



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

May 24, 2020: Celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord

Prelude: "America, America"

Welcome

Announcements

Radio Broadcast: Ron & Connie Rasmussen

Hymns today (✠) are those selected by the Seniors for their Confirmation Service in 2017

Preacher: Bishop Steven Ullestad

Gathering Song: ✠ "Chain Breaker"

If You've been walking the same old road for miles and miles
If you've been hearing the same old voice tell the same old lies
If you're trying to feel the same old holes inside
There's a better life, There's a better life

Refrain

If you've got pain, He's a good pain taker
If you feel lost, He's a way maker
If you need freedom or saving
He's a prison shaking Savior
If you've got chains, He's a chain breaker

We've all search for the light of day in the dead of night
We've all found ourselves worn out from the same old fight
We've all run to things we know just ain't right
And there's a better life, there's a better life **Refrain**

If you believe it
If you receive it
If you can feel it
Somebody testify **3 times**

If you've got pain, He's a good pain taker
If you feel lost, He's a way maker
If you need freedom or saving
He's a prison shaking Savior
If you've got chains, He's a chain breaker

If you need freedom or saving
He's a prison shaking Savior
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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

✝ “Great & Mighty”

Great and mighty is the Lord our God
Great and mighty is He.
Great and mighty is the Lord our God
Great and mighty is He.
Lift up your banner let the anthems ring,
Praises to our King
Great and mighty is the Lord our God.
Great and mighty is He.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Presentation of the Graduating Class of 2020:



Mackenzy Marie Bilharz
Lauren Diane Connell
Joslyn Helena Cotton
Cassie Lilas DeBower
Adrianna Theresa Ann Ferch
Kristin Kay George
Lynn Ann Hoeft
Joseph Harm Heidebrink
Alexandria Kristine Litterer
Aleiksander Rose Prigge
Mindi May Sande
MaKenna Lynn Schmiedel
Alexis Kay Vance
Brooke Ranae Vance
Jacie Ann Wink



Reading:

Acts 1:1-11

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

Gospel Song:

“Alleluia”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

*P: The Holy Gospel according to **Luke 24:44-53***

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Sermon

Bishop Steven Ullestad

Song of the Day

‡ “Whom Shall I Fear”

You hear me when I call, You are my morning song,
Though darkness fills the night, It cannot hide the light.

Whom shall I fear?

You crush the enemy, underneath my feet,

You are my sword and shield, though troubles linger still

Whom shall I fear?

REFRAIN:

I know who goes before me. I know who stands behind.

The God of Angel Armies, is always by my side.

The One who reigns forever, he is a friend of mine.

The God of Angel Armies, is always by my side.

My strength is in Your name, for You alone can save.

You will deliver me. Yours Is the victory.

Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear? **REFRAIN**

And nothing formed against me shall stand,

You hold the whole world in Your hands.

I'm holding on to your promises,

You are faithful, You are faithful. **(repeat) REFRAIN (repeat)**

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 Sandra Link

Alan Farmer Don Poppen

Randy Kreger

Family of Sylvia Nadine Schoneman 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:

“Song Without Words”
Played by Gavin Connell

Mendelssohn

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

✝ “Live Like You’re Loved”

You're not the only one who feels like this
Feeling like you lose more than you win
Like life is just an endless hill you climb
You try and try, but never arrive

I'm telling you something
This racing, this running
Oh, you're working way too hard (you're working way too hard)
And this perfection you're chasing
Is just energy wasted
Cause he love's you like you are

Refrain:

So go ahead and live like you're loved
It's okay to act like you've been set free
His love has made you more than enough
So go ahead and be who he made you to be

And live like you're loved
Live like you're loved
Live like you're loved
Live like you're loved

And live like you're know you're valuable
Like you know the one that hold your soul
Cause mercy has called you by your name
Don't be afraid to live in that grace

I'm telling you something
This God we believe in
Yeah, he changed everything
No more guilt! No more shame
He took all that away
Gave us a reason to sing **Refrain**

Live like you're loved, walk like you're free
Stand like you know, who he made you to be
Live like you're loved, like you believe
His love is all, that you'll ever need

So go ahead and live like you're loved
His love has made you more than enough **Refrain**

Live like you're loved, walk like you're free
Stand like you know, who he made you to be
Live like you're loved, like you believe
His love is all, that you'll ever need
Live like you're loved

Postlude

“Joyful, Joyful”

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!*

Though the St. John building is closed to the public, you can call the office with any questions or concerns. When staff is there your call will be answered, otherwise leave a voicemail for Kathy. 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.

Music at St. John!

If you have a favorite hymn or song (including Praise songs from the radio) let Melanie know and she will include the song in summer worship services!
You can call 641-228-3397 with your favorites!



Linda Reit will be calling for Meals on Wheels drivers!

St. John drives the weeks of June 8th & June 15th. If you would like to volunteer, you can call Linda at 641-220-1720.



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 May17, 2020

General Receipts	\$	9,518.99
Designated offering		445.00

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

“We extend our gratitude and appreciation to Wendell & Donna Patten for the recent memorials they gave to St. John in memory of Rev. Dr. Paul Mork, Shirley Jacobson, Leon Isakson, & Doris Thorson 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

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 22nd has been selected for the main purpose of electing a new bishop.