

**St. John Lutheran Church and School**  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Reverend Jeff Caithamer  
revcaithamer - at - [stjohn-lcms.org](http://stjohn-lcms.org)  
School Principal: Tim Gabbert

**Divine Service II**

**OPENING HYMN 342** *What Hope! An Eden Prophesied*

- 1 What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;  
The Lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, A branch from David's line,  
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God's design.
- 3 As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss,  
That by His death a dying world Would rally to the cross.
- 4 Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore;  
Lead past the angel's flaming sword-Come, open heaven's door.

**\*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.**

\*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: 2 Kings 5:1-14

<sup>5</sup> Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. <sup>2</sup> Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's

wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, “Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” <sup>4</sup> So Naaman went in and told his lord, “Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel.” <sup>5</sup> And the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.”

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. <sup>6</sup> And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” <sup>7</sup> And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.”

<sup>8</sup> But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.” <sup>9</sup> So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” <sup>11</sup> But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. <sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup> But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” <sup>14</sup> So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:1-11

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in

order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**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.**

Holy Gospel

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter. (13-17)

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

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY 337** *The Night Will Soon Be Ending*

1 The night will soon be ending; The dawn cannot be far.  
Let songs of praise ascending Now greet the Morning Star!  
All you whom darkness frightens With guilt or grief or pain,  
God's radiant Star now brightens And bids you sing again.

2 The One whom angels tended Comes near, a child, to serve;  
Thus God, the judge offended, Bears all our sins deserve.  
The guilty need not cower, For God has reconciled  
Through His redemptive power All those who trust this child.

3 The earth in sure rotation Will soon bring morning bright,  
So run where God's salvation Glows in a stable's light,  
As old as sin's perversion Is mercy's vast design:  
God brings a new creation— This child its seal and sign.

4 Yet nights will bring their sadness And rob our hearts of peace,  
And sin in all its madness Around us may increase.  
But now one Star is beaming Whose rays have pierced the night:  
God comes for our redeeming From sin's oppressive might.

5 God dwells with us in darkness And makes the night as day;  
Yet we resist the brightness And turn from God away.  
But grace does not forsake us, However far we run.  
God claims us still as children Through Mary's infant Son.

SERMON *"Jesus, the Life of Jesse's Tree"*

#### \*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.

#### \*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 349** *Hark the Glad Sound*

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne And ev’ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris’ners to release, In Satan’s bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

---

**SERVING TODAY –**

**Preaching:** Rev. Jeff Caithamer

**Organists:** Keith Williams

**Videographer:** Lou Ann