"Peace
be with you.
As the
Father
has sent me,
so I send you."

John 20:21, NRSV

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Saturday, April 11, 2026 5:00 PM

St. John Lutheran Church
Williston, Ohio

www.stjohnwilliston.org 419-836-5514

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PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG Lift Up Your Heads

Lift up your heads, **(lift up your heads)**
oh you gates **(oh you gates)**
Swing open wide, **(Swing open wide)**
you ancient doors **(you ancient doors)**
Let the King of kings **(Let the King of kings)**
take His rightful place **(take His rightful place)**
Make room, make way **(make room, make way)**
for the King of grace **(for the King of grace)**

Lift up your hands, **(lift up your hands)**
open up your hearts **(open your hearts)**
His victory over sin **(His victory over sin)**
and death is ours **(and death is ours)**
Let the King of kings **(let the King of kings)**
take his rightful place **(take His rightful place**)
Make room, make way **(Make room make way)**
for our King of grace **(for our King of grace)**

Who is this King of glory, Lord of power?
His name is Jesus, our risen King
Who is this King so mighty, Lord of strength?
His name is Jesus, our risen King

Lift up your heads, **(lift up your heads)**
oh you gates **(oh you gates)**
Swing open wide, (**Swing open wide)**
you ancient doors **(you ancient doors)**
Let the King of kings **(Let the King of kings)**
take His rightful place **(take His rightful place)**
Make room, make way **(make room, make way)**
for the King of grace **(for the King of grace)**

King of glory, Lord of power - King of glory, Lord of power
King of glory, Lord of power - King of glory, Lord of power

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 2:14a, 22-32

14a Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: 22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know 23 this man, handed over

to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified
and killed by the hands of those outside the law. [24] But God raised him up,
having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him
to be held in its power. [25] For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord
always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; [26]
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will
live in hope. [27] For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One
experience corruption. [28] You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'
[29] "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that
he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. [30] Since he
was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would
put one of his descendants on his throne. [31] Foreseeing this, David spoke of the
resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'
[32] "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:3-9

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he
has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead [4] and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled,
and unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5] who are being protected by the power
of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. [6] In
this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various
trials, [7] so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold
that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and
glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. [8] Although you have not seen
him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in
him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, [9] for you are receiving
the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

[19] When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors
were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and
stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." [20] After he said this, he
showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw
the Lord. [21] Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has

sent me, so I send you." [22] When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. [23] If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

[24] But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. [25] So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

[26] A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." [27] Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." [28] Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" [29] Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

[30] Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. [31] But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON Pastor 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 Once Again

Jesus Christ...I think upon Your sacrifice
You became nothing...poured out to death.
Many times… I've wondered at your gift of life and
I'm in that place once again...I'm in that place once again

And once again I look upon the cross where You died
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank You...Once again I pour out my life

Now You are...exalted to the highest place
King of the heavens...where one day I'll bow
But for now...I'll marvel at Your saving grace and
I'm full of praise once again...I'm full of praise once again

And once again I look upon the cross where You died
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank You...Once again I pour out my life

Thank You for the cross...Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross...my friend
Thank You for the cross...Thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross...my friend

OFFERING PRAYER
P: Merciful God,
C: Accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P: We are resurrection people!
All: We come to share in the table Jesus has prepared for us.

P: We are Easter people!
All: Just as we share his death - we share his life. We, too, will be raised from death to life.

P: We are Good News people!
All: The body and blood of Jesus is a very real presence among us. We come to the table to find forgiveness, healing, and acceptance.

P: Our Lord, on the night when he was betrayed took bread, gave thanks, broke it and give it to his disciples saying, "Take this bread and eat it. This is my body given for you. Do this to remember me." And in a similar manner he took a cup filled with fruit of the vine and after giving thanks he shared it with his disciples saying: "Drink of it, all of you, for this cup is the new covenant in my blood. Given for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me!" Following our Lord's command and responding to our need for forgiveness, we come!

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 DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER
P: Holy One,
C: Through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus. Amen.

BLESSING
P: 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 Christ is Risen

Christ is risen, sing alleluia.
Christ is risen, sing alleluia.
Open wide the door is standing.
From the grave new life is springing.
He was dead, now he's living.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Welcome!
St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the Pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the Pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the Pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.