

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Woodbury, Minnesota

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 | 7:00 PM

ONLINE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020 | *EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

LWML SUNDAY

RINGING OF THE BELL | WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” [LSB 901], vs. 1–4



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.

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INVOCATION | OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

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

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

CONFESSION | ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: 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 fully lived as Your kingdom people. We have not brought forth the fruits of righteousness as we ought. 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, walk in Your ways, and bear kingdom fruit to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all of 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 5:1–7

¹ I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ² He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. ³ “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? ⁵ Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briars and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.” ⁷ The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 3:4b–14

⁴ If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Come as You Are” [Cheryl Stadler, soloist]

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HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33–46

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Parable of the Tenants ... ³³ Listen to another parable: “There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ³⁵ The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants? ⁴¹ ‘He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,’ they replied, ‘and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.’” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes”? ⁴³ Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed. ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Praise, Love, Serve” [Tune: LSB 361]

(Based on LWML Pledge, Text: Jean Hansen Kammerer)

**Our God and Father, made the earth, And when we went astray,
Our God, the Son, descended here To take our sins away.
With His own blood He bought us. He broke the bonds of sin.
Then God the Spirit came into Our hearts to dwell within.**

**In gratitude we pledge ourselves, To Him with all we have.
Our hands will work; our voices sing; Our lips proclaim His love.
His errands we’ll do gladly; His Gospel we’ll defend;
Our silver and our gold we’ll use — His Kingdom to extend.**

**Wherever He has need of us, We will His call obey.
Whenever He calls out to us, We’ll answer right away.
His will is ours that lost souls Will turn away from sin
And come to have eternal life Through fellowship with Him.**

SERMON

“Humility in Exile” Daniel 4

THE LWML PLEDGE

ALL: In fervent gratitude for the Savior’s dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS | LWML MITE BOX

[online at <https://stjohnwoodbury.org/give> ~ or ~
via U.S. mail to SJLC, 1975 St. Johns Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129]

THE PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your goodness and remembering with thankfulness Your mercies, which are new every morning; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION | COMMUNION *[in-person only]*

COMMUNION DISMISSAL

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

People: **Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

SEND—OFF PRAYER

ALL: Knowing that the time is drawing near, may I by Your Spirit's prompting, support the mission and ministry of my church with my personal witness, my earnest prayers and my sacrificial gifts. Grant that through me, many may be saved from the kingdom of darkness for the kingdom of Your Light, through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Serve the Lord with Gladness" [Tune: LSB 662]

**"Serve the Lord with gladness!" It is He alone
Who redeemed us sinners, Guides us as His own
To enjoy the blessings Of His love and grace,
Will at last in glory Meet us face to face.
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Glorify His name.**

**"Serve the Lord with gladness!" He gave us command
To proclaim His Gospel Now in every land
so that fellow sinners May, like us, be blest**

... continued

*Leading them to Jesus, We can serve Him best.
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Glorify His name.*

*“Serve the Lord with gladness!” There’s no greater joy
than to serve the Master, Work in His employ.
As we build His kingdom Angels, too, rejoice
Over every sinner Brought to hear His voice.
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Glorify His name.*

Text: Prof. Ernest Lewerenz

ANNOUNCEMENTS | DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Thanks to Cheryl Stadler for providing special music and leading the hymns today!

Acknowledgments for today’s LWML Service

Portions from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. 2020 LWML Sunday Worship Service authored by Rev. Larry Krueger. The author grants permission for use in local worship settings. The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has affirmed each woman’s identity as a child of God and her relationship with Jesus Christ. Lutheran Women in Mission are women of faith, empowered for active service in Jesus’ name and bold support of missions through Mite Box offerings. As Christians, we have been given the kingdom of God to bear its fruit.

September Mites Collected from St. John members ~ \$169.36

Mite Offerings Received as of August 31, 2020
Mission Goal for 2019–2021 Biennium = \$2,100,000.00
Amount Received = \$1,418,968.37
Total Mites Still Needed = \$681,031.63



Sunday Worship | 8:00 am . . . Outdoor Worship | 10:30 am
+ Education Time | 9:15 am +

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation