

School Theme
“Live Loved”

August 20, 2023

As We Gather

We are dearly loved by our saving God. That love is seen most concretely in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for us. Our Lord wants us to live each day in the awareness that we are indeed loved by Him. In other words, He wants us to “live loved.”

We respond to this gracious love by loving those around us. The love that we have received from God is echoed in the love we give to others. In other words, we are to “love love.”

Ephesians 5:1-2 describes both the love received and the love given: *“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”*

“Live Love(d)” is the St. John’s Lutheran School theme for the 2023-2024 school year. We celebrate the start of a new school year today, praying God’s blessings upon our school community and rededicating our staff.

We also will be recognizing and blessing those who serve in education in other schools. May God bless all of our schools as we begin a new school year!

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Where Charity and Love Prevail” LSB 845

Where charity and love prevail,
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love,
By love are we thus bound.

Let strife among us be unknown,
Let all contention cease;
Be God’s the glory that we seek,
Be ours His holy peace.

With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love him in return.

Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined,
We are in Him made one.

Forgive we now each other’s faults
As we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

For love excludes no race or clan,
That names the Savior’s name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

“Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me”

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless
peace

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is
mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall
overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon

And he was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am
free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall
repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

When the race is complete still my lips shall
repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Prayer

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Leviticus 19:17-18

¹⁷ “Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

¹⁸ “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17-5:2

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **5** ¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: John 15:9-17

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ!

The 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.

Sermon

"Live Love(d)"

Rededication of the Teachers and Staff of St. John's Lutheran School

Blessing for Those Serving in Education

Offering

"Live Love(d)"

Chorus 1

We are loved
Dearly loved
Fully loved
Loved by the Father
So that we may love
As we've been loved
By Christ who gave himself for us
As an offering for us
That He might live love for us
And now we follow Jesus walking in His way
Live loved

Verse 1

From when we wake up
Until the end of the day
When we're eating
When we're sleeping
And even when we play
When we're happy or we're sad
When the day's been really bad
When we've got too much to do
There's still one thing
That we know is always true
And it's good news straight
From God to me and you
It's a message from above
About Jesus and His love
That we are loved

Chorus

Verse 2

A love like this
We can't keep to ourselves
It's flowing through our lives
When we're loving someone else
For the love that Jesus gives
Is the love we give away
When we're walking in His way
So we will love everybody everyday
In our home and in our school
In our work and in our play
We will love like Him
In what we do and what we say
We live love

Chorus

(Bridge)

A new command you give us
To love one another
As you have loved us
So we love each other
By this everyone will know
That we are your people
If we like you live loved

Chorus

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the chat.

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

St. John's People and Families

Lisa, Tyler, Jeron, Jakob, & Bryson Chaudhary
Mike & Cathy Enfield
Ed & Ramona Kaufmann
Betty Rawlins
Steve & Debbie Stanhope
Luke, Kristin, Lizzie, & Grace Clayton
Zach, Ashleigh, & Everleigh Dias
Robin & Cameron Kimbell
Tina & Kiley Reach
Ashlynn Webber & Maverick Webber-De Guzman

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

People: **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.**

Benediction

"Go, My Children, With My Blessing" LSB 922

Go, My children, with My blessing, never
alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, You are
My own;
In My love's baptismal river I have made
you Mine forever,
Go, my children, with My blessing, you are
My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace
and pure,
Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure;
Here you heard My Son's dear story, here
you touched Him, saw His glory,
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace
and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, closer
to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful
and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you, here His
tender comfort stilled you;
Go, My children, fed and nourished, joyful
and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you, and
give you peace,
I the Lord will smile upon you, and give
you peace;
I the Lord will be Your Father, Savior,
Comforter and Brother:
Go, My children, I will keep you and give
you peace.

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John’s (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

Memory Verse for This Week

¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Sal Pagano
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Streaming Technician	Joel Wahlers
Projector Tech	Dawn Wahlers
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Doris & Bob Klein
Ushers	Bev & Clint Holdsworth
Worship Band	Pastor Mike, Steve & Judi Rock, Thane Knutson, Scott Ondek, Heidi Newman

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