

*St. John*  
Lutheran Church

Worship Series



Loved by God

CALLED TO SERVE

*What God Wants*



Sunday, November 14  
8:30am

Commitment   
to Community



TODAY WE GIVE THANKS

# Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday,  
November 24th  
7pm\*



## Church Decorating Event

Sunday, November 28th



Please, adults only.

**6pm - 8pm**



Sign up at [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 altar flowers today are given by friends of St. John in memory of Edna Hallam and Joseph Hallam.*

*To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org) or call the church office.*

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

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


<b>Deacon</b>	Glenn Smith
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Pam Murray
<b>Greeter</b>	Sam Riggi
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Makowka, Mark Collins, Judy Mihavics-Dachman
<b>Piano &amp; Organ</b>	Janet Blomquist
<b>Music Director</b>	Tori Hicks
<b>Accompanist</b>	Susan Fick
<b>Handbell Director</b>	Sarah Wernli
<b>Audio Board</b>	Keith Markwell
<b>Livestream Team</b>	Rob Kornaus, Mary Wilcox
<b>Counters</b>	Pat Block-Hay, Cathy Hawkins
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joan Fry, Carol Robinson

## **Contact Information**

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

 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

*\*Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

**Prelude**

“Toccata Per L’elevazione”

Frescobaldi

## **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 of Grace and God of Glory”**

Text by: Harry E. Fosdick. Music by: John Hughes. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

**Verse 1** God of grace and God of Glory,  
On your people pour your pow’r;  
Crown your ancient church’s story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow’r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

**Verse 4** Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving you whom we adore,  
Serving you whom we adore.

**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. God of life, all you want for us is justice and fairness. Fill us with your desires, so that we seek good, not evil, until rivers of it flow from our hearts to heal our world.

C **Amen.**

**Psalm 89:1-2; 11-18**

D A responsive reading from Psalm 89. Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

The heavens are yours, the earth also is yours;  
the world and all that is in it—you have founded them.

**The north and the south—you created them;  
Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name.**

You have a mighty arm;  
strong is your hand, high your right hand.  
**Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;  
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.**

Happy are the people who know the festal shout,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance;  
**they exult in your name all day long,  
and extol your righteousness.**

For you are the glory of their strength;  
by your favor our horn is exalted.  
**For our shield belongs to the Lord,  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

D Word of God, Word of Life!  
C **Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem** "Someone is a Knockin'" Berg  
Youth Choir

**Reading** **Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24**

D A reading from the book of Amos, the first and fifth chapters.  
Listen for the Word of the Lord.  
C **Our ears are open.**

The Message of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa, that he received on behalf of Israel. It came to him in visions during the time that Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam II son of Joash was king of Israel, two years before the big earthquake.

God roars from Zion,  
shouts from Jerusalem!  
The thunderclap voice withers the pastures tended by shepherds,  
shrivels Mount Carmel's proud peak.  
Seek good and not evil—  
and live!  
You talk about God, the God-of-the-Angel-Armies,  
being your best friend.  
Well, *live* like it,  
and maybe it will happen.

Hate evil and love good,  
then work it out in the public square.  
Maybe God, the God-of-the-Angel-Armies,  
will notice your remnant and be gracious.

"I can't stand your religious meetings.  
I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.

I want nothing to do with your religion projects,  
your pretentious slogans and goals.  
I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,  
your public relations and image making.

I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.  
When was the last time you sang to *me*?  
Do you know what I want?  
I want justice—oceans of it.  
I want fairness—rivers of it.  
That's what I want. That's *all* I want.

- 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 7:37-38**

- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the seventh chapter.  
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

- P The gospel of our Lord.  
C **Praise to you O Christ.**

# Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Robin Caldwell

\*Hymn of the Day

# 713, Vs. 1 & 4

## "O God of Every Nation"

Text by: William W. Reid Jr. Music by: Welsh Tune. © 1958, Ren. 1986 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company).  
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**Verse 1** O God of every nation, of every race and land,  
Redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.  
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,  
In love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.

**Verse 4** Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,  
When hatred and division give way to love and peace,  
Till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,  
And Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

## \*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.



# 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

“Give Thanks”  
Handbell Choir

Smith, arr. Geschke

## Commitment to Community

*Family of faith, it does not take long to look around, pointing out places of pain and suffering. This year has been hard for so many, but we do not believe pain will be the last word.*

*Each week in our worship you are invited to give to the mission and ministry of this church. When you give, you are supporting this congregation and offering care to the broader community.*

*These acts of care, connection, and courage can help heal the hurt in the world.*

*Thank you for giving your resources to our shared ministry.  
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**

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”  
“Wade in Water”

arr. Hayes  
arr. Hayes

## **\*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

# 717, Vs. 1-3

### “Let Justice Flow like Streams”

Text by: Jane Parker Huber. Music by: Aaron Williams. Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Know Press.  
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**Verse 1** Let justice flow like streams  
Of sparkling water, pure,  
Enabling growth, refreshing life,  
Abundant, cleaning, sure.

**Verse 2** Let righteousness roll on  
As others' cares we heed,  
An ever-flowing stream of faith  
Translated into deed.

**Verse 3** So may God's plumb line, straight,  
Define our measure true,  
And justice, right, and peace pervade  
This world our whole life through.

## \*Sending

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

“Four Pieces: Marche”

Haydn

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## Available Sunday

Visit our Fair Trade table in between services to pick up your favorite coffees, teas, and chocolates.

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COFFEE WITH FRIENDS  
- 9AM - THURSDAYS -



MEETING AT ST. JOHN

*Ladies, we'd love to see you there!*

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IT  
WITH **ALTAR**  
**FLOWERS**

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OR IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

# St. John December

**5<sup>th</sup>**



God's Greatest Gift

**Sunday School  
Christmas Program  
4pm with Livestream**

**11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**



**Gift  
Drop  
Off  
Days**

**ANGEL TREE**

*in partnership with*

*St. John*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**12<sup>th</sup>**

**Light  
Up  
the  
Night**



**7pm  
with Livestream**

**24<sup>th</sup>**



**Christmas Eve  
Worship**

**3pm, 5pm, 11pm  
All Services will Livestream**

Please take  
thyme to share  
our worship  
link!



## **Holiday Information**

- November 24 - No Food Pantry
- November 25 - Office Closed
- November 26 - Office Closed
- November 27 - No Food Pantry