

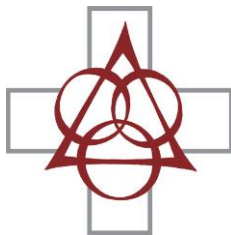


+ THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER +

Dedication of the Renovated Sanctuary

6:30pm April 27, 2025
St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
Effingham, Illinois

ORDER OF SERVICE



Prelude

Processional Hymn:

#905 Come, Thou Almighty King
(1935 Afternoon Dedication Service)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Come, Thou almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing;
Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days. | 3 Come, holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r. |
| 2 Come, Thou incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword;
Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness
On us descend. | Δ4 To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore. |

Text: English, before 1760, alt. Text: Public domain

Opening Versicles

P In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P This is the day which the Lord has made;
C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

- P Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C **Teach me Your paths.**
- P Sanctify us in Your truth.
C **Your Word is truth.**
- P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

- P Almighty God, You have promised to be with Your Church forever. We praise You for Your presence in this sanctuary and ask Your ongoing blessing upon those who gather here. Dwell continually among us with Your holy Word and Sacraments, strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and increase our faithful witness to Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**



Reading

1 Kings 8:22–30

A reading from 1 Kings, the eighth chapter.

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, ²³and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. ²⁵Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' ²⁶Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father.

²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. ³⁰And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

#901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (1935 Morning Dedication Service)

1 Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

2 Gracious God, I come before Thee;
Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heav’n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!

3 Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

4 Thou my faith increase and quicken;
Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe’er temptations thicken;
May Thy Word still o’er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, altText: Public domain

Psalm

Psalm 84

¹How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

²My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,

ever singing your praise!

⁵Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,

in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;

the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength;

each one appears before God in Zion.

⁸O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;

give ear, O God of Jacob!

⁹Behold our shield, O God;

look on the face of your anointed!

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹²O LORD of hosts,

blessèd is the one who trusts in you!

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Reading

Revelation 21:1–5

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (*stand*)

P Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Holy Gospel

Luke 19:1–10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 19th chapter.

C Glory to You, Lord.

¹[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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.



Hymn of the Day

#644 The Church's One Foundation

- 1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,

Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

- 4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

- 5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.Text: Public domain

"The Full and Abundant Life"

John 10:10

Pastor Wenthe

Sermon

Greetings

Pastor Burdick

Declaration

Psalms 93:1; 96:6

- P The psalmist declares, "The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt." "Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary."

C Amen.

Hymn of Dedication

#912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

1 Christ is our cornerstone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.

2 Here may we gain from heav'n
The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n,
Be with us evermore
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.

Δ3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Text: Public domain

Dedication

P Beloved in the Lord, Christ Jesus is present wherever His holy Word is taught purely and the holy Sacraments are administered according to His institution. As the Lord said through Moses, "In every place where I cause My name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you."

Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, though You are not contained in houses built by human hands, we pray that You will be pleased to dwell with us here and to make known to us Your glory. Be present in this place where we are gathered to receive Your forgiveness, hear Your holy Word, and praise Your holy name. Graciously hear the prayers we will offer to You; bless the marriages to be solemnized; comfort those who will mourn; and let harmony and peace rest upon all in this place. Bring us at last to the heavenly Jerusalem, where the Lamb is the temple, that we may unite with all the saints and angels in His praise; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this Sanctuary!

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

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.**

Benediction

Hymn #941

We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a-pos-tles in glo-ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo-ry, the ev-er-last-ing Son,
4 You sit in splen-did glo-ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing, by all the earth a-dored.
The fel-low-ship of proph-ets their death-less voic-es raise.
Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res-cue ev-'ry-one:
Up-hold-ing earth and heav-en by forc-es You com-mand.



To You all an-gel pow-ers cry a-loud, the heav-ens sing,
The mar-tyrs of Your king-dom, a great and no-ble throng,
You laid a-side Your glo-ry, were born of vir-gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi-nal day,



The cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim their prais-es to You bring:
Sing with the ho-ly Church through-out all the world this song:
Were cru-ci-fied for us and were placed in-to a tomb;
So help Your ser-vants You have re-deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth;
"O all-ma-jes-tic Fa-ther, Your true and on-ly Son,
Then by Your res-ur-rec-tion You won for us re-prieve—
May we with saints be num-bered where prais-es nev-er end,



Your maj-es-ty and glo-ry fill the heav-ens and the earth!"
And Ho-ly Spir-it, Com-fort-er— for-ev-er Three in One!"
You o-pened heav-en's king-dom to all who would be-lieve.
In glo-ry ev-er-last-ing. A-men, O Lord, a-men!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934, alt. Text: © 1999 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001224 Tune: Public domain

Postlude



Preacher:

*Rev. Dr. Dean Wenthe,
Son of the Congregation/
President Emeritus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne
& Concordia University System*

Liturgy & Greetings:

Rev. Mike Burdick, St. John's Lutheran Sr. Pastor

Liturgy & Readings:

Rev. Trey Dille, St. John's Lutheran Associate Pastor

Organist:

Mr. Jamie Lotz



We extend our gratitude to God for His handiwork through these craftsmen and companies:

- Wright's Furniture
- Hazlett Flooring
- Roepke Painting
- Wood Renovators
- Robards Drywall
- Fred Biggs Electrical
- Integrity Electric
- Byron Nelson Construction
- Piano Network
- Pals Upholstery
- Bahrns Equipment
- Ad Crucem Liturgical Arts
- Praise Banners
- Dan's Glass
- Every volunteer of the congregation who endeavored to sustain the glory of God's House!

+ THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER +



1935



2025

In January of 1935 the Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church, Effingham appointed a Building Committee with authority to obtain plans and specifications for a new church. On Easter Sunday, April 21, 1935, the last Service was held in the old church. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held that day for the building of the new church. The cornerstone was laid on Sunday, June 16, 1935. The new brick building, erected at a cost of about \$22,000.00, was dedicated to the glory of God and the service of His Kingdom on October 27, 1935. It was at this time that all use of the German language for services was discontinued. The Building Executive Committee in 1935 included the following: William J. Wenthe, Chairman, George Engel, William Melzer, Secretary, Adam Goebel and Rev. P. F. Plunkett. The Architect was George Ramey and the Contractor was Haggerman and Harshmann of Sullivan, Illinois.

Attendance in Sunday School and church showed a steady increase. In time it became apparent that the church erected in 1935 would not be adequate for the growing membership. In view of this, the congregation appointed a Post-War Planning Committee in 1945 to consider ways and means for providing adequate accommodations for the congregation. However, because of strenuous opposition, it was not until 1947 that the congregation adopted plans for the enlarging of the church by an addition to the nave, and the addition of transepts and chancel, thus doubling the seating capacity of the building. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on July 10, 1949. The expanded building was completed and ready for dedication on July 16, 1950. The project, including new furnishings and a rebuilt organ, cost approximately \$80,000.00. The debt was retired by October, 1952.

Interesting Note: In 1935 the congregation decided the old church building was too old to repair when one member reported the dust blew in around the windows and you could see where people had been sitting after each service!

[You] have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding Word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the Word of the Lord remains forever." And this Word is the good news that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:23-25

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.