



**St. John
Lutheran
Church**

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March 1, 2023

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Midweek Lenten Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

*'Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn,
Share, and Serve'*

*‘Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of
Christian faith in our community, to all generations,
wherever they may be’*

A Time of Preparation

Prelude

“Mighty To Save”

Ev'ryone needs compassion Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

Saviour He can move the mountains My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save

Forever Author of salvation He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as You find me All my fears and failures
Fill my life again

I give my life to follow Ev'rything I believe in
Now I surrender

Saviour He can move the mountains My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save

Forever Author of salvation He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing For the glory of the risen King
Jesus Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing For the glory of the risen King

Saviour He can move the mountains My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save

Forever Author of salvation He rose and conquered the grave
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Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

“Just As I Am” (I Come Broken)

Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

I come broken to be mended. I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
And I’m welcomed with open arms, Praise God, just as I am.

Just as I am I would be lost, but mercy and grace my freedom bought.
And now to glory in Your cross, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

I come broken to be mended. I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued. I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb.
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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

Prayer as we enter Worship

P We have gathered here, loving God, to mark the season of Lent.

C **We have gathered here to walk with Jesus as he walks to the cross.**

P We have gathered here to repent of our sins publicly and privately.

C **We have gathered here to repent of those sins known only to ourselves and to you.**

P We have gathered here to be in the presence of one another, where we can draw strength,

C **Knowing that wherever two or three of us are gathered, you are also present among us.**

P Guide us throughout this Lenten season as we climb deeper into your embrace.

C **And let us put to death those things that separate us from each other and from you.**

P May we know your presence is always with us.

C **May we know the power of your transforming love within us.**

P May we know your grace surrounds us and is beyond us.

C **In the name of Jesus, our faithful friend and companion on this journey. Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter those moments when we are confronted with our true selves.

C **Reveal our true nature, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

P When we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for more is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

C **Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

P When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

C **Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.**

P When we are tempted to seek our glory, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

C Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination

P Merciful Father,

C Save us from times of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive all our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. Strengthen us with your Spirit that we may confidently put our whole trust in you, just as Jesus did. This we pray in his name. Amen.

P The Apostle John writes in 1 John 1:8-9, *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* As you have confessed, so also is God faithful and just. Because of Christ's work on the cross, your sins are forgiven ✕ and you are cleansed from all your unrighteousness.

C Thanks be to God.

An Invitation to Engage During Lent

P Lent is not a season designed for us to be miserable, but for taking stock and resetting our aims for following Christ.

C Loving God, in you we trust, let us never fool ourselves.

P Lent is an opportunity for healthy repentance – repentance for our indifference in the face of the permeating evil of the world, – and repentance for our personal sins which we have glossed over as "mere foibles."

C According to your loving kindness, remember us, God of goodness and saving grace.

P Lent is truly a time for joy as we experience the exhilaration that comes from defying temptations, from turning our face to the light that shines on the narrow path of Christ, from walking into adverse winds, and from enjoying small victories day by day.

C Make us to know your ways, O God, teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation and our true happiness.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together...

☩ God, you loved the world so much that you embraced it in all its sin through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, who sought the way of the cross that he might come to Easter and offer us the way back to you. We thank you for this Lenten time to become more receptive to your incredible promise of new life, to challenge all that is corrupt in our world, and to consider all that is dull in our hearts. Help us use this time, not only in prayer at worship, but also in the thoughtfulness in which we live our days. Empower us to listen for your voice in all we do, as you convict us of the habits that restrict our lives and the assumptions that close our minds. Help us also to be aware of others and give us ears that listen, that we may find the words to sustain and the openness to learn through Jesus Christ, our deliverance and our hope. Amen.

First Reading

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

☩ This is the Word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 8:4-15

☩ The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the eighth chapter

☩ Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴ And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵ “A sower went out to sow his seed. And

as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸ And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ ¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴ And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

G 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.

Message Song

“Abide with Me”

I have a home, eternal home. But for now I walk this broken world.
You walked it first, You know our pain.
But You show hope can rise again up from the grave.
Abide with me. Abide with me. Don't let me fall and don't let go.
Walk with me and never leave. Ever close, God abide with me.
There in the night, Gethsemane, before the cross, before the nails,
overwhelmed, alone You prayed.
You met us in our suffering and bore our shame
Abide with me. Abide with me. Don't let me fall and don't let go.
Walk with me and never leave. Ever close, God abide with me.
Love that will not ever let me go.
Love that will not ever let me go. You never let me go.
Love that will not ever let me go.
And up ahead, eternity. We'll weep no more,
we'll sing for joy. Abide with me

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Message

“Fast Food”

Offering

Prayer for Lent

- P** O God, grant that by taking time to pause for reflection and remembrance, we may be sensitive to your presence in our lives. Open our lives to your grace, and guide us to a true change of heart and reorientation of our lives. Lord in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Lead us through discipline and discipleship, through fasting and feasting, through constraint and freedom. Free us from our own struggles, so that we may more fully serve one another. Lord in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer.**
- P** We know that if we are to remain faithful, we need your help and your strength. As we are met with the challenge of handing over our lives to you, rid us of what clutters our lives, and all that distracts us from the simple truth

of your love for us. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Enlighten us by your Spirit so we may walk in truth and love. Help us to use the freedoms and blessings you have given us, to liberate those with burdens too heavy to bear. Kindle in our hearts a cheerful spirit as we approach each day and help us to love others as you love them. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P We ask you to hear our prayers for others at this time. Bring healing, hope, and comfort to all who struggle in body, mind, and spirit. Guide those seeking gainful employment or a place to lay their head. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Bring to our minds the times we have compromised the truth for that which is convenient to us. Forgive us for the times we have shut our eyes, ears, and hearts to the needs of others and have instead indulged ourselves to our own detriment. Help us, dear God, to know that you forgive these things, and give us strength to resist them in the future. Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P Help us to be obedient and joyful, humble and caring, merciful and loving. Anchor us in your life-giving word and make us radiant for you, as ambassadors of your message of reconciliation. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

C Amen.

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.

Words to Leave and Live By

P Since we stand surrounded by all those who have gone before, that great cloud of witnesses, let us drop every extra weight, every sin that clings to us and slackens our pace, and let us run with endurance the race set before us. Stay focused on Jesus, who designed and perfected our faith. Who endured the cross and ignored the shame of death because he focused on the joy that was set before him, as he is now seated on his throne in heaven.

In the same way, let us also embrace the road that lies before us. Go into the days ahead, strong in the presence of the Holy Spirit, and confident that God goes with you.

Blessing

- 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 Song

“How Deep The Father’s Love”

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away.
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Acknowledgments

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Lenten Wednesday Services: All services will begin at 5:00 pm

All of the following items donated will be collected and distributed to Oasis of Hope Houghton Lake, River House Grayling, Houghton Lake Elementary School and Roscommon Elementary School. Thank you for your continued support.

Lenten Midweek – March 1

(collecting kids hats, gloves/mittens, girls & boys underwear, stretch or sweatpants from size 4 to 8, girls or boys socks sizes xs, s, m.)

Lenten Midweek – March 8

(collecting paper towel, Kleenex, toilet paper, gift cards to fast food restaurants (small amounts))

Lenten Midweek – March 15

(collecting Laundry or dish soap, dryer sheets, hand sanitizer, disinfecting cleaners for bathroom etc)

Lenten Midweek – March 22

(collecting trash bags, ziplock gallon size, non-latex gloves)

Lenten Midweek – March 29

(collecting sippy cups for little ones, crayons, coloring books, new story books, small toys, pencils, journals, paper etc.)