



**"Repent**  
and be baptized ...

**every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ  
so that your sins may be forgiven and you will  
receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**Acts 2:38, NRSVue**

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church

Saturday April 18, 2026 \* 5:00 PM

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Saturday, April 18, 2026 5:00 PM  
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**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SONG**

Stand in the Congregation

I will stand in the congregation, and I will exalt you,  
I will stand in the congregation, and I will exalt you,  
Let the children of your salvation lift their praises, too! Halle--lu--jah!

I will stand in the congregation and I will praise your name,  
I will stand in the congregation and I will praise your name,  
With your people in every nation I will shout this praise! Halle--lu--jah!

We will join as a congregation as we will exalt you,  
We will join as a congregation as we will exalt you,  
We will sing as all creation lifts the song anew, Halle--lu--jah!

Halle--lu--jah! Halle--lu--jah! Halle--lu--jah! Halle--lu--jah!  
Let the children of your salvation lift their praises too! Halle--lu--jah!

**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, 36-41

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

### **SECOND READING**

1 Peter 1:17-23

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

## GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**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**

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye, heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## **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

I Want to Be Like Jesus

In ev'rything I do, in ev'rything I say, I want to be like Jesus.  
To do my very best, and pray about the rest, I want to be like Jesus

### Chorus

**I want to be ... I want to be ... I want to be like Jesus  
I want to be ... I want to be ... I want to be like Jesus**

In ev'rything I think, in ev'rything I want, I want to be like Jesus.  
To think about the best, and pray about the rest, I want to be Like Jesus.

### **Chorus**

In ev'rything I am, in ev'rything I'll be, I want to be like Jesus.  
To be my very best, and pray about the rest, I want to be like Jesus.

### **Chorus**

## 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

**St. John**  **Lutheran Church**  
Williston, Ohio

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P.O. Box 235 Williston, Ohio 43468  
(419) 836-5514  
Pastor Shawn O'Brien  
(419) 378-1112  
pastorbrien@stjohnwilliston.org

**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  
Adult Sunday School and Confirmation Class: Sunday 8:30 am  
Sunday School (age 3 thru 5th grade) every Sunday 9 AM  
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am

***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.