



JOIN THE
CANTATA CHOIR

Lift Your Voice in Praise
Share the Gift of Sacred Music

The Cantata Choir is St. John's principal choral ensemble, offering beautiful sacred music that enriches worship throughout the church year.
New singers are welcome!

FIRST REHEARSAL

When: September 9
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Choir Room

EMAIL DR. MARC BRUNELLE AT M.BRUNELLE@STJOHNSLAGRANGE.ORG | ALL VOICE PARTS WELCOME

EQUIPPING • ENGAGING • ENCOURAGING

 **ST. JOHN'S**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
— La Grange, Illinois —



EQUIPPING
them with God's Word
through Christian
Education

ENGAGING
them in Worship
and Fellowship

ENCOURAGING
them to serve and love
more like Jesus

ST. JOHN'S
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —
— LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS —



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE

SIMON PETER ANSWERED,
“YOU ARE THE CHRIST,
THE SON OF THE LIVING
GOD.”
— MATTHEW 16:16

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2026

AS WE GATHER



We like to catch Peter on his good side—confessing Christ, walking on water, and earning the ultimate nickname: "The Rock." But if we look closer at this irregular stone, we find a beautifully warped, foot-in-mouth sinner just like us. This Sunday, join us as we dive into Matthew 16 to see how Jesus bypasses our human "quality control," shatters our frantic striving, and permanently cements us into His unshakable building project.

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

Please stand

INVOCATION HYMN

644 The Church’s One Foundation



1 The Church’s one foun-da-tion Is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E-lect from ev-’ry na-tion, Yet one o’er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der The world sees her op-pressed,
4 Through toil and trib-u-la-tion And tu-mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u-nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre-a-tion By wa-ter and the Word.
Her char-ter of sal-va-tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a-sun-der, By her-e-sies dis-tressed,
She waits the con-sum-ma-tion Of peace for-ev-er-more
And mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav’n He came and sought her To be His ho-ly bride;
One ho-ly name she bless-es, Par-takes one ho-ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep-ing; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious Her long-ing eyes are blest,
O bless-ed heav’n-ly cho-rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press-es With ev-’ry grace en-dued.
And soon the night of weep-ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic-to-rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be-fore us, May see You face to face.



When You, and You a-lone, Lord Je-sus, are my trea-sure!
Yet nev-er once re-flects That they are frail and flight-y.
Yet nev-er is con-tent Though gold should fill its cof-fers.
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea-sure,



You on-ly, dear-est Lord, My soul’s de-light shall be;
But what I tru-ly prize A-bove all things is He,
I have a high-er good, Con-tent with it I’ll be:
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e-ter-nal-ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
My Je-sus, He a-lone. What is the world to me!
My Je-sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
Once more, then, I de-clare: What is the world to me!

Please sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Kristina Bachrach, Soprano

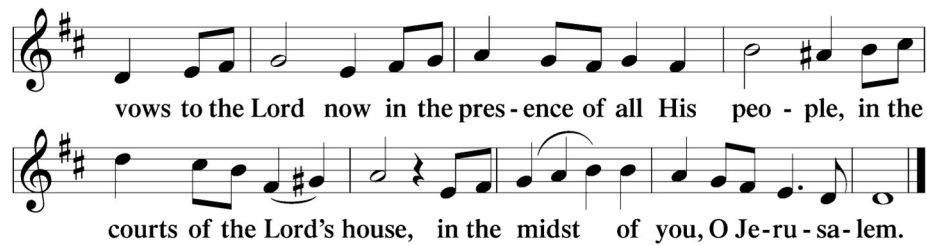
Sue Kunz, Lector | 8:00am ✙ Sherrie Smith, Lector | 10:45am

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today’s Altar flowers are from Marty and Cheryl Haugen. We are celebrating the anniversary of our daughter Emma and her husband Travis. We are thankful for all the prayers and support from our St. John’s family.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

LORD’S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

Numbers 6:24–26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and **✝** give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

730 What Is the World to Me



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt-ed plea-sure
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon-ored by the might-y
3 The world seeks af-ter wealth And all that mam-mon of-fers
4 What is the world to me! My Je-sus is my trea-sure,

BAPTISM | 8:00am

JACKSON RAYMOND ALLAN MILLS
Allan and Grace Mills

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the **✝** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

C Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

P Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!

C For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

P May the LORD give strength to His people!

C May the LORD bless His people with peace!

EXHORTATION

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

Please kneel or sit. Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C Gracious God, with contrition and repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.

- P** God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Please stand
SERVICE OF THE WORD

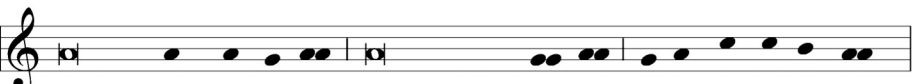
KYRIE Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For all who ail in heart, mind, and body, [*especially . . .*], that they be touched by the healing hand of our Savior and filled with the presence of His comforting Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Bless us, Jesus, as we are healed by You.
- P** For these and all other concerns we have, that coming before the throne of grace we find mercy to help us in our time of need, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Bless us, Jesus, as we trust You to hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

Please sit
OFFERING



SOLO

AMAZING GRACE
Arr. Richard Walters
✠
Kristina Bachrach, *soprano*
Dr. Marc Brunelle, *piano*

Please stand
OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my

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.

Please kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
 For all disciples of Jesus Christ, both here at St. John's and throughout the world, that we not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless us, Jesus, as we follow You.**
- P** For the fulfillment of the Great Commission, that wherever the good news of salvation in Christ is proclaimed, hearts turn to the Lord and live, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless us, Jesus, as we tell of You.**
- P** For all servant leaders in the church and in the world, that their work for our blessing show forth the goodness of Christ to the world He died to save, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless us, Jesus, as we serve You.**
- P** For the blessing of all who hunger and thirst, for all who are weary and heavy-laden, and for all who are without house or income, that they seek the restoration the Lord's good hand provides, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless us, Jesus, as we are cared for by You.**
- P** For all who willingly put themselves in the path of evil for the sake of other people's good, including military members, law enforcement officers, and emergency workers, that they be protected by the Lord's mighty hand, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Bless us, Jesus, as we are protected by You.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise
 let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
C A - men.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: This Is the Feast

A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.
C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
 whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
 Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and
 hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives
faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -
ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.
But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
Choos - es to live with us in love,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
You, not the world, My face shall see.
Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
With all His grace and His fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
My peace I leave with you. A - men."

SERMON

"There are Two Sides to Everything"
Pastor Mark Stapleton

Please stand

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

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please sit
SERMON HYMN

645 Built on the Rock



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's
church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing

Please sit
FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1–6

- A** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 51.

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.
³For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

Shining Shore

Scott Wheeler



Kristina Bachrach, *soprano*

Dr. Marc Brunelle, *piano*

PSALM

Psalm 138

- A

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.
- C

On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.
- A

All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,
and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.
- C

For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.
- A

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.
- C

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

EPISTLE

Romans 11:33 – 12:8

- A

The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 11.

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”
³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.
Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- A

This is the Word of the Lord.
- C

Thanks be to God.

Please stand
ALLELUIA

John 6:68



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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