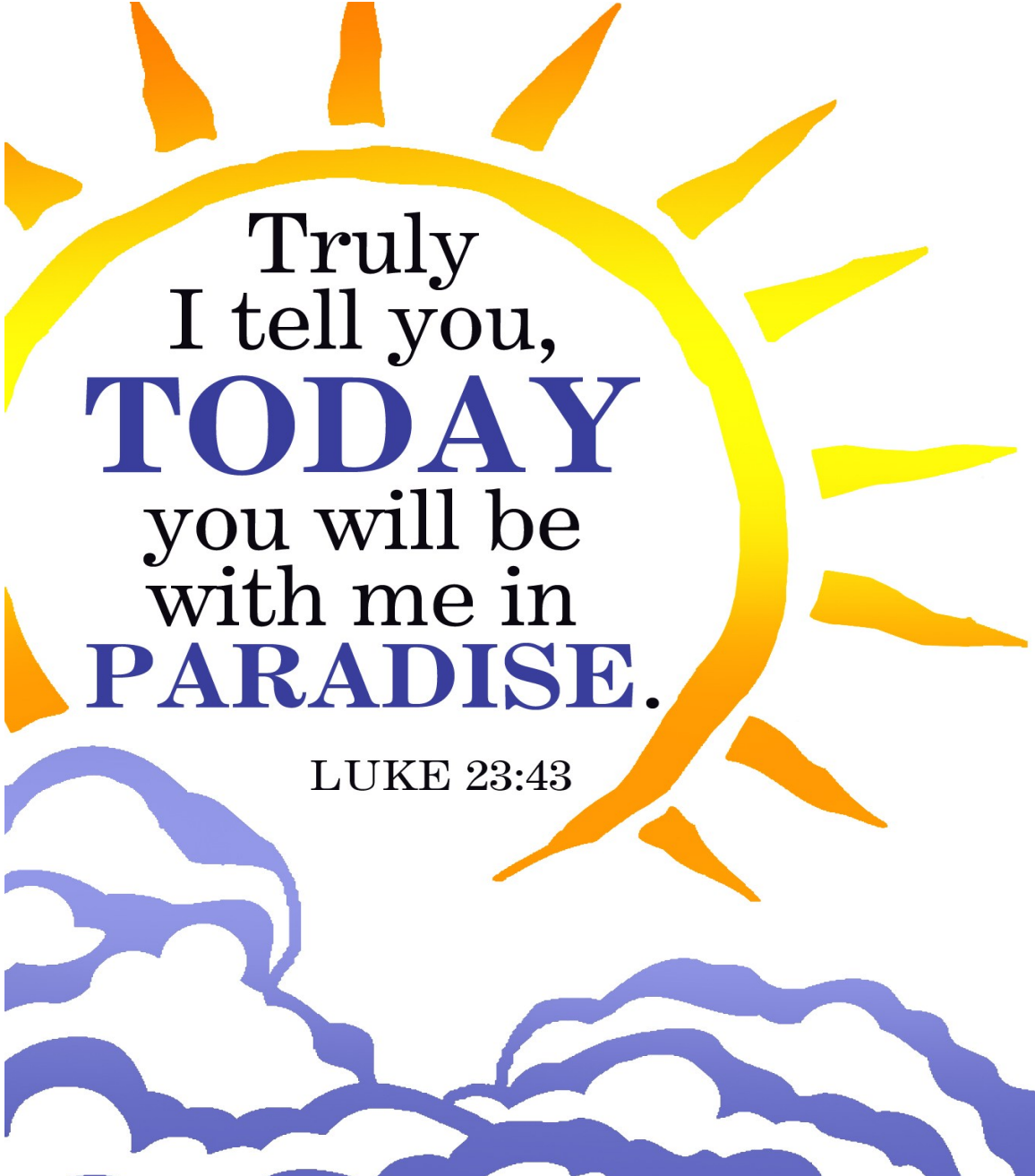




Truly
I tell you,
TODAY
you will be
with me in
PARADISE.

LUKE 23:43

Welcome to St John Lutheran Church
Saturday November 22, 2025 * Christ the King

Saturday November 22, 2025 Christ the King

**GATHERING MUSIC
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SONG

How Majestic is Your Name

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise your name. O Lord, we magnify your name
Prince of peace, Mighty God, O Lord, God Almighty.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Let us confess our sins before God who loves us completely, forgives us freely,
and whose mercy never ends...

(A time of silence is kept for reflection.)

Faithful God,

**C: you have shown us your heart of love, but we wander from your ways.
We get caught in systems that harm instead of heal.
We hold on to fear instead of trusting your promises.
We turn away from our neighbors. We take from the earth without care.
We cling to scarcity when you offer abundance.
Forgive us. Heal what is broken in us and around us.
Renew our hearts, and lead us into new life. Amen.**

L: Hear this good news: God, who is always faithful, loves you deeply.
In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you
are set free—free to love, to serve, and to begin again.

C: Amen.

First Reading:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says
the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the
shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and

have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Second Reading

Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:33-43

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

SERMON

Pastor 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—

**wild and holy breath of God, present and powerful,
moving through our lives like wind through trees, like fire in the soul.**

**The Spirit speaks in every language, stirs our hearts,
and calls the Church into being.**

We believe in one holy and universal Church—

a communion of saints, past, present, and yet to come.

**We believe in the washing of grace, the forgiveness of sin,
the resurrection of the body, and the life that never ends.**

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Hear Us of God,

C: Your mercy is great

SHARING THE PEACE

L: 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 fist bump or simply a smile....)*

OFFERING SONG

How Great is Our God

The splendor of the King ... clothed in majesty.
Let all the earth rejoice ... all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light ... and darkness tries to hide.
And trembles at his voice ... and trembles at his voice.

How great ... is our God ... sing with me ...
How great ... is our God ... and all will see ...
How great ... how great ... is our God.

And age to age he stands ... and time is in His hands.
Beginning and the End ... beginning and the end.
The Godhead, three in one ... Father, Spirit, Son
The lion and the lamb... the lion and the lamb.

How great ... is our God ... sing with me ...
How great ... is our God ... and all will see ...
How great ... how great ... is our God.

Name above all names... Worthy of our praise.
My heart will sing, how great... is our God.
How great, how great is our God.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of healing and hope,

C: you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.

Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen

COMMUNION LITANY

L: Responding to the command of our Lord and desiring the life-giving presence of Christ, we come to the table.

All: The love of God is a gift that we receive by grace.

Leader: Giving thanks for the life-giving the life-giving presence of Christ, we share his body and blood.

All: We come with our wounds and faults, ready and willing to be refreshed with the true presence of Christ among us.

Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all 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 for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of creation-of field and flower, wheat and vine,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven, the true food
that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of Christ,
Send us out to share your abundance with all who hunger and thirst.
Give us courage to love and serve in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: May the love of God strengthen you, the grace of Christ sustain you
and the power of the Holy Spirit prepare you for all that lies ahead.
May the Holy Trinity bless you and fill you with faith, courage and
peace, now and always

C: Amen

CLOSING SONG

The River is Here

Down the mountain the river flows and it brings refreshing wherever it goes
Through the valleys and over the fields the river is rushing and the river is here

Chorus

The river of God is teeming with life and all who touch it can be revived
And those who linger on this river's shore will come back thirsting
for more of the Lord

Chorus

Up to the mountain we love to go to find the presence of the Lord
Along the banks of the river we run we dance with laughter
giving praise to the Son.

Chorus

Down the mountain the river flows and it brings refreshing wherever it goes
Through the valleys and over the fields The river is rushing and the river is here

Chorus

CHORUS

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter
And we rejoice for the river is here

SENDING

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!



21120 W. Toledo Street P.O. Box 235
Williston, Ohio 43468
(419) 836-5514

Pastor Shawn O'Brien
Email: pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Visit our website for information/calendars/updates
www.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."

Church office hours: LisaAnne Gregg/Office Administrator
M-T-W 9 AM to 3 PM 419-836-5514
(Thurs. hours may vary) Office closed Friday
Email: office@stjohnwilliston.org

Worship: Saturday 5:00 PM
Confirmation Classes-Sunday 8:30 AM
Adult Sunday School 8:30 AM
Sunday School— Ages 3 through 5th Grade 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship 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.
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.