



Well Done,
thou good and
faithful servant...
enter thou into
the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:21, KJV

***Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
25th Sunday in Pentecost
Saturday, November 18, 2023***

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PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS
OPENING SONG

Tami Tailford, Organist

We Bow Down

You are Lord of Creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the land and the sea.
You were Lord of the heavens
before there was time.
And Lord of all lords you will be.

We bow down ... and we worship you, Lord;
We bow down ... and we worship you, Lord;
We bow down ... and we worship you, Lord;
Lord of all lords you will be.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God of healing, God of wholeness...

C: we bring our brokenness, our sinfulness, our fears and despair, and lay them at your feet.

C: God of healing, God of wholeness, we hold out hearts and hands, minds and souls to feel your touch, and know the peace that only you can bring.

C: God of healing, God of wholeness, this precious moment in your presence and power grant us faith and confidence that here broken lives are made whole.

P: People of God, you are loved and forgiven! This is the good news of deliverance for those who trust. God has healed broken relationships, given power for our discipleship, and given us a new picture of our own worth. The power of God, through the Spirit, dwells within us and makes us whole. We no longer need to be burdened by our sin and brokenness, but can stand strong and rejoice in the healing and wholeness God has freely given.

C: Amen

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We believe God created all that exists and continues to recreate the lives of those who trust. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of a loving God, whose purpose was to save a lost world and who now works in us and others through the Holy Spirit. We believe God is

calling each of us to be the body of Christ, to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, and to stand against the powers of injustice and prejudice. We are called to declare for all the world to hear, "Jesus is risen and we are his people." Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of all goodness,

C: generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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 outstretched 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***

COMMUNION LITANY

P: Welcome to the celebration! God supplies for our every need and gives us this meal to share.

All: God, we thank you for the bread of life.

P: We come to the table, acknowledging our shortcomings and our need to experience your presence in the bread and wine.

All: God, we thank you for the cup of salvation.

P: In the night in which Jesus was betrayed...

All: Jesus give us faith to receive you in this holy meal.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

THE DISTRIBUTION

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.

BLESSING

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Mighty is Our God

Mighty is our God, Mighty is our King;
Mighty is our Lord, Ruler of everything.

Glory to our God, Glory to our King,
Glory to our Lord, Ruler of everything.

His name is higher, higher than any other name,
His power is greater, for He has created everything.

Mighty is our God, Mighty is our King;
Mighty is our Lord, Ruler of everything.

Glory to our God, Glory to our King,
Glory to our Lord, Ruler of everything.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Well done,
good and faithful
servant!”

Matthew 25:21, NIV





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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."***

Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 pm
Confirmation Class: Sunday 8:30 am
Sunday School for all ages...
1st Sunday of the month at 8:30 am
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am

stjohnwilliston.org



Welcome to join

[St. John Lutheran Church - Williston](http://stjohnwilliston.org)