



Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church  
Saturday, June 15, 2024 \* 5:00 PM



**www.stjohnwilliston.org**

**419-836-5514**

-----  
**Pentecost 4**  
-----

-----  
**Saturday June 15, 2024**  
-----

## **GATHERING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SONG**

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, My Savior, Lord there is none like You;  
All of my days, I want to Praise, the wonders of Your Mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength.  
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

### **Chorus**

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing,  
Power and majesty, praise to our King.  
Mountains bow down, and the seas will roar,  
At the sound of Your name.  
I sing for joy, at the work of Your hands.  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have, in You.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.  
Merciful God,

**C: We confess that we have strayed from your way.  
We have hurt our community. We have taken the beauty of creation  
and used it for our own glory. We have squandered your blessings.  
We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.  
We play games and skirt the real issues.  
We have failed to love one another as you love us.  
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: When we are tempted to go our own way, we remember that our sinful nature was put to death with Jesus on the cross and we rise with him to new resurrection life. The Holy Spirit lives in us giving us power to be God's sons and daughters. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. **C: Amen**

## **FIRST READING**

## **Ezekiel 17:22-24**

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

## **SECOND READING**

## **2 Corinthians 5:6-17**

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

## **GOSPEL**

**Mark 4:26-34**

<sup>26</sup>Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." <sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## **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:** Merciful God,

**C:** Receive our prayer.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Jesus, Bread of life,

**C: you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**



*(This is a God's Global Barnyard Song Pick by Carol Vargo and by Alice Witt who says, "This song is a comfort as I reflect on my lost loves ones")*

## OFFERING SONG

Here I Am, Lord

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

### Refrain

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" **Refrain**

"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" **Refrain**

## 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**

### ***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.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

### BLESSING

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### CLOSING SONG

Firm Foundation

Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion... I know I can stand secure.  
Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion... I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word.  
I put my hope in Your Ho-ly Word.

*(Leader)* I have a living hope *(Congregation echo)*  
*(Leader)* I have a fu-ture *(Congregation echo)*  
*(Leader)* God has a plan for me *(Congregation echo)*  
*(Leader)* Of this I'm sure *(Congregation echo)*

Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion... I know I can stand secure.  
Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion...I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word.  
I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word.

*(Leader)* Your Word is faithful *(congregation echo)*  
*(Leader)* Mighty in pow-er *(congregation echo)*  
*(Leader)* God will deliver me *(congregation echo)*  
*(Leader)* Of this I'm sure *(congregation echo)*

Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion...I know I can stand secure.  
Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion...I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word.  
I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word...I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word...  
I put my hope in Your ho--ly Word.

### SENDING

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**



Williston, Ohio 43468  
(419) 836-5514  
Pastor Shawn O'Brien  
[www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org)

Email: [office@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:office@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."***

Worship: Saturday 5:00 PM  
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM (beginning June 2nd)

### 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