

St. John Lutheran Church

Wheat, Weeds, & Mustard Seeds



1903- 2023

120 Years
Commitment
to Community

**"...the farmer replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds,
you might pull up the wheat along with them.
Let both of them grow together until the harvest,
and at harvest time
I will tell the harvesters to collect the weeds first
and bundle them up to be burned,
and then gather the wheat into my barn.' "**



Matthew 13:29-30

Sunday, February 12, 2023
8:30am

Ash Wednesday Soup & Salad Lenten Dinner - Sign Up Today!

Join us Wednesday, February 22nd from 6 - 7pm in the Karin Johnson Hall. Sign up at stjohnjoliet.org to let us know you're planning to eat & if you would like to volunteer and/or donate food, sign up for that too. You can sign up for everything on one page at one time!

Now - February 19th, Palm Collection & Burning

Place your 2022 palm branches in the baskets located in the Narthex. We will burn them on Sunday, February 19th in the Memorial Garden at 9:45am.

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday

Noon - 12:30pm Sanctuary: A brief liturgy for the Imposition of Ashes

12:30 - 2:30pm Parking Lot: *Ashes to Go* Stop by to grab ashes to go, or receive them from a pastor on your forehead

6 - 7pm Lenten Dinner in KJ Hall; free-will offering

7pm Sanctuary: Worship Service with Ashes & Communion

March 4th, TASTE OF ST. JOHN IS BACK!

See Penny & Mark Collins in the Narthex for tickets! Visit stjohnjoliet.org and click on the sign up button for full details, volunteering and food donation.

March 24-26, WOMEN'S RETREAT IS BACK!

Visit stjohnjoliet.org and click on the sign up button for full details & to sign up.

February Special Offering

Use a blue envelope if you'd like to give to the Souperbowl of Caring.

Monday 2/13

9:30 - 11:30am PDO
1 - 3pm Staff Meeting: TR
5:30 - 6pm Chimers
6:15 - 7pm Ensemble
6:30 - 8:30pm Small Group: TR
7 - 8pm Handbells
7 - 8pm Al-Anon: WW 3&4
7 - 8pm A.A. Women: KJ Hall

Thursday 2/16

9 - 11:30am Coffee with Friends: TR
9:30 - 11:30am PDO
11am - 3pm; 5 - 7pm FP Delivery; FP Packing: KJH
6 - 7pm Green Team: NX
6 - 8:30pm Youth Service Team
6:30 - 8pm Martha Circle: TR
7 - 8pm AA Men: Zoom
7 - 8pm Praise Team: SA

Tuesday 2/14

9:30 - 11:30am PDO
6:45 - 7:30pm Finance/Executive Cmte: TR
7 - 8pm Beyond Diakonia: YR
7 - 8:30pm Boy Scouts: KJH

Happy Valentines Day!

Friday 2/17

9 - 10:30am Meals on Wheels
9 - 11am Quilters: WW5
9am - 1pm FP Delivery: KJH

Office Closed

Wednesday 2/15

8am - 2pm Food Bank Delivery: KJH
9:30 - 11:30am PDO
10am - Noon Altar Guild
6 - 7pm Youth Choir: SA
7 - 8:15pm Confirmation
7:30 - 9pm Senior Choir: CR/SA
8:15 - 9:15pm HS FIRE: YR

Saturday 2/18

8 - 10am FP Distribution Drive Thru
5:30 - 6:30pm Worship: SA

Office Closed

Sunday 2/19

8:30 - 9:30am Worship: SA with Livestream
9:45 - 10:15am Burning of the Palms
9:45 - 10:45am Sunday School
11am - Noon Worship: SA
12:15 - 2:30pm Tween *GO!*: KJH

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 on the altar today are given by Dawn & Kurt MacGregor in celebration of Caroline MacGregor's 17th birthday.

To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at stjohnjoliet.org or call the church office.

Thank you to Women's Retreat for coffee hour today.



Worship Leaders – Sunday, February 5, 2023 (8:30 am)

Deacon	Kristen Vorrier
Communion Assistant	Lynne Smith
Acolytes	Jackson Joyner, Abby Ogrizovich
Ushers	Joe Aincham, Mark Collins, Duane Johnson, Bob Makowka
Greeters	Allan & Robin Trueblood, Lila Quiaoit
Piano & Organ	Janet Blomquist
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Handbell Director	Sarah Wernli
Audio Board	Keith Markwell
Livestream Team	Rob Kornaus, Sage Quiaoit
Counters	Pat Block-Hay, Cathy Hawkins
Altar Guild	Karen Becker, Joan Nunemaker

Contact Information

Pastor Robin Caldwell	robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org	630-408-1402
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815-439-2320 contact@stjohnjoliet.org stjohnjoliet.org

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

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Prelude

“No. 1. Canzona”

Frescobaldi

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering**

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

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P In this season of Epiphany, we remember how the Magi went looking for God. Day by day, they followed the star until it guided them to Jesus.

In the prayer of confession, we acknowledge that more often than we'd like to admit, we follow God half-heartedly; we get distracted or lost, at times following the wrong star. Let us seek God together. Let us pray together:

C **God of starlight,
We know that faith isn't a vending machine.
Good news can't be bought or manufactured.
It does not arrive with a push of a button.
Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst.
We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did.
We have to believe that love really can change the world.
We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights.**

**Forgive us for forgetting that.
Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts.
May we be more like the Magi, walking your way every single day.
Amen.**

P Friends, I have nothing but good news.
God takes the pieces of our hearts that we offer up and says, "I can work with that." Even in our failings, God washes us with words of grace, belonging, and love.

No matter what star we've followed,
No matter how far we've walked,
No matter how lost we got -
We belong to God.
God loves you. God forgives you. God claims you.

C **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

705, Vs. 1 & 4

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Text by: Harry E. Fosdick. Music by: John Hughes. Public Domain.
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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.

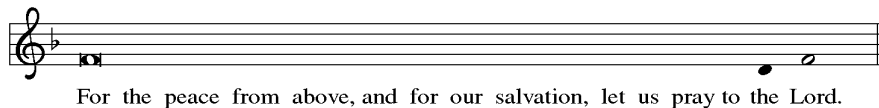
*Kyrie

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

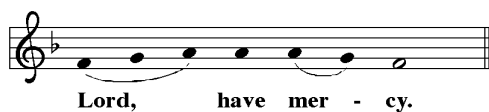
C **And also with you.**



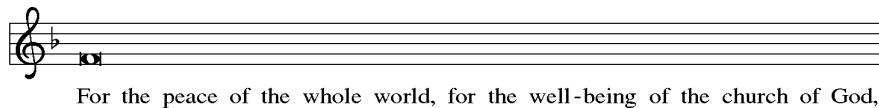
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



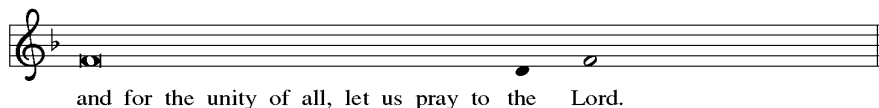
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



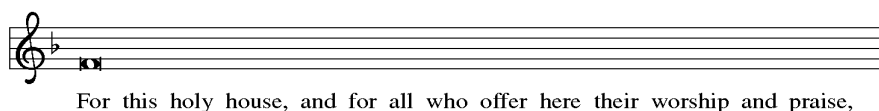
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



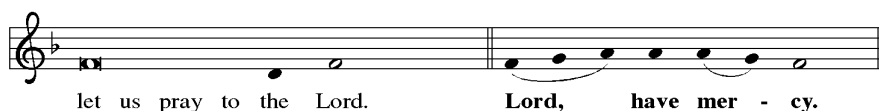
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



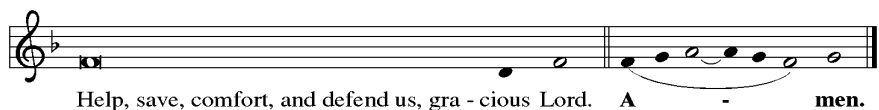
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*Hymn of Praise

"This is the Feast"



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***Prayer of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Lord of stories, Jesus taught us through stories and the wisdom of the shared word. Teach us through your stories, that we may learn, grow, and love. For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray.

C **Amen.**

Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

D A reading from the book of First Kings, the third chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

“Lead Me, Lord”
St. John Handbell Choir

Wesley arr. McChesney

Psalm 84:1-7

D A responsive reading from Psalm 84. Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
**my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
**at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.

Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

As they go through the valley of Balsam,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation

S 188

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

*Gospel

Matthew 13:24-35

P The gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

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

Jesus presented them with another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a farmer who sowed good seed in a field, but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then took off. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. Seeing this, the farmer's workers came and asked, 'Did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' The farmer answered, 'I see an enemy's hand in this.' They in turn asked, 'Do you want us to go out and pull them up?' But the farmer replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the harvesters to collect the weeds first and bundle them up to be burned, and then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a farmer took and sowed in a field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until it was leavened all through.”

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables. He spoke to them in parables only. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth to speak in parables;
I will announce things hidden since the creation of the world.”

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Evan Mayhew

*Hymn of the Day

693, Vs. 1-3

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Text by: Henry Alford, alt. Music by: George J. Elvey, Public Domain.
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Verse 1 Come, ye thankful people come; raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

Verse 2 All the world is God’s own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

Verse 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
Give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

***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.

Prayers of the Church

P Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all of creation.

Congregation sings this response:

814

"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"

Text and Music by: John L. Bell. © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
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Take, oh, take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart
And live in me

The prayers conclude:

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and
your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our
Savior.

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.

Offertory

“Ancient Words”

Brown

Today we celebrate the gift of God’s love for the world. In turn, we share that love by giving what we can. We pray that whatever we offer of our time, money, and talents will be used by the Holy Spirit to create a more purposeful world of love and belonging for one another.

Let our offering give birth to a better world.

*Please place any financial gifts, attendance sheets, and prayer requests in the offering plate when it comes to you and pass it on to the person next to you or behind you.
May God bless your generous heart!*

***Offertory Response**

692

“We Are An Offering”

Text by: Dwight Liles. Music by: Dwight Liles. Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be, we give to you,
We give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.

***Offertory Prayer**

D Let us pray. **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we offer. Join our hearts with the song of the angels and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving** *(sung)*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

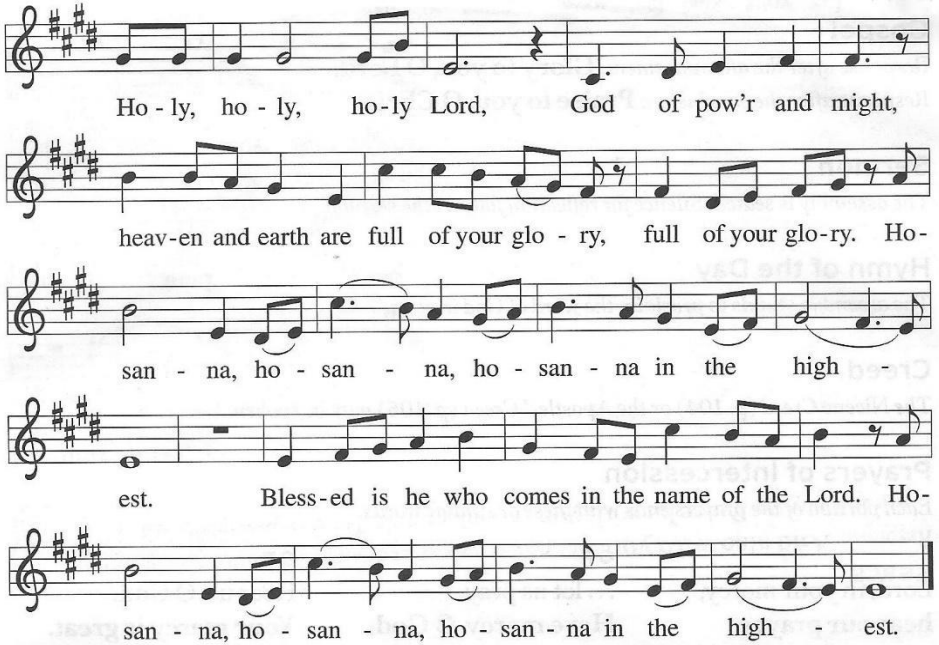
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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 Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, 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 Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

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.

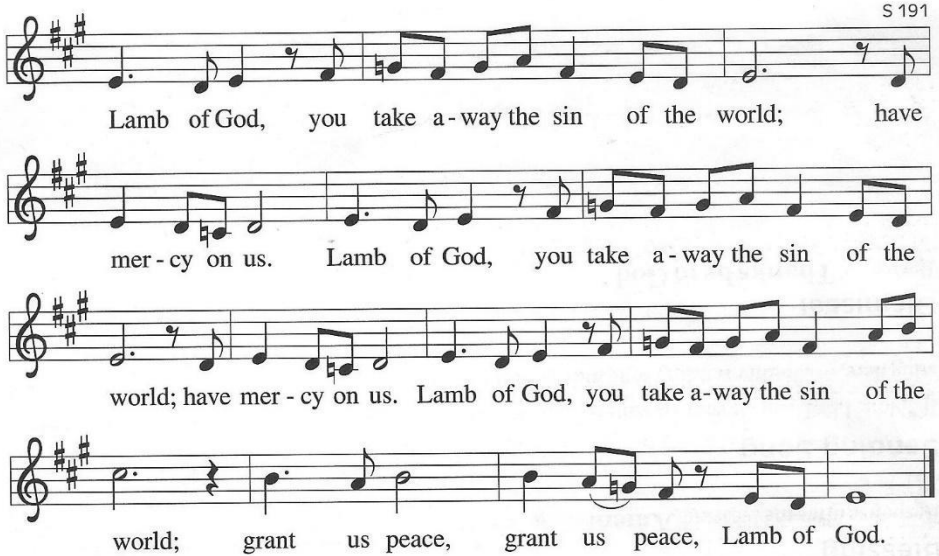
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Receiving Communion at the altar

- *You will be invited forward by the usher.*
- *Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.*
- *Red wine is on the outer rings of the tray; white grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.*
- *After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket that the acolyte brings to you and return to your pew via the side aisle.*

Lamb of God

S 191



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Music

484, Vs. 2, 4, 5

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

Music by: Omer Westendorf. Music by: Robert E. Dreutz. © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
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Refrain You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Verse 2 With joyful lips we sing to you
Our praise and gratitude
That you should count us worthy, Lord,
To share this heav'nly food. **Refrain**

Verse 4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell. **Refrain**

Verse 5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name
In truth and charity. **Refrain**

“Morning Has Broken”

Text by: Eleanor Farjeon. Music: Gaelic tune; arr. Hymnal version. Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Verse 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Verse 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

***Blessing**

C Amen.

***Prayer after Communion**

D Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

***Benediction**

C Sing **AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

*Sending Song

538

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

Text and Tune: Anonymous, Central America. Tr. Gerhard M. Cartford. English Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
To make of all the earth a better place to live.
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
To make of all the earth a better place to live.

Chorus The angels are not sent into our world of pain
To do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;
That falls to you and me and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.

Repeat Chorus

*Sending

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“No. 1 Fuga”

Pachelbel

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Ash
Wednesday

Wednesday, February 22nd

Soup & Salad Lenten Dinner

Sign up to eat, volunteer,
and/or donate food at stjohnjoliet.org

TASTE
OF **St. John**

A Benefit Dinner for Our Youth

MARCH 4TH - WE ARE BACK!

Tickets \$10 Adults; \$5 Ages 4 - 10
FREE Ages 3 & under

SIGN UP!

at
stjohnjoliet.org

JOIN A TEAM

Set Up - Friday
Set Up - Saturday
Servers
Clean Up

Quilt Raffle
Tickets \$5!

Get Tickets in between
services or contact

Penny Collins
815-342-5339
or

Mark Collins
815-545-2848

DONATE

Main Dishes
Side Dishes
Desserts
Drinks