St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Family Connecting in Christ



Pastor Kevin Raddatz Principal Jon Woldt 501 West Park Avenue Libertyville, IL 60048 847-362-4424 www.StJohnsLib.com

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

At this time our services are for people wearing masks and social distancing!

Please know that even as we experience this awkwardness, your Good Shepherd holds you close to his heart and goes with you to share his love!

To Our Guests

- We pray that you receive a warm welcome and are blessed by the message of God's Word in our lessons and hymns. If you have questions, please ask!
- Our service is designed to focus us on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit does that by exposing our need for Christ and by showing us the wonders of God's grace in Christ forgiveness and peace, help and hope for life in this world, and life forever with God in heaven.

Our Communion Practice

We practice close communion, the Biblical and ancient practice of the church. We invite our congregation members and visitors from sister WELS or ELS congregations to join us, but ask Christians from other denominations to kindly respect our practice. Further explanation is in the pew racks or from our pastor.

We Care about Your Children

We love to have children with us in worship.

• If your children are crying loudly, our nursery, Gathering Area (back of church), and downstairs Fellowship Hall are audio-equipped for you and your young children. When your children are ready, come back so we can worship together.

We Care about Your Special Needs

• Hearing Assistance for those with hearing aids is provided through our Hearing Loop or personal hearing devices available at the "sound table."



• A **wheelchair lift** is available for your assistance; please ask an usher.

Our Facilities

Restrooms are in our Fellowship Hall, downstairs and to the right of the kitchen.

Our Ministry

St. John offers an excellent preschool-8th grade school program. We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) - <u>www.wels.net</u>.

DIVINE SERVICE II

IN OUR WORLD TODAY... we can get really stuck on our here and now, like our here and now is all that really matters. And because we may not see Jesus doing what we want for our here and now, so many people discount him as meaningless.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we see that Jesus is not meaningless, but that he has something far better in the works for us than just our here and now.

OPENING HYMN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" Hymn 341

Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne; Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee, And hail him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love -- Behold his hands and side, Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified. No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight, But downward bends his wond'ring eye At mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave And rose victorious in the strife For those he came to save. His glories now we sing Who died and rose on high, Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above; Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love. Crown him with many crowns As thrones before him fall; Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns For he is King of all.

+THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM+ Emily and Renee Rewerts

CHRIST'S COMMAND

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

OUR NEED FOR BAPTISM

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death.

GOD'S PROMISE IN BAPTISM

But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

In coming to be baptized, you are doing what is God-pleasing. Ananias said to the apostle Paul after his conversion, "Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away." By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

Receive the sign of the cross on your head and heart to mark you as a redeemed child of God.

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - has forgiven all your sin. By your baptism you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

EXHORTATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands us that we teach his precious truth to all who are baptized. Christian love urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever way possible so that _____ may remain children of God to eternal life. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

Yes, as God gives me the strength.

PRAYER

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on ______ and grant _____ a rich measure of your Spirit that ____ may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" Hymn 737



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

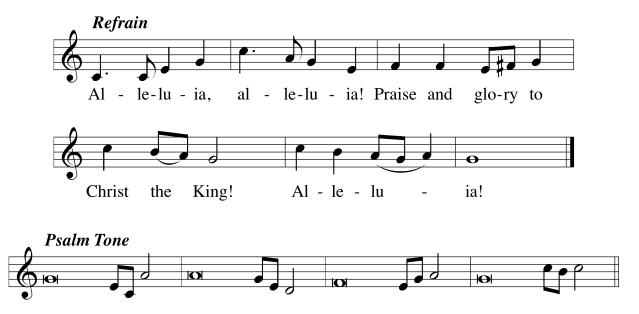
In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."



The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at <u>my</u> right hand until I make your enemies a footstool <u>for</u> your feet." The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from <u>Zi</u>on; you will rule in the midst of your <u>en</u>emies.

The LORD has sworn and will not <u>change</u> his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Mel<u>chi</u>zedek." The LORD is at <u>your</u> right hand; he will crush kings on the day <u>of</u> his wrath.

Refrain

He will judge the nations, heaping <u>up</u> the dead and crushing the rulers of the <u>whole</u> earth. He will drink from a brook be<u>side</u> the way; therefore he will lift <u>up</u> his head.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it. as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning, is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

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SECOND LESSON

[His incomparably great power for us who believe] is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Hymn

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" Hymn 169

Luke 24:44-53

Ephesians 1:19-23

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone. Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay; Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to you from day to day. Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight received him When the forty days were o'er, Shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

GOSPEL LESSON

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Hymn

"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" Hymn 173

On Christ's ascension I now build The hope of my ascension. This hope alone has always stilled All doubt and apprehension; For where the head is, there as well I know his members are to dwell When Christ shall come and call them.

Since Christ returned to claim his throne, Great gifts for me obtaining, My heart shall rest in him alone, No other rest remaining, For where my treasure went before, There all my thoughts shall ever soar To still their deepest yearning.

Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling your ascension, That I may serve you faithfully, Adorning your redemption; And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace In answer to my pleading.

SERMON

What's up with Jesus? Have you seen him lately? Does it look like he's winning, ruling, getting his way? Sometimes we might wonder. The world he was part of creating is more and more a giant garbage heap. The children he gives life to kill each other. The church he Heads often seems sick, shrinking, giving up the fight. And his enemies seem alive and well. Looking around we might wonder: "What's up with Jesus?"

When, how, and why do you hear that question: "What's up with Jesus?" When, how, and why do you share that question: "What's up with Jesus?"

What's up with Jesus? Today we get to listen in on an ancient conversation between God the Father and Jesus his Son, or as David says, we hear the Lord Jehovah talk to David's Lord, the Christ. How do we know this is about Jesus? Peter, Paul, the letter to the Hebrews, and Jesus himself say so. Of all the Psalms, this psalm is the most quoted in the New Testament. So what does David say? What's up with Jesus?

He's up at the top. The Father tells Jesus: "**Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool.**" The seat at God's right hand is not a physical spot. You can't point to it, "There it is." But the seat at God's right hand is the closest place of honor, the highest place of power and authority that God can give. To be set at God's right hand is to be set with the honor and power and authority of God himself.

As the Son of God, all of heaven belonged to Jesus. As the Son of God, the seat at God's right hand rightfully belonged to Jesus. But the Son of God had left heaven; he had let go of God's throne to pick up our cross and die. God's Son was no longer simply the Son of God; but he had also become the Son of Man. As a Son of Man, Jesus had no right to claim for himself God's throne of honor and power. Until God said so. In our lesson God said so: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a foot stool for your feet."

So what's up with Jesus? God has set him up to rule over everything. Then why does our world look so messed up? Why do Christ's enemies seem to be on the

rise? Looking around, it's so easy to wonder: "What's up with Jesus?"

Listen to what the Father told his Son; what don't we hear? We don't hear: "Right here, right now, and forever after, everybody will bow down to you. Right here, right now, and forever after, everyone will answer: 'Yes, Lord.' From right here, right now, and forever after, everything will be perfect and right in your kingdom." The Father didn't say that, did he?

Why not? What are some of the reasons why the Father hasn't already set the Son up as Lord with everyone, right here, right now, and forever after, bowing down to Jesus, answering "Yes, Lord"?

Why not? This is Christ's time to rule in the midst of his enemies. Not against his enemies, but in the midst of his enemies. Not to crush his enemies, but to win his enemies. This is Christ's time to show our wrong-way world that his way is the right way. This is Christ's time to show the rule of grace and mercy. In our messed up, lying, dying world, this is Christ's time to show himself as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

What do you find yourself wishing more - that Christ would crush his enemies or that Christ would win his enemies? What do you find yourself wishing more - that the wrong-headed would see (and feel) how wrong they are or that they experience the Lord's grace and mercy?

How does he do that? Through his willing army, that is, through you. We get to show what's up with Jesus! God pictures you for Jesus - "Your troops will be willing on your day of battle, arrayed in holy majesty." God sees you with Jesus and for Jesus as an army of "free-will offerings." There is no mumbling in the ranks, "Do I have to?" No thinking: "What can I get by with?" There is no one pulling back from the front-lines, "I've already done my share." There are no mercenaries in Christ's army, "What's in it for me?" But Christ's army is willing to do battle, willing to sacrifice anything and everything for their King, for Jesus.

"Do I have to?" "What can I get by with?" "I've already done my share." "What's in it for me?" Have you ever heard those thoughts in your head? How do you then present yourself "willing"? Nowadays armies dress to hide from the enemy. It used to be that armies would dress to be seen by the enemy, bright and shiny, showing off the glory and power of their king. That's how God pictures Christ's army – "**arrayed in holy majesty**." God sees you uniformed with the holiness of Jesus. On the front lines, before the world, you shine out as lights, shining and showing the love of your King, shining and showing the holiness of your King. God sees you as an awe-some army.

But the enemy aren't always so impressed, are they? We might show the love of Jesus and shine with Christian holiness ... and get attacked in return. Christ's enemies might shun you: "you don't want to have anything to do with her; she's no fun, she's too stuck in her church." Or they might get after you, mocking, ridiculing, cramming their sin into your face. With the way the world treats you, we might not feel like the great and glorious army of a great and glorious king.

Whom is Satan using to attack you or the people who share the pews with you? How might Satan be using you as an enemy of Christ?

But the real danger isn't in what our enemies might do. The real danger is in what we might do. The danger is that instead of standing up with Christ, we give up on Christ and go over to the enemy - thinking the way they think, doing the way they do.

But look at our lesson! See what's up with Jesus? He's sitting at the right hand of God - the seat of honor, the seat of power -- the victory seat! Today Christ's enemies may walk and talk big and proud. They may step on us and walk all over us and put us down. But see what's up with Jesus. In the end ... remember what God told Jesus, "I will make your enemies a footstool for your feet." In the end Christ the king will be sitting on his throne and all his big and proud enemies will be heaped on the ground before him, like footstools for his feet. And you, in the army of Christ your King, will be safe with the Lord, shining in the holy majesty of heaven, with Christ ruling as King to give you the victory.

I don't always see that victory; I don't always show that victory. Looking around at our messed-up world, feeling the pain of a messed-up body, the hurt of a

messed-up heart, we don't always see Jesus up on top; we don't always show Jesus up on top. Instead, we get down; we bring others down - "How long do we have to put up with this?" Instead of showing off Jesus, sometimes we shut off Jesus. Instead of living it up with Jesus, sometimes we live it up with the world. Instead of living the victory of Jesus, sometimes we live as though Jesus were dead and defeated and all that matters are the ways of the world. Seeing that, instead of counting us up with Christ, God would have good reason to strike us down with his enemies.

That's why it's great to remember what's up with Jesus. In our lesson the Father tells his son, "**You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek**." What is the order of Melchizedek? Melchizedek lived at the time of Abraham. He stands out as special because he was both a priest and a king. He stands out as unusual because he seems to have no beginning or end. In the Old Testament Melchizedek stands out as one of a kind.

Melchizedek also stands out as a picture of Christ. In the order of Melchizedek, Christ the King is also priest, a priest forever ... a one-of-a-kind priest with a oneof-a-kind sacrifice. Throughout the Old Testament God's priests offered blood sacrifices to make peace with God. Those sacrifices had to be made over and over, day after day, year after year. But Jesus our forever one-of-a-kind priest made a one-of-a-kind, once and for all sacrifice. He offered himself as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. Jesus stood between God and those fighting against God; he stood between God and those under God's judgment. Yes, he stood between us and God; he faced God's anger, God's judgment on his enemies; he took God's judgment against you and me; and with his offering, he made peace with God.

Today, Jesus keeps that peace. He sits at the right hand of God, not just to destroy his enemies, but to speak up for his friends. For you he goes to the Father. For you he sends his Spirit. For you, he is the end of sin and guilt. For you he says: "your sin is paid; your guilt is gone; you are forgiven." For you, Jesus is priest forever before God and what does that mean? Peace forever with God - for you.

You can be sure of that. "**The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind**." Jesus' place will not change; his Word will not change; Jesus' way will not

change. In the end Jesus will have his way, his victory, his peace. And so will you. That's what's up with Jesus. Amen.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.) (Individually packaged wafers are gluten-free.)

- M: The Lord be with you.
- C: (Spoken) And also with you.
- M: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them up unto the Lord.
- M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C: It is good and right so to do.
- M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

- M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



BEFORE COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

AFTER COMMUNION PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"There Is a Higher Throne" Hymn 727 (Choir)

There is a higher throne than all this world has known, Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come. Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb; Believing hearts find promised grace; salvation comes.

Refrain

Hear heaven's voices sing; their thund'rous anthem rings. Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies their praises rise. All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honor are to God our King who reigns on high forevermore.

And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne. We'll honor him in perfect song where we belong. He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die. The Lamb becomes our Shepherd-King; we'll reign with him. *Refrain*

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" Hymn 171 (Stanzas 1,5,&6)

A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward. Alleluia! Alleluia! Then, throned with you forever, we Shall praise your name eternally. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to you let earth accord. Alleluia! Alleluia! You are, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OFFERING

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