



LOVE THE LORD
YOUR GOD WITH
ALL YOUR heart
& WITH ALL YOUR soul
AND WITH ALL YOUR
Mind.



MATTHEW 22:37

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church

Saturday October 24, 2026 5:00 PM Reformation

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PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

Once Again in Jesus Name

We will gather as his children,
once again and worship him.
We will sing out songs of praises,
once again and worship him.

Chorus

**Once again in Jesus' name.
Once again we share together.
Once again in Jesus' name,
Once again his children gather.**

We will offer grateful praises,
once again and worship him.
We'll surrender heavy burdens,
once again and worship him. ***Chorus***

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we don't always live the way you have called us to live. We have taken more than we need and forgotten our responsibility to care for your creation. We have let jealousy, anger, and bitterness get in the way of our relationships. We have seen injustice and chosen silence because it was easier than speaking up. We have allowed our differences to divide us instead of looking for the love we share in you. Forgive us, God. Turn our hearts back toward you. Heal what is broken in our lives, in our relationships, and in your world. Give us courage to seek justice, compassion to love our neighbors, and grace to follow the way of Jesus. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God does not hold our sins against us.

P: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only the promise of kingdom life. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's grace is yours—not because you have earned it, but because God loves you. **ALL: Amen.**

First Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

¹⁵ "You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ "You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain,

² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

⁴⁵ "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

SERMON

Rev. Shawn O'Brien

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We believe in God—the Maker of all things, seen and unseen, who breathed life into dust and called it good.

**A God whose love has no limits, whose mercy stretches beyond the stars.
We believe in Jesus Christ—God from God, Light from Light, Love made flesh.**

**He came as one of us, walked among the broken,
blessed the forgotten and showed us the heart of God.**

**He suffered under the weight of the world,
was crucified and laid in the grave.**

But love cannot be buried.

**On the third day, he rose—alive, breaking the grip of death.
He ascended in glory, and he will come again to restore all things
and set creation free.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit—God with us, now and always.

**The Spirit breathes in us, stirs us to courage,
gathers us into community and leads us into truth.**

**We believe in grace that never runs dry, in hope that will not let go,
in life that breaks through death. Amen.**

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

P: Hear Us, O God

ALL: Your mercy is great.

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

Ancient Words

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.

Words of Life, words of Hope. Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam-Ancient words will guide us Home.

**Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.**

Holy words of our Faith. Handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice-Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart Oh let the ancient words impart.

**Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart. (Repeat)**

We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of creation,

C: You send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.



COMMUNION LITANY

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Holy and loving God, Jesus Christ our Savior overcame death and the grave, and opened for us the way to new and everlasting life.

With all creation, and with your people throughout the ages

C: We praise you, O God.

P: The heavens and the earth declare your glory. Your faithfulness carries your people through every generation.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Above all we give you thanks for Jesus, who came to us, who walked among us, who stood with those who suffered, and who continues to abide with us.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: In the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this to remember me. After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me.

Send your Spirit among us, O God, and into this holy meal.

Make us one in Christ, called, forgiven, and sent into the world to love and serve our neighbors as you have loved us.

ALL: Amen.

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



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Sustaining God,

C: with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.

**Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

P: The God of love bring us together in love and unity, as the body of Christ.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope give you strength and joy, in whatever you face, through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace † bless you and be with you, now and always.

ALL: Amen

SENDING SONG

A Mighty Fortress

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

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.