

August 24, 2025 8:30/10:00am

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING SONG

"Speak, O Lord"

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You,
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your Truth plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness;
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your Church is built,
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

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BAPTISM (10am)

James Paul Holasek is the son of Nathan and Danielle Holasek.
Sponsors are Marcus Holasek and Evy Geitzenauer.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know - the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed - but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask for forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that my heart may know peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE "Your Grace Is Sufficient"

Refrain

Your grace is sufficient for me,
Your strength is made perfect when I am weak.
All that I cling to I lay at Your feet,
Your grace is sufficient for me.

I'm no longer striving to merit Your love,
I rest in Your promise to me;
That all of my sins have been washed in Your blood,
Your mercy is all that I need. **Refrain**

You see me as righteous because of the blood
That made the atonement for me;
Your mercy has triumphed where I should be judged,
So now, by Your grace, I am free. **Refrain**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O steadfast Lord, You are the great I AM whose promises never fail us and in whom alone salvation is to be found. Grant to us hearts to trust in Your mercy and courage in the face of doubt and fear that we not surrender hope to darkness and faith to unbelief; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 3:4-7, 10-15

When the Lord saw that [Moses] turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings...

Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS

Kendra Gilmore - Principal
St. John's Lutheran School

PRAYER FOR ALL LEARNERS AND TEACHERS

God of all knowledge and wisdom, these students, teachers, and staff remind us that a new school year is about to begin.

We pray Your blessing on all students, young and old, as they begin a new year.

Help them to discover and develop the gifts You have given them.

As they grow in knowledge, help them to also grow in kindness and compassion.

We ask Your blessing on parents, teachers, school personnel and all who care for these students.

Strengthen them to surround these students with encouragement, support, love, and prayers.

Gracious Savior, through your word, dwelling richly within us, help us to stay connected to you.

Remind us that apart from you, we can do nothing.

Whatever we do, in word and deed, may it all be done in the name of Jesus.

So that we may be better equipped to be Your servants in and to the world.

We pray all this in Jesus' name,

Amen.

HYMN

“Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:52-58

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

The Jews said to [Jesus], “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Christ, the Word of God Incarnate” LSB 540, vv. 1, 4-6

Christ, the Word of God incarnate,
Lord and Son of Abraham;

Christ, the radiance of the Father,
Perfect God, the great I AM;

Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished,
Light and life You bring to all;
Light our path with Your own presence,
Grant us grace to heed Your call.

Christ, our good and faithful shepherd,
Watching all Your lambs and sheep;
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold,
Never-failing vigil keep.

When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us,
Find us, lift us, bear us home;
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us;
Let us hear Your voice alone.

Christ, the way that leads unfailing
To the Father's home on high,
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,
Christ, the life that cannot die.

Mediator to the Father,
Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,
There to share Your wedding feast.

Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
Christ, the life and resurrection,
Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration
And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit
And to You eternally.

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SERMON

“Because He Is”

Pastor Snow

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord God, because You are the Great "I AM," we are made bold by Your invitation to pray and Your promise to hear and answer. We come to You today with the prayers and petitions of our hearts.

Send Your Holy Spirit on all church leaders, all pastors, teachers, and servants of Your Church. Help us to be of aid and encouragement to them that they may extend the blessings of Your kingdom to all. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give patience and wisdom to parents that they may joyfully and faithfully teach their children to walk in Your ways. As parents entrust their children to teachers and schools, provide adults who stay connected to You through Your Word to guide these children. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give Your grace to the sick and the suffering, those struggling with mental illness, the grieving, and to the dying... Give them faith and hope in Your everlasting grace and grant them healing and strength. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

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.

OFFERING

Musical Offering – “Who You Say I Am”

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in,
Oh, His love for me.
Oh, His love for me.

Free at last He has ransomed me,
His grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me.
Yes, He died for me. **Chorus**

Chorus

Who the Son sets free,
Oh is free indeed.
I'm a child of God,
Yes I am.
In my Father's house
There's a place for me.
I'm a child of God,
Yes, I am.

I am chosen, not forsaken.
I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me.
I am who You say I am.
Oh, I am who You say I am.
Yes, I am who You say I am. **Chorus**

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COMMISSIONING AND INSTALLATION

Bios on page 12

Grace Ortloff, Kindergarten Teacher
Justin Weber, Director of Christian Education

DEDICATION OF STAFF

Staff listed on page 11

ANNIVERSARY OF YEARS OF SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S

Amy Feek – 30 years
Pastor Snow – 25 years

PRAYER

Gracious Father, we give thanks to You for the faithful service of your servants Amy and Pastor Snow. Bless all of our teachers and staff with wisdom and patience and with love and faithfulness to your Word, that with gladness they may continue to serve your people here at St. John's.
Amen.

CLOSING SONG**“Shout to the North”**

Men of faith, rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you feel weak,
In your brokenness complete.

Refrain

Shout to the north and the south;
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is Savior to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up, women of the truth,
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing pow'r
Of our glorious King of love. **Refrain**

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SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God

*Please join us for a reception to welcome
Grace and Justin in the lower gathering area.*

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH ST. JOHN'S TODAY! If this is your first time at St. John's, we encourage you to fill out a CONNECTCard located on the Welcome Desk. We want an opportunity to get to know you.

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elders: 8:30 Zac Lewis/10 Paul DeRocher

Usher Team: 8:30 Josh Kulzer/10 Andrew Tesch

Welcome Team: 8:30 Gary Herber/10

UPCOMING WEEK	
Sunday, August 24	Worship 8:30/10am
	Parents in the Word Bible Study 9:30am
	Initial Confirmation Meeting 11:15am
Monday, August 25	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	School Open House 3:30 – 5:30pm
	7 th Grade Parent Meeting 5:30pm
	8 th Grade Parent Meeting 5:30pm
	AA 7:00pm
Tuesday, August 26	First day of School
	Sunday School Meeting 6pm
Thursday, August 28	Trail Life Kick Off Troop Meeting 6:30pm
Friday, August 29	AA 6:30pm
Sunday, August 31	Worship 8:30/10am
	Parents in the Word Bible Study 9:30am

Celebrating Birthdays

8/24

Teresa Hammers
Jessica Medvedev

Amy Feek

Mary Goltz

8/25

Mark Asmus
Kristin Johnson
Jeremy Rolf
Lloyd Haack

8/26

Tracie Ryan
Jordan Dahlke
Nameeta Krenz

8/27

Jim Vipond
Ruth Vance
8/28
Jack Pallas
Megan Beulke
Tanya Dahlke

8/29

Derek Schneider
Mark Beussman

8/30

Jim Hofer
Carl Marshall
Jonah Beulke
Ian O'Borsky

Celebrating Anniversaries

8/27 Shawn and Kate Swanson
8/28 Martin and Meity Sihombing
8/29 Keith and Wendy Roberts
8/29 Larry and Carol Quanrud

Expectant Moms

Jessica Lewis	Anna Jeurissen	Rachel Hubley
Nicole Thuente	Hailey Busker	Katelyn Olson

Prayers for Healing and Strength

Gary Anderson	Wally Matthis	Doris Rossow
Jack Boman	Joann Mueller	Carol Severson
Orma Kraai		

St. John's Staff

PS – Jenni Swenson	Curriculum Director – Gretchen Dolan
PS aide – Karen Reich	Principal – Kendra Gilmore
PS/PK – Melanie Pandolfo	Admin. Assistant – Carol Eliason
PK – Deanne Hofer	Art/Support Specialist – Keri Galchutt
PK aide – Jamie Abercrombie	Enrichment/STEM – Abby Hendrickson
PK/EC Director – Tracy Koepsell	Counselor – Kylie Grah
PK/K – Ashley Moyer	PE (K-4) – Kate Swanson
K aide – Airin Matzke	PE (7-8) – Elise Wercinski
1st – Julie Herrmann	Music – Kristin Johnson
1st aide – Sonja Faegre	Choir – Katie Rolf
2nd – Laura Stender	Special Education – Melissa Henry
3rd – Renee Siegle	Event Coordinator – Ashleigh Hegseth
4th – Amy Feek	Cub Care Director/Library – Kim Wetzel
5th – Jana Beckendorf	Cook – Becca Peters
6th – Heidi Hengst	Nurse – Jenna Colehour
7th – Stephanie Wilaby	Facilities Manager – Brian Johnson
8th – Al Dutcher	Facilities Team – Brian Riner
	Senior Pastor – Greg Snow
	Associate Pastor – Matthew Barry

About Grace Ortloff

Grace Ortloff was born and raised in Hutchinson, MN. She has recently graduated from Concordia University St. Paul where she completed a degree in elementary education with a preprimary endorsement and a minor in Lutheran theology. Grace is looking forward to starting her teaching career at St. John's Lutheran School next year!

During her free time she enjoys being outside and doing things such as hiking, biking, and camping. Some of her favorite things include traveling and spending time with her family and friends. Grace is excited to join the St. John's staff and meet students and families!

About Justin Weber

"My name is Justin Weber, and I graduated from Concordia University Chicago in 2025 with a degree in Director of Christian Education (DCE). I completed my internship at both Camp Okoboji and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hartley, Iowa.

Originally from Aurora, Illinois, where I lived most of my life, I have a deep love for Christian ministry and youth programs. A big part of my journey has been serving at summer camps. I've worked eight summers at three different camps, Camp Freeland Leslie, Camp Lutherhaven, and Camp Okoboji.

When I'm not doing ministry, you can often find me playing disc golf or enjoying just about anything outdoors. I also have a passion for fitness, and the gym is a regular part of my life.

I'm excited to be serving here at St. John and look forward to growing alongside all of you in ministry!"