Samuel, "Samuel, Samuel." May we respond like Samuel:
"Speak, for your servant hears." (1 Samuel 3:10)

Jesus called to Simon, Andrew, James, and John: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"

"And immediately they left their nets and followed him." (Mark 1:17)

Jesus said: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit"

Speaking the truth in love, We are to grow up in every way into Christ, the head. (Ephesians 4:15)

"As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. "

From Christ, the head, every joint and part is held together so that the body builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:16)

"Abide in me, and I in you.

For apart from me you can do nothing."

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us into darkness and turning back to Your light as we follow in faith.

Almighty God,

We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as ourselves. Our thoughts, words, and actions have not been pleasing to You. We have not loved You as we ought, and we have not always welcomed Your call for us to follow You and You alone.

For these sins and for the sins we have named before you in our hearts, we ask Your forgiveness. For the sake of Jesus, wash us clean from our sins, and empower us to live as children of the light for Your glory. Amen.

Hear and rejoice in this Good News:

God has sent the Light, Jesus Christ, into our dark world of sin. By His death and resurrection He has cleansed us from the deeds of darkness. At His command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Walk as children of the light as you follow Jesus.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LSB 411

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness,

shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father.

Refrain:

In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Refrain

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

We shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, You sent Your Son to show us the way to You, our Father. In response to the call of Jesus, those He summoned as His disciples followed Him. By the working of the Holy Spirit, help us to hear His call, to believe in Him, and to follow where He leads, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

St. John's Lutheran School Children Sing Praises

(PK-3rd Grade)

“Jesus, Our Star”

“This is My Commandment”

“Go Into the World”

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

8:00/10:45 Al Dutcher, 8th Grade Teacher

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Lector: 8:00am Kendra Gilmore/9:30am Laura Stender/10:45am Gretchen Dolan

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.”

So he went and lay down. And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 4:14-16

Lector: 8:00am Kenra Gilmore/9:30am Laura Stender/10:45am Gretchen Dolan

...So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:14-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and

they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Christ Who Called the Twelve"

LSB 856

Christ, who called the Twelve
rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways
For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call
risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You,
Find perfect liberty.

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.

SERMON

"Called to Be Connected"

Pastor Snow

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, as You have called us as Your own and gathered us together, we bring to You our prayer and praise.

We pray for all people of the world, that the Epiphany light that shines the radiance of Jesus may shine in the hearts and minds of all people. For those who are wayward and lost and for those who have rejected Your call to repentance and faith, we pray You use us in our words and witness to point to You that many more would faithfully follow. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer

Gracious God, as you once called Samuel and the 12 apostles, so now, from our occupations and the business of our lives, you call us to follow Jesus. Give us boldness to repent immediately from all that may separate us from you, so that we may teach and proclaim the Good News to all the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer

Thanks and praise to You, O Lord, for our parents, teachers, pastors, professors, and theologians who faithfully deliver the truth of Your Word in home, church, school, and every form of instruction. Continue to raise up called servants and leaders within Your Church for Your work and mission to continue that many more may be connected to You and follow where You lead. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant success and blessing to our Lutheran schools, especially St. John's and Mayer Lutheran, and all our elementary, high schools, universities, and seminaries established for the glorious task of handing down the truth of Your pure Word through each generation. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who are sick, injured, facing or recovering from surgery or other medical procedures... Grant each one the knowledge of Your gracious will for healing, health, and wholeness, that they may put their trust and hope in Your comforting presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who teaches us to pray:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood. This we eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold to a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked to first speak with the pastor or an elder. For further readings in Scripture, we suggest Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

- +Communicants will go around front rail to receive elements in a continuous fashion.**
- +Individual cups may be deposited in the wooden box on the wall.**
- +If you would like the pastor to bring communion to you, please inform an usher.**
- +Children of all ages may join their parents and receive a special blessing.**
- +For those who desire it, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center ring of the tray of individual cups.**

Songs During Distribution

"In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace, When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my all in all Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine, Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny
No pow'r of hell no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

"In Christ We are Forever Grafted"

In Christ, we are forever grafted; We are the branches, He the vine.
All who abide in Him are crafted, Into a branch with fruit divine.
Apart from Jesus none will bear, Fruit that is righteous, true, and fair.

In Christ all faithful are connected, To God the Father who takes care
Of His creation, though infected, By Satan's sinful, tempting snare.
Yet, we abide in Jesus' vine, To bear the fruits of God's design.

We are connected to each other, And Christ who reigns o'er all the Church.
And with our Lord — as sisters, brothers —United in baptismal birth.
As God's bless'd children we proclaim, Grace to each other in God's name.

"Christ Be My Leader"

Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me;
in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation:
with Jesus I reign.

“Jesus Loves Me! This I Know”

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so

Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in. **Refrain**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN “Sent Forth By God's Blessing”

LSB 643

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

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Today's Worship Assistants

Acolytes: 10:45 Ayden Luedtke & Delyla DeWaard

Communion Assistants: 8:00 Paul DeRocher/9:30 Jim Vipond/10:45 John Spry

Elders: 8:00 Tim Peterson/ 9:30 Pete Stephan & Tim Goltz/10:45 Josh Peterson

Ushers: 8:00 Jay Molnau/9:30 Robert Loomis/10:45 Dave Hagen

Welcome Team: 8:30 Kendra Gilmore & Tracy Koepsell

9:30 Laura Stender & Jana Beckendorf/10:45 Stephanie Wilaby & Renee Siegle

LCMS Lutheran Schools

Sharing the Life-changing message of Jesus' love with more than 180,000 students, their families and the community.

LCMS schools (early childhood, elementary and high schools) are the second largest parochial educational system in the United States.

Early Childhood > 1600

Elementary Schools > 800

High Schools > 100

Raising up the Next Generation of Faithful Christian Disciples

- Experiencing and celebrating God's lavish gifts of love, grace, and mercy
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Being transformed by God's Word
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus



St. John's Lutheran School

Equipping a life on a foundation of faith

We are blessed to serve 269 students in Preschool through 8th grade with 30 talented and caring staff members (full and part-time).



- +A Loving Christian Environment
- +Excellence in Education
- +Development of the Whole Child

Daily student-led opening prayer, religion every day, chapel each week, devotions, meal-time and closing prayers.

St John's values our partnership with Mayer Lutheran High School and our connections with Concordia University - St. Paul.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please continue to share your prayer requests by filling out the back of a Connect Card located on the information desks in the upper gathering and main level common areas or by going to www.stjohns-chaska.org and clicking on "Prayer Request". If you wish to renew a prayer request for longer than 3 weeks, please call or email the church office: 952-448-2433/churchoffice@stjohns-chaska.org. Additional prayers, including those for the homebound or members in care facilities, can be found in our Weekly Word. To receive the Weekly Word electronically, please call or email the church office.

Needing Healing and Strength

Heidi Sturmfels' Aunt
Larry Smith
Linda Knox
Kathy Studenski
Kimberly; friend of Mike Thompson

Celebrating Birthdays

1/21 Julie Bruce
Kevin Pevestorf
Kristen Schmitz
1/22 Colleen Moldenhauer
James Schmidt
1/23 Clara Snow
Kylie Fick
Pearl Gray
1/24 Dana Lane
Jenna Colehour
Lena Groboski
1/25 Crystal Beussman
Erik Johnson
Fred Poppler
1/26 Catherine Raether
Paul Handberg
1/28 Amy Peterson
Caleb Kulzer
Kaylee Koepsell
Linda DeRocher
Paityn Wolter

Coming Up This Week!

Monday 22

Parent Drive Day for School
5:00pm Monday Night Meal
6:30pm Worship

Tuesday 23

Royals Basketball vs Waconia
Girls @4pm Boys @5pm

Wednesday 24

7:00am Finance Committee
9:30am Moms in the Word
6:30pm Confirmation
7:00pm Men's Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 25

9:30am Women's Bible Study

Friday 26

6:30pm AA

Saturday 27

7:30am Bible & Bacon

Sunday 28

8/9:30/10:45am Worship
9:30 Education Hour

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