

IF YOU  
LOVE ME  
*You*  
WILL KEEP MY  
COMMANDMENTS  
JOHN 14:15

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church

Saturday May 9, 2026 \* 5:00 PM

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**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SONG**

Spirit Calls, Rejoice

I hear the wind of the spirit calling me home.  
I feel the wind of the spirit...filling my heart with love.  
Hearing heaven's voice...when the spirit calls...rejoice!  
When the spirit calls.  
Lift up your voices singing..life in the spirit bringing  
When the spirit calls...rejoice!

I hear the winds and it's saying, come to me now.  
I feel the wind of the spirit, breathing new life in me,  
Hearing heaven's voice...when the spirit calls...rejoice!  
When the spirit calls.  
Lift up your voices singing..life in the spirit bringing  
When the spirit calls..when the spirit calls....rejoice!  
When the spirit calls....  
Lift up your voices singing..life in the spirit bringing  
When the spirit calls...rejoice!

**WE CONFESS OUR DOUBTING HEARTS**

**C: Jesus, we have often acted like your disciples. We are afraid to believe you, ashamed of our lack of conviction, and frozen by our indecision. We fail to see the evidence of your great love for us, and we constantly ask you to provide more proof. Loving Savior, forgive our doubt. Forgive us when we forget how you died a criminal's death to free us from the bonds of sin and evil. Help us to live every day in the freedom and love of Easter. Hear us, Jesus.**

*Time for silent reflection*

## **WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S NEVER-ENDING LOVE!**

P: People of God, on the cross our Lord Jesus Christ has defeated death and has given us new life. The glory of Easter is reflected in the way that God shows us love. You and I are called to reflect the love of the Savior to those around us. God calls us to pray without ceasing, to love each other in confidence, and to share and make good use of our gifts. People of God, hear the good news of the Gospel...God loves us, God cares deeply for each of us, and God will not leave us alone. Praise God for never-ending love!

**ALL: AMEN**

### **FIRST READING**

**Acts 17:22-31**

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

## SECOND READING

## 1 Peter 3:13-22

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## GOSPEL READING

## John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

## SERMON

Rev. Shawn O'Brien

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

**ALL: I have faith in God, in response to overwhelming love.**

**I believe God created me and all I have,  
and has given me gifts beyond measure.**

**I have faith in Jesus, who emptied himself out of great love for me.**

**I believe Christ died on a cross for my sin,  
conquered death and the power of evil,  
and was raised to life on the third day.**

**His death is mine and his resurrection is mine.**

**New life is a gift because of Jesus' words and work.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit in response to overwhelming love.**

**I believe the Holy Spirit is present among us  
and lives within each person.**

**The Spirit calls people through the Gospel  
and creates and builds the church of Christ.**

**Through the power of the Spirit,**

**I have power to stand in strength against all adversity.**

**I believe Jesus is preparing a place for me and will come again to  
take me to be with him. Amen.**

## PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

**P:** Merciful God,

**ALL: Receive our prayer.**



## SHARING THE PEACE

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always

**C: And also with you.**

*(Please offer those around you a sign of peace as you are comfortable..  
this can be a handshake, a thumbs up, a fist bump or simply a smile...)*

## OFFERING SONG

Let the River Flow

Let the poor man say I am rich again.  
Let the lost man say I am found again.  
Let the river flow.  
Let the blind man say I can see again  
Let the dead man say I am born again.  
Let the river flow  
Let the river flow

Let the river flow Let the river flow  
Holy Spirit come, moving power  
Let the river flow.

Let the poor man say I am rich again.  
Let the lost man say I am found again.  
Let the river flow.  
Let the blind man say I can see again  
Let the dead man say I am born again.  
Let the river flow  
Let the river flow

Let the river flow...Let the river flow  
Holy Spirit come, moving power  
Let the river flow.

## OFFERING PRAYER

L: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: 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**

## **BLESSING**

L: May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us and be gracious.  
May God look upon us with favor and give us peace.

**ALL: Amen**

## **SENDING SONG**

The River

Down the mountain the river flows and it brings refreshing wherever it goes  
Through the valleys and over the fields the river is rushing and the river is here

### **Chorus**

The river of God is teeming with life and all who touch it can be revived  
And those who linger on this river's shore will come back thirsting  
for more of the Lord

### **Chorus**

Up to the mountain we love to go to find the presence of the Lord  
Along the banks of the river we run we dance with laughter  
giving praise to the Son.

### **Chorus**

Down the mountain the river flows and it brings refreshing wherever it goes  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here

### **Chorus**

### **CHORUS**

**The river of God sets our feet a-dancing  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here**

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**



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**We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church.  
We are...“creating and nurturing life changing relationships  
based on the love of God in Jesus Christ,  
so that we may grow in faith, serve God, and serve our neighbor.”**

LisaAnne Gregg, Office Administrator  
Church Office Hours: M-T-W 9am—3 pm  
Thurs. hours may vary \* Office closed Friday  
Email: office@stjohnwilliston.org

Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 pm  
Adult Sunday School and Confirmation Class: Sunday 8:30 am  
Sunday School (age 3 thru 5th grade) every Sunday 9 AM  
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am

**(Summer Worship Hours begin June 7th– Sunday Worship 9:00 AM)**