



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & Christian Preschool  
Rev. Russ Leeper, Pastor  
Melanie Johanningmeier, Director of Music

May 10, 2020: Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Prelude:* "I Will Sing of the Mercies" with "Ancient of Days" Tornquist

*Welcome*

*Announcements*

Radio Broadcast: Beverly Sears in memory of loved ones

*Gathering Hymn:*

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see you, I want to see you **Twice**  
  
To see you high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of your glory.  
Pour out your power and love,  
As we sing holy, holy, holy **Repeat**  
  
Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy; I want to see you  
  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see you, I want to see you  
  
Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy; I want to see you  
I want to see you, I want to see you.

*Apostolic Greeting:*

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

Response: **And also with you**

*Hymn of Praise*

"His Name is Wonderful"  
His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful,  
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.  
He is the mighty King, Master of everything;  
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.  
He's the great shepherd, the rock of all ages.  
Almighty God is He.  
Bow down before Him, love and adore Him,  
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

*Prayer of the Day*

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Reading:*

**Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup>But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

*Reading:*

**1 Peter 2:2-3, 9-10**

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

*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.

*P: The Holy Gospel according to* **John 14:1-7**

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.' <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord...

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Russ Leeper

Hymn of the Day

“Born-ing Cry”

Hymnal #732

- 1 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
- 2 “When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 “In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,

I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.  
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I’ve be - gun.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,

in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell.”  
I’ll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.”  
I’ll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise.”

- 4 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.

I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.”

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937  
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker  
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*The Creed*

The Apostles' Creed  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
our Lord, who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

*The Prayers (P):* Lord in your mercy,  
Response: **hear our prayer**

***Please keep the following in prayer:***

Dan Carey	Randy Kreger
Norma Jean Ihle	Sandra Link
Brandon Franke	Bill Wihlm
Sylvia Frascht	

Please pray for all serving in the Armed Forces & their families: Alex Buenger, Kim Hall, Dalton Schutjer, Robson Shankland

***The Prayer List:*** Names will be kept on the list for 3 weeks. Family members can request a name be left on longer. The office number is 228-3397.

*Special Music:*

“Family Prayer”

Lydia Johnson

*The 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 Benediction*

P: Let's hold each other in prayer & stay safe!

*Closing Hymn*

“This is My Father’s World”

Hymnal #824

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.  
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

*Postlude*

“When Morning Gilds the Skies” with “We Bring the Sacrifice”

Tornquest



**A message from Greg Buenger, St. John Church Council President:** In response to the current COVID-19 situation, the St. John Lutheran Church Executive Committee and Church Council are recommending that the church remain closed until at least June 1, 2020. We feel this is an appropriate response to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and well-being of our congregation. Our bishop and other church leaders in Iowa are urging congregations to refrain from restarting in-person church gatherings too soon. We will continue to evaluate how things develop over the next four weeks and make further decisions about church activities in late May.

**From Pastor Russ:** We will continue our radio and online worship services until it's safe for us to worship in person again. Let's continue to hold each other in prayer and know that God is with us right where we are. *Peace be with you!*

**It has been recommended by the Governor of Iowa that all those who can work from home SHOULD work from home.** St. John has the technology that enables the staff to do so. Kathy's work computer has been connected to her home computer. When you call the office after the announcement there is a short pause and then her voicemail. Kathy can check her voicemail from home. You can also reach her by emailing [khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com).

*Class of*  
**2020**

**GRADUATION SUNDAY - MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

St. John will have a special service & recognition  
for our graduates!  
Our guest Preacher will be Bishop Steven Ullestad

**A member of the St. John congregation** has 2 iPads that she is willing to lend to someone who would like to watch the Sunday morning service on YouTube. She will clean and sanitize them, deliver to you, and pick them up. If anyone is interested in one call the church office at 641-228-3397 and leave a message

**Your offering can be mailed to St. John Lutheran, 200 S Main St, Charles City, IA 50616**

**OR...**

**If you would like to sign up for Simply Giving, the program that allows you to give to the church through electronic transfer, call Linda at 228-3397 & look in the May newsletter for the form to fill out and send to St. John**

**Offering from the week of  
May 3, 2020**

General Receipts	\$	11,585.00
Designated offering		315.00

*General receipts of \$9,757.00 are needed weekly to meet the approved budget*

**The May Good Newsletter is available!** You will be able to view it online at [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org), there is a link to the website on the E-skinny, & copies of the newsletter will be in the outdoor mailbox in the afternoons!

*"We extend our gratitude and appreciation to John & Myrna Culbertson for the recent memorial they gave to St. John in memory of Rev. Dr. Paul Mork. Thank you!"*

### **Volunteering Opportunities...**

We would like volunteers to call some of our members during this time of isolation. We would like to make a list of people that would like to call and also those that would perhaps enjoy that call.

Another volunteer opportunity would be a "errand group" to help those of you that are older or more health compromised that might need something picked up at the grocery store, etc. We have a member who works in Mason City and has volunteered to run errands to and from there Monday – Thursday.

To volunteer or to have calls and errands done for you call the church office at 641-228-3397 and leave a message for Kathy. You can also email her at [khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com)

### **Also happening...**

- The Synod Assembly in June has been postponed. The 2020 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will be held August 22 at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Please note change of location. Due to the unknown duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, updated registration forms will be mailed to congregations on June 22. Registration forms will also be available on the synod website. The Synod Council and staff will continue to monitor restrictions on large gatherings. If we need to cancel/postpone August 22, a decision will be made by July 15. The alternate date of August 22<sup>nd</sup> has been selected for the main purpose of electing a new bishop.
- Music at St. John: due to the extension of the “Social Distancing” recommendation of April 30<sup>th</sup> by the federal government, all St. John choirs will not reconvene until the Fall season. However, Melanie asks that if you have a favorite hymn or song that you would like to be part of our electronic worship service or summer worship service when we can come together again as a congregation, to let her or Kathy in the office know. You can reach the office at 641-228-3397 or email Kathy at [khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com)
- We still hope to be able to go on the mission trip & have Vacation Bible School later this summer. See the Youth & Family Coordinator’s newsletter article for more information.

A Poem by Herman Lincke  
Grandfather of Edna Stott

The eyes of God are everywhere,  
Go where you will, His eyes are there,  
In daylight bright, or darkest night,  
Your deeds are in Jehovah’s sight.  
So if you’ve sinned, no matter how,  
No matter where,  
Go ask Him now to cleanse your soul,  
To guide your mind,  
The narrow heavenward way to find.  
Let no such sins your soul defame,  
As puts God’s handiwork to shame,  
But try to do what in God’s sight  
Is honorable, is right.  
Accept His love, His saving grace  
Until you meet Him face-to-face.