



St. John Lutheran Church and School
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Reverend Jeff Caithamer
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School Principal: Tim Gabbert

Divine Service I
**stand as you are able*

OPENING HYMN 384 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever bless-ed, When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.
- 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Δ5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

***INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***KYRIE**

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *This Is the Feast*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

4 Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

5 For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day is spoken.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 1 Kings 3:4-15

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the

midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵ And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in

him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee^[c] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

C **Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter. (40-52)

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁰ The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY 410 *Within the Father's House*

- 1 Within the Father's house The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly The Lord of life has come.
- 2 The doctors of the Law Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words Of wisdom undefiled.
- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides Incarnate God below.
- 4 The secret of the Lord Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await The full epiphany.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself With loving awe to trace.
- Δ6 Till we behold Thy face And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Coequal Three in One.

SERMON “*At Home in the House of the Father*” Luke 2:40-52

***NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LORD'S PRAYER

*COLLECT

*BENEDICTION

P 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.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 376 *Once in Royal David's City*

- 1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Serving:

Preaching: Rev. Jeff Caithamer

Organist: Keith Williams

Videographer: Lou Ann

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY – We remember the following people in our prayers: *for healing and recovery:* Karla, Shirley, Pastor Ehlers, Esther, Judy, Martin-son of Letty, Aidan, Whitney-wife of Ellie’s grandson, Barbara-friend of the congregation, Ashlyn-infant relative of Joyce, Jan, John, Tom, Opal, Hartman-grandson of Dan & Joanie, Jacob Arnold-great grandson of Bob & Joan Arnold, Maria Stifanos, Brett Velander-cousin of the Kindts’, Merv Strom, Jessica Arnold-granddaughter of Bob & Joan Arnold, Joan-mother of Bill, Judy-mother of Rochelle, Rebecca-daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy-father of Anne, Dan-brother of Bonnie, Todd; *for successful treatments:* Luke, Kendra (school parent), Cari (school parent), Nicole (school parent), Earl, Jayne, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* Billy, Kyle, Joshua; *for those in the military:* Roberto, Adam, Joshua, Nick, Taylor, Andy, Brandon, Ben, Allyson, Zachary; *for our homebound:* Mavis, Alice.

For requests for the prayer chain or to be added to the chain:

<http://stjohnmedia.org/church/PrayerList.html>

Altar Flower Chart – The 2021 Flower Chart is now available for signing up. Please leave your phone number and you will be telephoned before the Sunday you signed up for to find out what flowers you would like and if you would like them in memory or in honor of something or someone.

2021 Contribution Envelopes are available on the tables in the church hallway. Some envelope numbers were changed so please throw away all old envelopes. Please stop by and pick up your new envelopes for 2021. If you do not see your envelopes, please contact the church office.

Sign Up for Church Services: Please contact the church office 359-1123 between the hours of 10am and 4pm, Monday through Friday, to sign up for Sunday’s services. Or you can email pmartin - at - stjohn-lcms.org You can also sign up anytime by emailing Pastor revcaithamer- at - stjohn-lcms.org Thank you to those who sign up ahead of time for church services. It does make the task of preparing for the Lord’s Supper easier and in allowing

enough space for everyone in the sanctuary. We do know that circumstances do not always allow for everyone to sign up ahead of time, so we will still welcome those who may come otherwise unannounced.

Email Addresses – Pastor Caithamer has compiled a list of members’ email addresses to communicate with the congregation. If you are not receiving these email communications, please call the church office with your email address so we can add you to the list.

Nursery Remodel – Be sure to stop by the Julia Eakin Nursery to see the progress of the remodel. Also, check out the bulletin board next to the Nursery (in the hallway) to track the progress on the chart.

Call Committee – A committee has been formed to begin the process of calling a teacher for the 4th/5th grade class. Members of the committee are as follows: Pastor Caithamer, Tim Gabbert, Maxine, Leah, Faith, Susah and Marlene. They are asking the congregations to submit names of possible candidates for them to consider. Please contact the school office 359-1714.

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Today	<i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion
Tuesday	10:00 Adult Bible Class; 6:00 Fellowship, Trustees, Evangelism, 6:30 School Board
Wednesday	<i>Epiphany</i> ; 8:20 Chapel, 5:45 Midweek School, 7:15 Holy Communion
Thursday	6:30 Men’s Choir
Sunday	<i>Baptism of our Lord</i> ; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion

LEARN BY HEART
THE FAMILY ALTAR

The families of St. John are encouraged to learn these words from the Small Catechism by heart this week:

Lord's Prayer

The Seventh Petition - But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

The Conclusion - For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."

Bible Passage: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

Hymn 367 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (sts. 1-2)

Psalm 67

Bible Readings for the Week:

Behold the Lamb of God – John 1:19-34

Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night – John 3:1-16

The Woman at the Well – John 4:1-26, 39-42

The Pool of Bethesda – John 5:2-15