



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

Prelude- *“Lift High the Cross”*

Behnke

OPENING HYMN 837 *Lift High the Cross*

Refrain Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. Refrain
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain
- 5 Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

*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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

*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: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:1-11

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴ Little children, you are from God

and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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. John, the fifteenth chapter. (1-8)

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

¹ [Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY 633 *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

¹ At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierc-ed side. Alleluia!

- 2 Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast—Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!
- 3 Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!
- 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!
- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!
- Δ8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

SERMON “*The Gifts of Holy Baptism*” Acts 8:26-40

*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 865 *Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain*

- 1 Lord, help us ever to retain The Catechism's doctrine plain
As Luther taught the Word of truth In simple style to tender youth.
- 2 Help us Your holy Law to learn, To mourn our sin and from it turn
In faith to You and to Your Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One.
- 3 Hear us, dear Father, when we pray For needed help from day to day
That as Your children we may live, Whom You baptized and so received.
- 4 Lord, when we fall or go astray, Absolve and lift us up, we pray;
And through the Sacrament increase Our faith till we depart in peace.

SERVING –

Preaching: Rev. Jeff Caithamer
Organist: Keith Williams
Videographer: Lou Ann

OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY - We remember the following people in our prayers:
following surgery: Rick; *upcoming surgery:* Sherry; *hospitalized:* Joyce; *for healing and recovery:* Brian, Paul, Larry, Teresa-godchild of Bob & Joan, Nancy, Gilbert, Cindy, Barbara-family friend of Bob & Joan, Maelynn, Lilly Wright, Karla, Pastor, Aidan, Whitney, Barbara, John, Tom, Hendricks, Jacob, Maria, Merv, Jessica, Judy, Rebecca, Roy, Dan, Todd, Brett; *for strength, hope and comfort:* Jayne; *for successful treatments:* Luke, Kendra (school parent), Cari (school parent), Nicole (school parent), Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* Rachel, Allie, Jaclyn; *for those in the military:* Adam, Joshua, Nick, Taylor, Andy, Brandon, Zachary; *for our homebound:* Alice, Lavina.

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

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

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Today	<i>5th Sunday of Easter; New Member Sunday;</i> 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 New Member Reception, Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion
Tuesday	10:00 Adult Bible Class; 5:15 Fellowship; 6:00 Evangelism, Trustees; 6:30 School Board
Wednesday	8:20 Chapel; 5:45 Midweek School; 6:00 Handbells; 7:15 Holy Communion
Saturday	10:00 LL/K/1 st Grade Meet and Greet
Sunday	<i>6th Sunday of Easter;</i> 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion

All Fellowship Committee Meetings will start at 5:15pm the first Tuesday of each month.

Enrollment for 2021-2022 –St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool offer a Christ-centered education for students age three through eighth grade. Our caring, skilled teachers use a variety of strategies to engage students’ minds in a safe learning environment, with the focus on teaching every subject with a Biblical worldview. Little Lamb Preschool offers morning and full day classes. Two-day (T/TH), three-day (M/W/F), and five-day options are available. Tell everyone about our wonderful school! Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is underway and space is filling up. For more information, contact the school office at (217) 359-1714.

St. John School Wish List – There are several items that our teachers, students and school would benefit from: interactive projectors, new classroom flooring, Chromebooks, outdoor pavilion, office computers, new assessment program. Please see the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall for more details and estimated costs and consider making a donation towards one of the items. If your donation goes in the offering plate, the donation remains anonymous. If your donation is turned into the school office, we can thank you for your generosity. All donations will be included on your Contribution Statement.

Parking Lot Access – On Friday, May 14, our 2-5th grade students will enjoy a Bike Day at school. To allow a safe place to ride, the entrances from Mattis Ave. and Round Barn Rd. will be closed from 9:30-3:00. The entrance from John St. will remain open, as well as the parking lot in front of the church and school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Eighth Grade Class Trip – Pray for our students and their chaperones as they travel to St. Louis, Mo this week. They will leave Thursday morning and return Friday evening.

Vacation Bible School 2021 – God’s Wonder Lab - June 21-25, 9-11:30am - A science lab conducts experiments that explain how things are possible. In Jesus’ ministry, He did things that are impossible. His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead for our salvation. At God’s Wonder Lab, discover that Jesus does the impossible for us. This year, registration will be prioritized and opened in phases. St. John Lutheran Church and School families will be given priority until May 7th. Register early to reserve your spot. Registration is open for children 3 years old (and toilet trained) to completed 5th grade. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and *more*. At this time, masks will be optional for all participants. Cannot wait to see you there. Register online at www.vbsmate.com/stjohnchampaign. E-mail vbs - at - stjohnls.com, if you have any questions.

Essential Exercise For The Christian Mind - Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week’s teachings include: Roman Catholic Mariology, The Godly Practice of Leisure, The Word “Glory” in the Bible, Facebook’s New Prayer Post Feature and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

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:

Table of Duties

To Workers of All Kinds - Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. Eph. 6:5–8

Bible Passage: And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

Hymn 733 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (sts. 1-2)

Psalm 22:25-31

Bible Reading for the Week:

Breakfast by the Sea of Tiberius – John 21:1-14

Jesus Restores Peter – John 21:15-25

St. Mark Records the Ascension – Mark 16:9-20

The Ascension of Our Lord – Acts 1:1-14