

***St. John Lutheran Church & School***  
***Berlin, Wisconsin***  
***The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



***The 4th Sunday after Pentecost***  
***July 3 and 6, 2025***

**Serving Us Today:**  
**Pastor Robert Busse**  
**Organist: Nancy Wallner and Amanda Tetzlaff**  
**920-361-9935**  
**[www.stjohnberlin.org](http://www.stjohnberlin.org)**

***Large Print Bulletin***

**As We Gather...** As we again celebrate our nation's independence, we will hear much about freedom. As citizens, we give thanks for the blessings we have and for the many who fought for and paid the price for our liberties. Yet as Christians, we do not need an annual holiday to recognize true freedom. Daily we hold fast to the wonderful news that the battle has been fought and the price has been paid by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that we may have freedom from sin, eternal death, and the devil.

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS...** Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

### **Confession and Absolution**

**717 Eternal Father, Strong to Save      *sts. 1-4***

**1 Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.**

**2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain,  
O'er which our traffic runs amain**

**By mountain pass or valley low;  
Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,  
Protect them by Thy guarding hand  
From ev'ry peril on the land.**

**3 O Spirit, whom the Father sent  
To spread abroad the firmament;  
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might  
Save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
And keep them by Thy watchful care  
From ev'ry peril in the air.**

**4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,  
Our people shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea.**

Text (sts. 1, 4): William Whiting, 1825–78, alt. Text (sts. 1, 4): Public domain Text (sts. 2–3): © The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P In spite of our many mistakes as individuals and as a nation, God has not forgotten us but has continued to bless us. We—who know that we do not live by bread alone, but by the Word made flesh, our Lord Jesus Christ—are assured of His grace and mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**Service of the Word**

## Introit

*Psalm 19:2, 4–6; antiphon: v. 1*

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.**

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words  
to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
**which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of  
them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims  
his handiwork.

## Kyrie *LSB 204*

**C Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

## Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

**C 1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven**

**Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*2 Chronicles 7:12–15*

<sup>12</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. <sup>13</sup>When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, <sup>14</sup>if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. <sup>15</sup>Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle**

*Galatians 5:16–24*

<sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and

the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**

**C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 4:12–17*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

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



<sup>12</sup>Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup>And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup>the people dwelling in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,  
on them a light has dawned."

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

### **Children's Sermon**

#### **702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

**1 My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine.**

**Now hear me while I pray;  
Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!**

**2 May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart;  
My zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me,  
Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!**

**3 While life's dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.**

**4 When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Text: Public domain

**Sermon                      "In a Nutshell"**

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

*Sit*

**Offering**

**Service of the Sacrament**

*Stand*

## **Preface**

*LSB 208*

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **Sanctus   *LSB 208***

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim**

**shout the glory of Your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;**

**Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## **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.**

### **The Words of Our Lord**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Pax Domini**

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

### **Agnus Dei LSB 210**

**C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

### **Distribution Hymns**

**761 761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

**1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure:  
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**2 Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,**

**All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

**3 Nothing in my hand I bring;  
Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**4 While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.**

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78 Text: Public domain

### **637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord**

**1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.**

**2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.**

**3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.**

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis     *LSB 211***

**C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav’nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God’s triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**



## **Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **Benedicamus**

*LSB 212*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**Hymn to Depart      TLH 577      God Bless Our Native Land**

**1. God bless our native land!**

**Firm may she ever stand**

**Thro' storm and night!**

**When the wild tempests rave,**

**Ruler of wind and wave**

**Do Thou our country save**

**By Thy great might.**

**2. For her our prayer shall rise**

**To God above the skies;**

**On Him we wait.**

**Thou who art ever nigh,**

**Guarding with watchful eye,**

**To Thee aloud we cry,**

**God save the State! Amen.**

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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**Attendance Last Week: 263**

**General giving last week: \$6189.00**

**Budget giving needed: \$7500.00**

## **Calendar of Activities this week at St. John**

8 Tuesday	Board of Education	6:00pm
8 Tuesday	Board of Elders	6:30 pm
<b>10 Thursday</b>	<b>Worship Service/HC</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>13 Sunday</b>	<b>Worship Service/HC</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>

**DOOR COLLECTION FOR HUMAN CARE:** Today a free will collection will be taken at the door. All funds collected will be used by the St. John Human Care Committee to assist in the various ministries they are involved in.

**ATTENTION YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS:** We would love to have you come to the church on July 9th from 6pm-8pm to help make decorations for vacation bible school. We will provide all of the craft supplies and snacks.

**NEXT MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING:** Wednesday, July 16 at 5:30 at N9525 32nd Dr. Berlin. All men over 16 are invited to join us for a campfire, Dominoes Pizza, and some other activities. We'll be doing a discussion-based Bible study on the importance of spending time with God. Bring your beverage of choice. We hope to see you there!

**LIFE DATE MAGAZINE:** There is a new edition of *Life Date Magazine* on the little oak table in the Narthex. Life Date is a publication from *Lutherans for Life*. Please feel free to take one home.



**OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN SCHOOL!** The St. John Board of Christian Education has some amazing opportunities if you are looking to serve our church and school. Here are the openings they are looking to fill for the 25/26 school year: Early Childhood Teacher, After School Care Employee and a volunteer to lead our Sunday School Program. Please prayerfully consider these openings and call the school at 920-361-0555 or reach out to any board member for more information.

## Sermon Notes – 7-6-25 – A Light in the Darkness

-“From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)

-Since Jesus is God himself and this is his teaching in a nutshell, these are the most \_\_\_\_\_ words you could ever hear.

-He left the kingdom of heaven to come to the earth, the kingdom of sin, to compassionately bring his better rule and reign to us.

-Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with peace, humility, and love. He invaded by letting violence be done to him in order to save us.

-“For Jesus himself is our peace, who has...broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility...so making peace, (that he) might reconcile us both to God in one body through the \_\_\_\_\_, thereby killing the hostility.” (Ephesians 2:14-16)

-“The kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Jesus, the king, brought it. He opened it up for us to have – it’s accessible, it’s available!

-That’s the core of Jesus’ teaching – he wants the world to know that we don’t have to suffer here forever; he wants us to know that we can have something better...that we can have the best: the \_\_\_\_\_ !

-Repentance is very difficult because we’re content being kings in the Kingdom of Sin.

-By coming to bring the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus radically demonstrated for us that he is the best \_\_\_\_\_ to follow because he didn’t do violence but let violence be done to him so we could be saved.

-Jesus brought the Kingdom of Heaven – he truly opened up to us the best place for us to live in for all of eternity.

-Repentance is difficult, but Jesus really is the best King and heaven really is the best Kingdom. Motivated by \_\_\_\_\_ –  
repent!