



"But as for what
was sown on good
soil, this is the one
who hears the
word and
understands it, who
indeed bears fruit and
yields in one case
a hundredfold,
in another sixty
and in another
thirty"

MATTHEW 13:23, NRSV

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
SATURDAY JULY 11, 2026 7TH SATURDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday July 11, 2026 5:00 PM

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 NEED FOR GOD'S SPIRIT

ALL: God of spirit and truth, we confess we are sinful and unclean. Our spirits are dry and we need to be refreshed by your Spirit. We have tried to live life on our own terms but we have failed. Our days run together and we lack adventure and motivation in our lives. God of spirit and truth, forgive our sin and refresh us with your Spirit.

THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S SPIRIT

L: God created the world out of powerful love and continues to bless us. God, in Jesus, went to the cross in powerful love to take the sin of the world to himself, so our sin would no longer weigh us down. God, in the Holy Spirit, continues to demonstrate powerful love as we experience God's life-changing power each day of our lives. Once we were powerless; now we have God's power. Praise God for the power to change lives. **ALL: Amen.**

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Continued →

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**All: God is love, and in God is the source of all goodness and truth.
God is the creator of the universe and continues to recreate
a community of compassion for all humankind.**

**Jesus is God's Son. Jesus was born of Mary and lived a life of
kindness and concern. Jesus died a cruel death on an executioner's
cross and was raised to new life on the third day.**

**Now I can live a life of kindness and concern. Now I can die and be
raised to new life. Now I can live as a forgiven sinner, confident in
my place in eternity. The Holy Spirit is alive and at work,
establishing and building the church of God on this earth.**

**The Spirit of God leads me into the true faith,
guides me through the difficult choices of life,
and comforts me when I feel as if I cannot go on.**

God is with me, living inside of me, through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

P: God of Grace, ALL: Hear 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

Thank You, Lord

I come before You today ... and there's just one thing that I want to say
Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord.

For all you've given to me ... for all the blessings that I cannot see.
Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord.

Chorus

**With a grateful heart ... with a song of praise ... with an out-
stretched arm ...I will bless Your name.**

**Thank You Lord.. I just wanna thank You Lord ...
Thank You Lord.. I just wanna thank You Lord ... Thank You, Lord.**

For all You've done in my life ... You took my darkness
and gave me Your light ...

Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord.

You took my sin and my shame ... You took my sickness
and healed all my pain ...

Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord.

Chorus

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Loving God,

C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION LITANY

P: Jesus invites us to gather for this holy meal.

All: In response to the call of God, the command of Christ, and the bond of our common faith, we come to the table.

P: Our Lord, Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, in a quiet room with his disciples, took bread, gave thanks and when he had blessed it, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat, this is my body." And then he took a cup and when he had given thanks he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Do this in remembrance of me.

All: Gracious God, we are thankful for these gifts of love and sacrifice. In this meal may we know your presence, be assured of your forgiveness, and may your love fill us with power to share your grace with the world around us. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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: Compassionate God,

C: through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

ALL: Amen

SENDING SONG

Go and Do

Go, and do as I have done for you
Go, and do as I have said.
Go, and do as I have done for you
And they will know you, by your love
They will know you, by your love,
They will know you by the things you go and do.

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near.
Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

ALL: Amen.

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.



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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
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:00 am

Seven Faith Practices

I will strive to...

1. **PRAY** daily
2. **WORSHIP** weekly
3. **READ** and study the Bible
4. **SERVE** at and beyond St. John
5. **INVITE** others into a loving relationship with Jesus
6. **GIVE** of my time, talents, and resources
7. **ENCOURAGE** spiritual growth in others