



“And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

~Luke 20:37

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
22nd Sunday after Pentecost – November 9, 2025
420 Beaver St., PO Box 411
Mars, PA 16046-0411
www.stjohnchurchmars.org
Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org
Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.

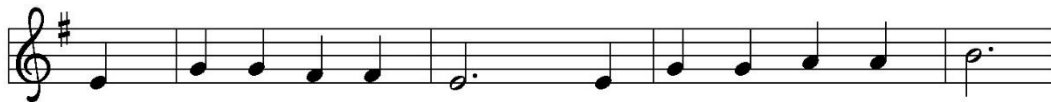
Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

***CONFESSION**

God is here, and God sees through every defense that fools the world.
Since we cannot hide from God, there is nothing left to do
but to be honest with each other and humble before God.
So, in humility, we confess our sins.

**God, we have acted helpless,
even when you called us to action.
We have resisted your truth,
even when our lies were exhausting.
We have behaved as though we were alone,
even when you were beside us.
God, we have believed we were dying,
even when you helped us grow.**

***KYRIE**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

***FORGIVENESS**

God knows we can never undo the sins of this world.
The stories of a painful past still echo here today.

Yet before our first mistakes, God perfected the plan for salvation.
God forgives your sins, all of them.
Even when signs of our old lives remain,
God's forgiveness is still at work.
God sets us free to chart a new path.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God*



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, our eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always in our mind the end of all things and the day of judgment. Inspire us for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Job 19:23-27a

A reading from Job.

²³ “O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book!
²⁴ O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever!
²⁵ For I know that my vindicator lives and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;
²⁶ and after my skin has been destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God,
^{27a} whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

A reading from 2 Thessalonians.

¹ As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*GOSPEL READING LUKE 20:27-38

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus] ²⁸ and asked him a question: "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died.

³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

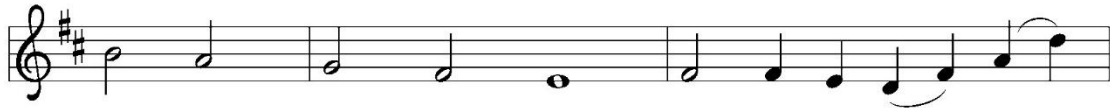
SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *I Know My Redeemer Lives* (ELW 619)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
 3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
 4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
 throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
 trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

*Or, “who proceeds from the Father.” The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God our Redeemer, bless your church universal and its leaders. Set all hearts on you from generation to generation in anticipation of Christ's return. We give thanks for pastors and deacons, teachers and musicians, administrators, and building caretakers. May they find joy in leadership as we grow in faith together. Hear us, O God.



God of justice, we give thanks for the service of our veterans and pray for those needing support for wounds of any kind. Strengthen those charged with the governance and protection of vulnerable populations. Bring an end to war throughout the world. Renew the earth's natural resources and the lands from which they come. Hear us, O God.

Sung Refrain:

**O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside we yearn for you.**

God who leads us to belief and truth, we give thanks that you are always and already here. We give thanks for all who have died in faith. Uplift us as we honor their memory and await your coming in glory. Nurture and support those who are unsteady in mind, unsafe in spirit, or unwell in body especially Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, Mike, those on our prayer list and all who suffer in any way. Comfort those who suffer from trauma and exposure to traumatic events. Hear us, O God.

Sung Refrain:

**O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside we yearn for you.**

God of life, you always hear our cry. Restore us with your everlasting mercy, and receive the prayer gathered before you now with the prayers on the hearts of this congregation today (*blue prayer cards are read*). Into your precious keeping we entrust our prayer. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *How Small Our Span of Life* (ELW 636)

*Rise on the 4th verse



1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:
2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;
3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,
4 We thank you, God, for kind-ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,



a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch-ing of a breath,
our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.
to share the short-ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.
il - lu - min - ing our pil-grim-age through mists of doubt and fears;



a drop with-in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,
While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos-mic space,
You filled your cross-closed years with love; you loved us to the end
for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass-ing days;



a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.
while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.
and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans-cend.
for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Please pray with me.

**God, we cherished what we thought belonged only to us:
our money, our time, our families, and our freedom.**

Yet in a moment, we recognize that every truly good thing was a treasure we had taken from your open hand. We thought such treasures were ours to earn and to own.

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.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

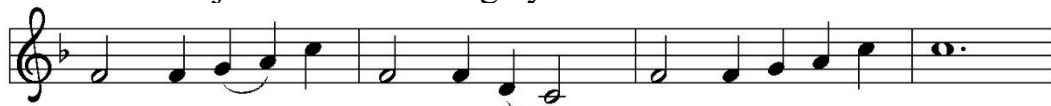
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Holy God, as soon as you made humankind, you loved them.
From the first human mistake, you planned the path to salvation.
Yet even when you set clear signs of promise in sky or stars,
in the mouths of prophets, or the faces of a newborn,
people still felt astonished to receive your goodness.

Jesus, at your birth your parents greeted you with wonder.
On the cross, your enemies crushed you, then marveled as you exuded grace.
And on the night in which you were betrayed, Jesus, you took bread and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to your disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, you 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.

And so we gather around this bread and cup, your body and blood
As disciples gathering to be in your community,
gathering to be fed and nourished, gathering to be filled with your grace.

Holy Spirit, we may not feel the fire of your presence,
but pour yourself out upon this bread and this cup.
And fill those gathered here with your holiness so we may be
crumbs of your mercy and drops of your goodness.

Make us your people, who can never separate from you again.
Gather us into one and teach us to pray:

**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

People of God, you are Christ's people:
tied to Jesus in his death and made new in his resurrection.

So listen to the promise prepared for you in this moment:

Even when you feel dead, you are alive;
even when you have done wrong, God forgives you.

And even when you feel unwelcome or unworthy,
Jesus brings you to the table where you can find new community.

Come and take your place at the feast that never ends.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN *Heaven Is Singing for Joy* (ELW 664)



El cie - lo can - ta a - le - grí - a, ¡a - le - lu - ya!
 1 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
 2 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
 3 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,



por-que en tu vi - da y la mí - a bri - lla la glo - ria de Dios.
 for in your life and mine is shin - ing the glo - ry of God.
 for your life and mine u - nite in the love of our God.
 for your life and mine will al - ways bear wit - ness to God.

Refrain / Estribillo



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

COMMUNION HYMN *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* (ELW 494)



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat - ed at the heav'n - ly board,
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. **Amen**

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

May God who comes among us, the blessed and holy Trinity, God the Sovereign, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG *On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand* (ELW 437)



- 1 On Jor-dan's storm-y bank I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye
- 2 All o'er those wide ex-tend-ed plains shines one e-ter-nal day;
- 3 No chill-ing winds or poi-s'nous breath can reach that health-ful shore;
- 4 When shall I reach that hap-py place and be for-ev-er blest?



to Ca-naan's fair and hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie.
there God the Son for-ev-er reigns and scat-ters night a-way.
sick-ness and sor-row, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.
When shall I see my Sav-ior's face and in God's bos-om rest?



I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised land;



oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.

*DISMISSAL

“Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent me, I also send you.”

John 20:21

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: the people of St. John

Acolyte: Lydia M

Offering: Josie W & Ava N

Greeters: the people of St. John

Notes for the day's texts:

When the Sadducees encounter Jesus with a technical question, he responds by humanizing and placing divine value upon each character in the Sadducees' hypothetical scenario. Jesus' response is about resurrection and about naming people as children of God and of light. The answer Jesus gives the Sadducees is about God, whose presence means life. This is about God's promise of resurrection in the face of death, and about life in the face of and in spite of death.

Like Job, who was surrounded by the remnants of his lost life and still proclaimed hope, Jesus is in the midst of palpable tension that very soon will lead him to his own death, and yet he proclaims life. The author of this hope is God, whose very naming of a person brings that one to life. These texts proclaim hope in the face of hopelessness, and urge us to do the same.

Today's Music

Jerusalem, My Happy Home. Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., Music: North American traditional; arr. hymnal version. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

I Know That My Redeemer Lives. Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt., Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793. Public Domain.

O God, We Call. Text and music © 1994 Borealis Music, linneagood.com

How Small Our Span of Life. Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923, Music: English traditional. GIA Publications, Inc. / Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

Heaven Is Singing for Joy. Text: Pablo Sosa, b. 1933, Music: Pablo Sosa. GIA Publications, Inc..

For the Bread Which You Have Broken. Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt., Music: Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895. Robert Jefferys Jr. / Public Domain.

On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand. Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727–1795, Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; adapt. Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1836–1899. Public Domain.

Liturgy words and music taken from SundaysandSeasons.com Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission. Reprinted under One License: A-724822 and CCLI.

Next Week's Readings (Reformation Sunday)

Malachi 4:1-2a *A day of blistering heat for the arrogant; a day of healing sun for the righteous*

Psalm 98 *In righteousness will the Lord judge the world*

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 *Do not be idle, but do what is right for the sake of Christ*

Luke 21:5-19 *Jesus speaks of wars, endurance, betrayal, and suffering for his sake*