

St. John  
SHARING  
the LOVE of Christ

Worship Series



Loved by God

C A L L E D T O S E R V E

*Sleeping on Stone Pillows*

Sunday, September 26th  
8:30am



September is Hunger Action Month and our food pantry team invites you to participate by bringing in food donations. Here are items we're collecting:

### for Babies



Diapers & Wipes



Formula



Baby Food

### for Toddlers



Toddler Food

### for Kids



Kid's favorite foods & snacks

Your support is deeply appreciated. Please place your donation on the shelves located in the Narthex. Thank you.



## Canoe Outing Oct 2



Enjoy the colors of the season on the Fox River. Located about 1 hour southwest of Joliet, C&M Canoe & Kayak Rental is in Ottawa, IL. Cost is \$60 p/canoe or \$30 p/person, cash only. More details on our website.

sign up deadline

Sept 26

[stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org)

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church as we gather for this time of worship and reflection on God's love for the world.*

*The flowers are given to the glory of God by the Altar Guild. To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at the Opportunity Wall in the Narthex or call the church office.*

**Additional seating is available in the Trinity Room.**

### **Worship Leaders – Sunday 8:30 am**

<b>Deacon</b>	Meghan Doyle
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Pam Murray
<b>Greeter</b>	Sam Riggi
<b>Ushers</b>	Joe Aincham, Jon Blomquist, Joan Fry
<b>Piano &amp; Organ</b>	Janet Blomquist
<b>Audio Board</b>	Keith Markwell
<b>Livestream Team</b>	Elliott Liss, Matt Markwell, Dawn MacGregor
<b>Counters</b>	Nancy Kautz, Sharon Sullivan
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Shirley Masters, Carol Robinson, Marge West

### **Contact Information**

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 **St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**

 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

*\*Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

## Prelude

“Christe, der du bist Tag und Licht”

Pachelbel

## Welcome and Announcements

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

P We are gathered today in the name of the Father, Son, and † Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Family of faith, we have all been in the place where we've hurt others and God's creation, sometimes without awareness, and sometimes with reactions that spring from pain or defensiveness. This is part of being human.

P God invites us to acknowledge our humanity and learn from our mistakes, letting forgiveness change our hearts. In this time of confession, we seek to learn God's gracious ways.

P Holy God,

C **We react because we see suffering we do not understand.**

P We are skeptical because we know heartbreak that does not seem fair.

C **We withhold attention because sacrifice only feels real when it's our own.**

P Forgive us when we forget that you created the heavens and earth.

C **Forgive us for withholding our pain from you.**

P Forgive us for failing to love the things you love.

C **Help us learn from our mistakes.**

P Help us to forgive others with the mercy you show us.

C **Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

P Family of faith, this is a new day. God is here. God is at work among us. We are † forgiven! Let us worship the God who calls us to love and serve one another.

C **Amen!**

**“God Is Here”**

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**Verse 1** God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

**Verse 2** Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
Here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

**Verse 4** Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,  
Keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Holy God, through Jacob, you dreamed for people a place  
where they could respond to the suffering and beauty of the world. Today,  
as we read scripture, we ask that you would plant that same dream in us.  
Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds so we may see what you see,  
and dream what you dream. Gratefully we pray.  
**C** **Amen.**

**Psalm 19:7-14** (*read responsively*)

**D** A reading from Psalm 19. Listen for the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Our ears are open.**

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure,  
making wise the simple;  
**the precepts of the Lord are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;**

the fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true  
and righteous altogether.  
**More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation  
of my heart be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

## Anthem

“We Believe”  
St. John Chorale

Ryan, Hooper, Fike

## Reading

**Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17**

D A reading from the book of Genesis, the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth chapters. Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

When Isaac had become an old man and was nearly blind, he called his eldest son, Esau, and said, “My son.”

“Yes, Father?”

“I’m an old man,” he said; “I might die any day now. Do me a favor: Get your quiver of arrows and your bow and go out in the country and hunt me some game. Then fix me a hearty meal, the kind that you know I like, and bring it to me to eat so that I can give you my personal blessing before I die.”

Rebekah took the dress-up clothes of her older son Esau and put them on her younger son Jacob. She took the goatskins and covered his hands and the smooth nape of his neck. Then she placed the hearty meal she had fixed and fresh bread she'd baked into the hands of her son Jacob.

He went to his father and said, "My father!" "Yes?" he said. "Which son are you?" Jacob answered his father, "I'm your firstborn son Esau. I did what you told me. Come now; sit up and eat of my game so you can give me your personal blessing."

Isaac said, "So soon? How did you get it so quickly?" "Because your God cleared the way for me." Isaac said, "Come close, son; let me touch you—are you really my son Esau?"

So Jacob moved close to his father Isaac. Isaac felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice but the hands are the hands of Esau." He didn't recognize him because his hands were hairy, like his brother Esau's.

But as he was about to bless him he pressed him, "You're sure? You are my son Esau?"  
"Yes. I am."

*[Jacob's trickery was soon exposed and Esau vowed to hunt and kill Jacob. Rebekah and Isaac implored Jacob to get to safety.]*

Jacob left Beersheba and went to Haran. He came to a certain place and camped for the night since the sun had set. He took one of the stones there, set it under his head and lay down to sleep. And he dreamed: A stairway was set on the ground and it reached all the way to the sky; angels of God were going up and going down on it.

Then God was right before him, saying, "I am God, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. I'm giving the ground on which you are sleeping to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will be as the dust of the Earth; they'll stretch from west to east and from north to south. All the families of the Earth will bless themselves in you and your descendants. Yes. I'll stay with you, I'll protect you wherever you go, and I'll bring you back to this very ground. I'll stick with you until I've done everything I promised you."

Jacob woke up from his sleep. He said, "God is in this place—truly. And I didn't even know it!" He was terrified. He whispered in awe, "Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God's House. This is the Gate of Heaven."

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Verse from *Now the Feast and Celebration*, by Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications. OneLicense A-712815

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

## \*Gospel

**John 1:50-51**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

P The gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

## Children's Sermon

**Sermon**

**Pastor Jen Beamsley**

## \*Hymn of the Day

**# 824, Vs. 1-3**

### "This Is My Father's World"

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**Verse 1** This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

**Verse 2** This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
He speaks to me ev'rywhere.

**Verse 3** This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget  
That, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

### **\*Apostles' Creed**

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Blessing of the Quilts**

### **Joys and Concerns of our Faith Community**

*Prayer request cards are available in your pews.  
You may place the card in the offering plate or give to a pastor.*

# Prayers of the Church

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P God welcomes our prayers. Today, we bring what is needed to God,  
trusting we are heard.

*Response (sing):*

**Oh God, we call (repeat)  
From deep inside we yearn (repeat)  
From deep inside we yearn for you**

*The prayers conclude:*

P Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you.  
C **Amen.**

## \*Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**

*You may share the peace of Christ with others. Those who choose to stay in their pew may wave or give signs of peace. Those who move to greet others may choose their greeting at the discretion of the person you are greeting. Please be mindful of the non-verbal cue you are receiving, and ask what the person is comfortable with before greeting.*

## Offertory

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

Curry

*When we love someone in need, it is easy to give. We show up with meals and prayer blankets, we send cards and make phone calls, we babysit children and drop off flowers. We don't think twice about it, because when we love someone in need, it is easy to give.*

*When we give to the offering or make time to participate in the events and groups of our faith community, we are declaring that all creation deserves love and care, even if we do not know who might receive it. This is a radical notion in our hurting world.*

*Today, as a way to practice being in relationships and drawing closer to one another, we invite you to support the mission and ministry of this church. For when we love, it is a joy to give our time and our resources.*

*Let us give with our grateful hearts.*

## \*Offertory Response

# 465, Vs. 1

### “As the Grains of Wheat”

**Refrain** As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
Were gathered into one to become our bread;  
So may all your people from all the ends of earth  
Be gathered into one in you.

**Verse 1** As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst  
May we share the presence of your love.

**Repeat Refrain**

## \*Offertory Prayer

D Let us pray. God of abundance, **you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## \*Great Thanksgiving *(spoken)*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the  
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## \*Words of Institution

### \*The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

## **\*Invitation to Communion**

**P** Come, you who have much faith, and you who have little. Christ will meet us here!

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## **Distribution**

*We believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ in this meal and at this table.  
All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.*

*There are two ways to receive communion today:*

### **Receiving Communion in your pew**

*You may receive communion in your pew with the elements contained in the communion pod. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **Receiving Communion at the altar**

- *You will be invited forward by the usher.*
- *You may bring your offering/attendance slip forward and place in the offering basket or place in the offering plates by the doors as you leave.*
- *Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.*
- *Wear your masks as you come forward; lift your mask when receiving the elements of bread and then again with the grape juice or the wine.*
- *The deep purple wine is on the outer rings of the tray; the golden grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.*
- *After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket, and return to your pew via the side aisle.*

## **Communion Music**

"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"

Smith, arr. Keversen

## **\*Blessing**

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

**D** Let us pray. Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## \*Benediction

C *Sing* AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

## \*Sending Song

# 638, Vs. 1

### “Blessed Assurance”

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**Verse 1** Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

**Refrain** This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long:  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

## \*Sending

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

“Ricericare per Organo”

Arresti

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# St. John Blessings Abound

## Blessing of the Quilts

**September 25 & 26**  
**All 3 services**



*Who receives our quilt donations?*

*St. John LWR quilt Donations went to Georgia (USA) in June 2020 and Chile in August 2020.*

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## Blessing of the Animals

**October 10th**  
**12:15pm**



Join us in celebrating the feast of St. Francis at St. John's Blessing of the Animals! At this service, we remember that God loves all our fellow creatures on the Earth and calls us to show that love to the animals in our care! Animals with paws, claws, scales, feathers, or hoofs are all welcome to receive a blessing. You can also bring a picture of your pet or even your child's stuffed animal! Leashes or appropriate control restraints required for safety (except fish). Even if you don't have a pet, feel free to join us for a fun, joyful, and very creaturely short worship service!

*St. John*  
**Make Connections**  
*this Fall*  
**For Everyone**

**TAILGATE PARTY**  
**Sunday, October 17**

***Save the Date! We're having a party!***

- 11am - Outdoor Worship with A Blessing of Gratitude & Farewell for Lisa Marshall
  - Noon - Kickoff Chicago Bears vs. Green Bay Packers
  - Halftime - Mortgage Burning Celebration
  - More details coming to a mailbox near you, soon
- 

**For HS Youth**

**FALL/WINTER RETREAT**  
**November 12-14**

***Lutherdale Bible Camp - Elkhorn, WI***

- Registration is open at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org)
- Canoeing, high ropes, rock wall, zip-lining, archery, devos, bonfires, GaGa ball, board games, late night outdoor games, movie night, time to relax & hang out with friends & more!
- Cost is \$150. \$50 deposit due 10/24; balance due Nov. 7th
- Partial & full scholarships available by request, see Pastor Evan
- More details at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org)