

St. John

Lutheran Church



Traveling Light



Commitment
to Community

Sunday, January 15, 2023

8:30am

January Q & A's and Meetings

1/22 - Sunday - Congregational/Budget Q&A, in-person, 10-10:45am

1/24 - Tuesday - Congregational/Budget Q&A, Zoom, 7pm

1/29 - Sunday - Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary, 9:45am

In anticipation of our annual Congregational Meeting on January 29th, we will host two Q & A sessions for you to ask questions about the 2023 budget and church business. Attend in person or via Zoom.

The Gift of Time on Sun., 1/22

Make plans to take a few hours off as our Youth Service Team cares for your child/ren age 3 - 10 with lunch, snacks, crafts, stories & games! Visit stjohnjoliet.org & sign up your child/ren ages 3 - 10 years. 8th - 12th graders, sign up to volunteer. *Full details on Google forms.*

Monday 1/16 MLK Day - Office Closed

6:30 - 8:30pm Small Group: TR
 7 - 8pm A.A. Women: KJ Hall
 7 - 8pm Al-Anon: WW 3&4

Tuesday 1/17

9:30 - 11:30am PDO
 7 - 8:30pm Boy Scouts: KJH
 7 - 9pm Council Meeting: TR

Wednesday 1/11 Newsletter Articles Due

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

Thursday 1/19

9 - 11:30am Coffee with Friends: TR
 9:30 - 11:30am PDO
 11am - 3pm; 5 - 7pm FP Delivery; FP Packing: KJH
 4 - 5pm Property Meeting: NX
 5 - 6pm Green Team
 6 - 8:30pm Youth Service Team: NX
 6:30 - 8pm Martha's Circle: TR
 7 - 8pm AA Men: Zoom
 7 - 8pm Praise Team: SA

Friday 1/20

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



1/26 Celebration of Reading Circle
 1/28 Food Pantry Volunteer Appreciation
 1/31 Ministry Team Leaders Meeting
 2/4 Chili Cook Off & Game Night
 2/11-12 Souperbowl of Caring
 2/22 Ash Wednesday
 3/4 Taste of St. John
 3/24-26 Women's Retreat, Lutherdale
 4/9 Easter Worship 6/8:30/11am
 5/21 Faith Milestone Sunday
 5/24, 31 New Member Class
 6/11 1 Day VBS
 6/25-30 Campfirmation

Saturday 1/21

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

Sunday 1/22

8:30 - 9:30am Worship: SA with Livestream
 9:45 - 10:45am Sunday School
 10am - 10:45am Congregational/Budget Q&A: TR
 11am - Noon Worship: SA
 Noon - 2:30pm YST Gift of Time: NX/KJH/TR

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.

Today the altar flowers are given by Steve & Monica Engel in honor of George & Judy Coope's 20th wedding anniversary.

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



Worship Leaders – Sunday, January 15, 2023 (8:30 am)

Deacon	Meghan Doyle
Communion Assistant	Linda Koerner, Pam Murray
Acolytes	Sam Thomas
Ushers	Jon Blomquist, Bryan Yergler
Greeters	Ron Crabb
Piano & Organ	Janet Blomquist
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Audio Board	Keith Markwell
Livestream Team	Dawn MacGregor
Counters	Frank Norem, Norm Roland
Altar Guild	Karen Becker, Joan Nunemaker

Contact Information

Pastor Robin Caldwell	robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org	630-408-1402
Pastor Evan Mayhew	evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org	262-366-3132
Tori Hicks	torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org	815-355-3205
Dawn MacGregor	dawnmacgregor@stjohnjoliet.org	815-557-9702
Nicole Adams	nicoleadams@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
Pam Kornaus	pamkornaus@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
David Luecht, Council President	council@stjohnjoliet.org	815-954-9368

St. John Lutheran Church
2650 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435
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

“How Far is it to Bethlehem?”

Hayes

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

434 Vs. 1 & 5

"Jesus Shall Reign"

Text by: Isaac Watts. Music by: John Hatton. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Verse 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our king;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.

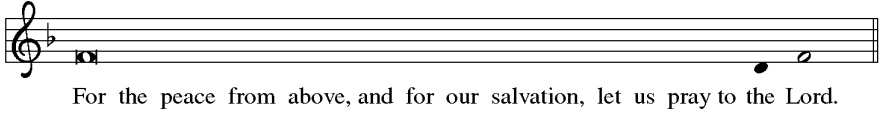
*Kyrie

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

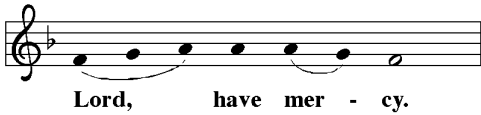
C **And also with you.**



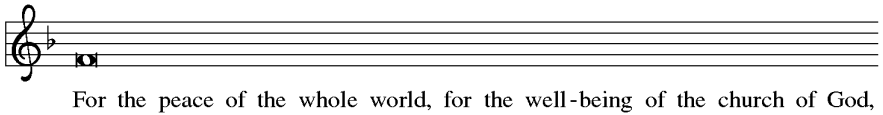
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



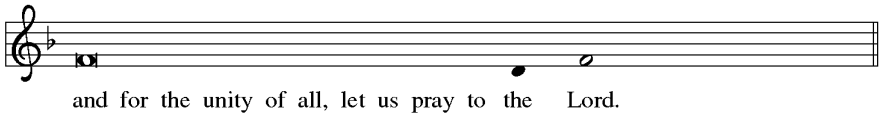
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



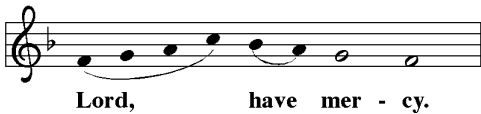
Lord, have mer - cy.



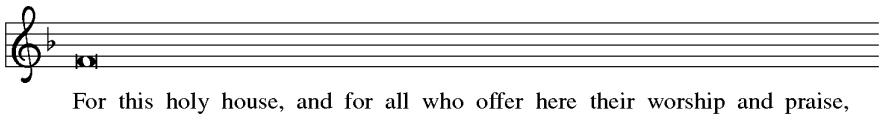
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



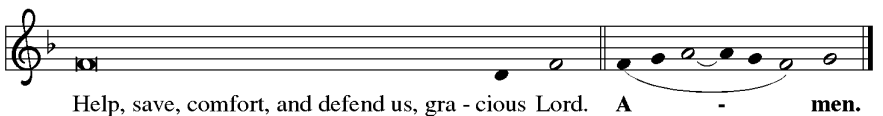
Lord, have mer - cy.



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"

Refrain 5 11

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.

Refrain

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.

Final refrain

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:

God of light, you were tested and tempted as a human being just as we are, yet you remain always faithful. Illuminate your enduring presence when we face wilderness suffering, that we may awake to the dawn of your grace, and renew our trust in you.

C **Amen.**

Reading

Isaiah 49:1-9, 15

D A reading from the book of Isaiah, the forty-ninth chapter.

Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

Hear this, everyone! Listen, all who live on the earth - both women and men, rich and poor alike! My mouth will speak wisdom, and my heart will utter knowledge. I'll sing you a riddle, and with my harp I'll explain its meaning:

Why should I be afraid in times of danger, or when I'm surrounded by those who lie and deceive? They trust only in their money, and boast of nothing but their great wealth. Yet even they cannot redeem another person - no one can pay God the ransom for someone else, because the payment for a life is too great.

What they can pay will never be enough to keep them from the grave, to let them live forever. But God will redeem me, and will pluck me out of Death's control.

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

"He is Exalted"
St. John Chorale

Paris, arr. Larsen

Psalm 91

D A responsive reading from Psalm 91. Listen for the Word of the Lord.
C **Our ears are open.**

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."

**For God will deliver you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly pestilence;
God's pinions will cover you,
and under their wings you will find refuge;
The Almighty's faithfulness is a shield and defense.**

You will not fear the terror of the night
or the arrow that flies by day
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

**A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

**For God will command the angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.

**When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble;
I will rescue them and honor them.**

**With long life I will satisfy them
and show them my salvation.**

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 4:1-17

P The gospel according to Matthew, the fourth chapter.

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

[After Jesus was baptized by John and God's Spirit descended upon him,] Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

P The gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Robin Caldwell

“Blessed Assurance”

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Verse 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long:
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Verse 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight:
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

Verse 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **Refrain**

***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 With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

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 Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

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

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Elvey

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!*

“We Are An Offering”

Text by: Dwight Liles. Music by: Dwight Liles. Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC.
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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.

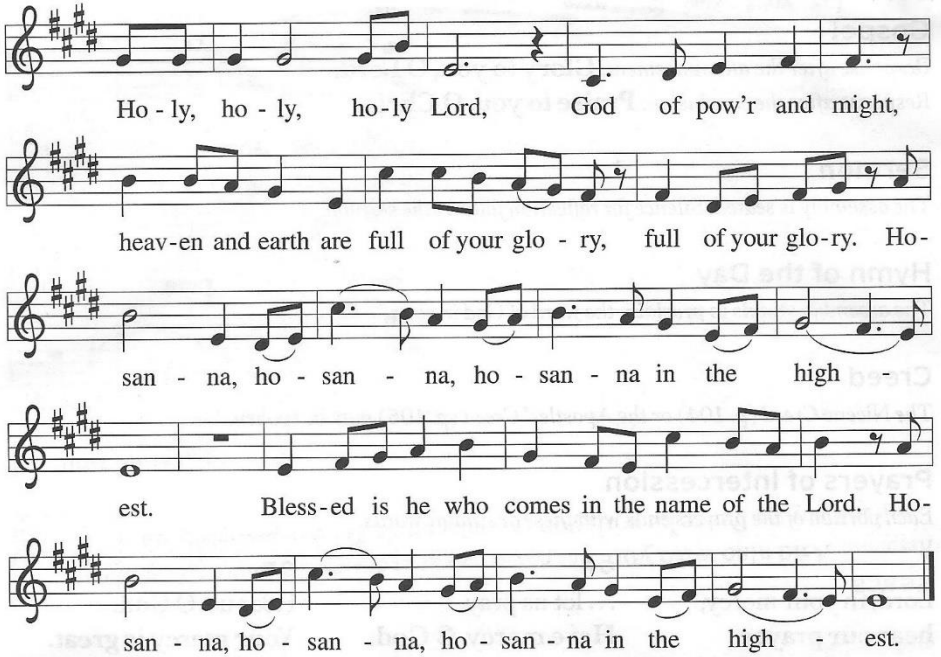
C We lift them to the Lord.

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

471 Vs. 1-3

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Text by: African American Spiritual. Music by: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American Spiritual. Tune: Public Domain. Arr. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Verse 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees. **Refrain**

Verse 3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees. **Refrain**

“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

Text by: Ray Makeever. Music by: Ray Makeever. © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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Verse 1 We come to the hungry feast
Hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
The love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

Verse 2 We come to the hungry feast
Hungry for a world released
From hungry folk of ev'ry kind,
The poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

Verse 3 We come to the hungry feast
Hungry that the hunger cease,
And knowing, though we eat our fill,
The hunger will stay with us; still
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

***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

857

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Text: Rick Founds. Music: Rick Founds. Text and Music © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Music Services CCLI License #2793209

Verse Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life,
I'm so glad you came to save us.

Chorus You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.

*Sending

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“Voluntary in D”

Scarlatti

FAMILY CHILI COOK OFF & GAME NIGHT



**FOOD
PRIZES
FUN**

SIGN UP TODAY!

- **ENTER CHILI CONTEST**
 - **RSVP TO EAT**
 - **RSVP FOR GAME NIGHT**
- STJOHNJOLIET.ORG**

FEBRUARY 4TH

5 - 6pm Chili drop off

5:30pm Worship

After Worship Eat & Vote!

7:15pm Awards

7:30pm Game Night Begins

**ALL
AGES**

**BRING
GAMES!**

CHILI TICKETS

1 Crockpot of Chili = Free Entry

\$5 Adults

FREE Kids 10 and under

\$20 Families of 4+

No charge for game night!

AWARDS



*** Ticket to Ride game & 2 Taste of St. John Tickets
Recognition & Prominent Display at Taste
Bragging rights



*** Restaurant Gift Card & 1 Taste Ticket



*** Restaurant Gift Card

Provided: desserts, cheese, oyster crackers, corn bread, sour cream, milk, water, lemonade
If your kiddo isn't a chili fan, please bring your own kid friendly food, microwave available!