

Fourth Sunday in Lent ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH St. John Lutheran Preschool & Childcare The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

824 Fredonia Avenue, Fredonia, Wisconsin - 262-692-2734 **Sunday, March 30, 2025** 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Special Welcome To Those With Young Children

We are very happy that you are here today! At St. John we want you to feel at home.

- First, please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at St. John.
- To make it a bit easier on your family, please dare to sit toward the front
 where your children can easily watch the pastor, note the colors, hear the
 bells, see the fire, and wonder about the stained glass windows of the
 Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
 What Jesus does here promises to engage them.
- As we go, softly explain the Liturgy to your children, encouraging them to chime in on their parts: Amen! Lord have mercy! And with your spirit! I believe! Our Father! All of that belongs to them too.
- Be sure to sing and say and pray your parts too as you stand and sit. Your children learn by following your lead.

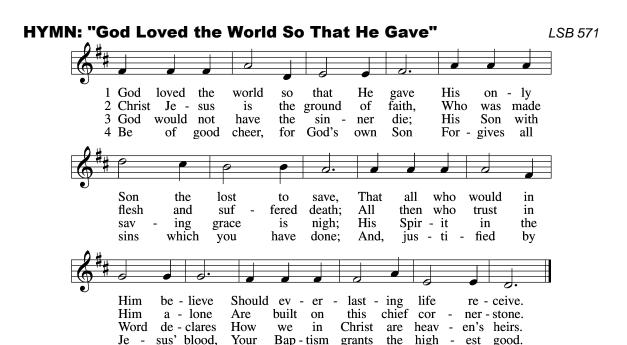
If you and your child must leave, please hurry back. We want your children here so much that we didn't build a nursery. Like Jesus, we want your children in the Liturgy, not out.

 If you need a little help, just ask. There are lots of good folks here who would love to lend you a hand!

Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:16).

We know that your children are a gift to the Church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help and bless you all. Welcome to St. John!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION



- 5 If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.
- △ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One! To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: George J. Etwy, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

Exhortation LSB 203

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution LSB 203

- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Remain Standing

Introit

Psalm 51:2-6; antiphon: v. 1

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

- Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
- **P** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
- P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- ALL 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.
 - P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Kyrie

LSB 204

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:1-6

¹You will say in that day:
"I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.

²"Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation."

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

"Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

5"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

6Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Adult Choir Anthem: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

arranged by Deborah Jackman

Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: . . .

"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt

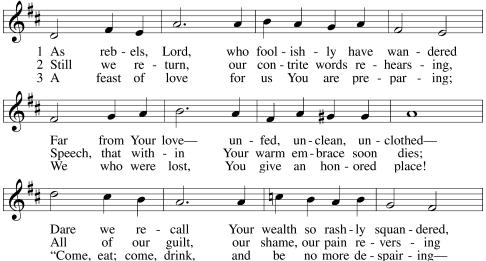
compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN: "As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered" LSB 612





Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Jeffrey N. Blersch, 1967

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Sermon

The Rev. Marshal Frisque

- The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C Amen.

Stand

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation car

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

- **P** ... one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sit

Offering Statement

The Offering is a part of our Worship life together as God's children gathered here at St. John. This historical practice is more than "helping pay the electric bill". Having received His absolution and cleansing of our sin, the Offering, then, is a part of our worship posture (Psalm 51). As we move from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament we bring before God, in a communal fashion (Acts 2:42-47), the toils of our hands, the bread of the earth (Gen. 3:19) and give it to God. This, He transforms and provides back to us the Bread of Life in the Sacrament of the Altar! Together, placing our offerings in the plate, the Lord sees and treats all giving hearts the same, whether they can provide much or little (Luke 21:1-4). All of this, then, furthers God's mission and ministry in our flock and into the lives of our community members. May the Lord bless your lives as you entrust your possessions to Him (Phil. 4:10-20)!

Text: Pastor Frisque

(Please place your offering in the collection baskets at the entrance to the Sanctuary, thank you!)

Our Communion Statement

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with Pastor Frisque. All are welcome to come forward for a blessing from Pastor by placing your arms in an "X" across your chest.

If you intend to receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please place the empty cup in the gold bowls following your table's dismissal. If you intend to receive from the common cup, please raise your hand forward, signaling your preference, and then feel free to guide the chalice to your lips by holding on to the bottom of the chalice.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Preface LSB 208

- P The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;

Tru-ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

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





The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My
→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

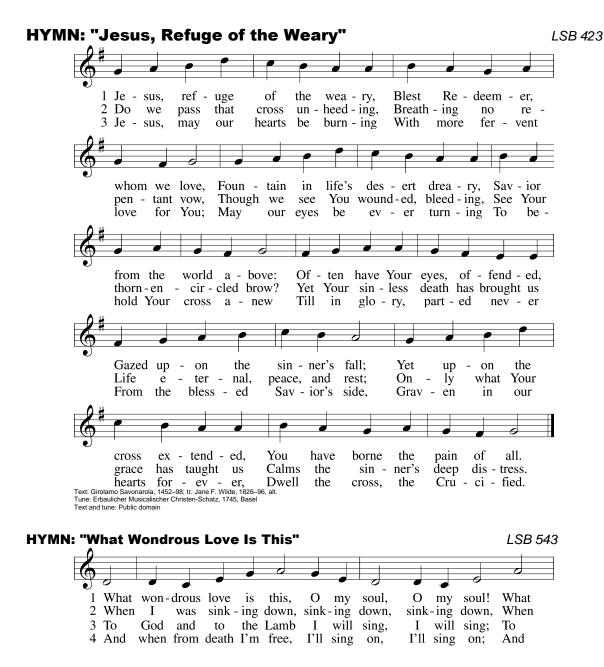
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

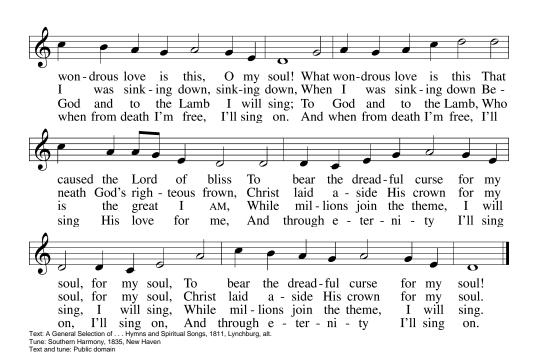
Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Distribution







Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga wisor, 1873, Sweden

Text: Public domain



Stand

Nunc Dimittis

lone can

leave me

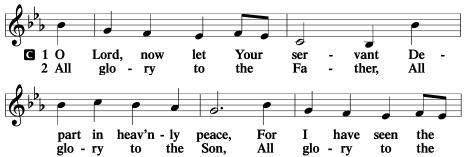
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

LSB 211

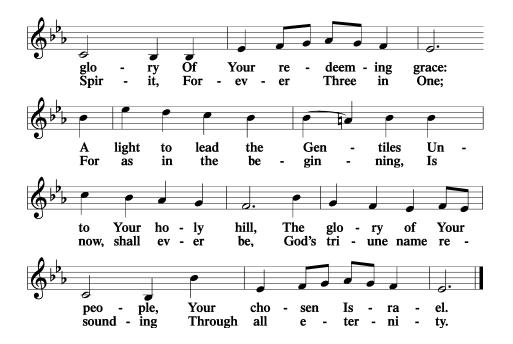
an - guish.

on - ly Yours for - ev - er.



van - quish These dark fears and soothe this

nev - er; Make me



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benedicamus 212

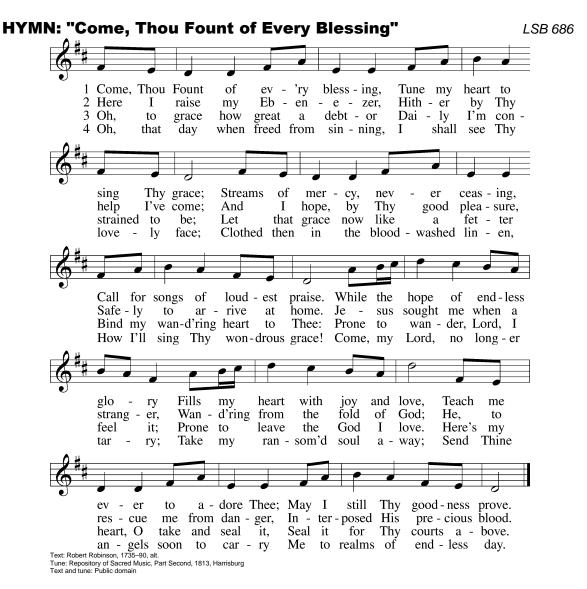
- P Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and

→ give you peace.

C Amen.



Acknowledgments

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