



Now they know that
everything you have
given me is from you;
for the words that
you gave to me
I have given to them.

John 17:7, NRSV

*Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Seventh Weekend of Easter
Saturday, May 20, 2023*

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PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

Spirit Touching Spirit

In our worship we find new communion.
In our worship our spirits join in union.
In our worship our voices sing praise
To the Father above for his wonderful love.
It's his Spirit touching spirit that I love.
It's his Spirit touching spirit
that changes my heart.

When our spirits combine,
his love becomes mine,
and his Spirit can live in my heart.

WE CONFESS THE SIN OF OUR SEPARATION

P: God,

C: we confess to you and to those around us that we lose ourselves in the small spaces of greed and selfishness. We are confined by our limited imaginations and our fear of failing. We live behind walls that shut you out, God. We find ourselves empty, lonely, and afraid. We need someone to rescue us from the tombs we have created. God, we pray that you will open the doors of our self-made confinement and help us walk confidently into your resurrection promise. Amen.

A time of silence for meditation and reflection

THE GOOD NEWS OF LIFE TOGETHER WITH GOD

P: Here is the good news of Easter: The celebration has begun! Just as God rolled away the stone from the garden tomb, God removes the barriers of separation from him and one another that we create.

We construct tombs, God moves stones and offers forgiveness for sin and freedom to live an abundant life of joy. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ allows Easter life to flow through us. Praise God for opening our world to forgiveness.

C: Amen

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

AFFIRMATION 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

P: Hear us, O God

C: Your mercy is great.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Generous God,

C: in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING SONG

The Lord is My Light

The Lord is my light and my salvation,
I will never be afraid.
The Lord protects me from all danger,
I will never be afraid.
When evil attacks and tries to kill me,
I will never be afraid.
Even if whole armies surround me,
I will never be afraid.

In times of trouble he gives me shelter,
I will never be afraid.
God will keep me from all danger,
I will never be afraid.
He prepares the path before me,
I will never be afraid.
I will live to see God's glory,
I will never be afraid. I will never be afraid.

HOLY COMMUNION

P: We declare ourselves to be Easter people.

C: We come to share the table Jesus has prepared for us.

P: He took the bad news of sin and guilt and changed it to good news through his dying and rising for us.

C: We are here to celebrate the Good News and the presence of Christ.

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!

C: We thank you, God, for these elements given for us in love. In this holy meal, forgive us and heal us, so we might live lives that are pleasing to you.

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: The God of all, who raised Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

All Day Song

Love him in the mornin'
when you see the sun-a-risin;
Love him in the evenin'
cause he took you through the day.

And in the in between times
when you feel the pressure comin'
Remember that he loves you
and he promises to stay.

When you think you have to worry
'cause it seems the thing to do,
Remember he's not in a hurry,
He's always got time for you.

Love him in the mornin'
when you see the sun-a-risin;
Love him in the evenin'
cause he took you through the day.

And in the in between times
when you feel the pressure comin'
Remember that he loves you
and he promises to stay.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God!





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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
Sunday School for all ages 8:30 am
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am

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Welcome to join

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