



## St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod  
2888 W Houghton  
Lake Dr  
Houghton Lake, MI  
48629  
989-366-5164  
[www.stjohnhl.com](http://www.stjohnhl.com)  
[office@stjohnhl.com](mailto:office@stjohnhl.com)

# 9:00 - Traditional



**March 19, 2023**

# Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional Worship 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.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service.

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

E-mail: [paul@stjohnhl.com](mailto: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'*

# As We Gather

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

***Divine Service Three*** (pp 184ff)

**A Time of Preparation**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Sharing of the Peace**

**Opening Song**

***“God Loved the World So That He Gave”*** LSB 571

God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus’ blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

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.

Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

## Invocation

LSB 184

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

**G** Amen.

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

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**G** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**G** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**G** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**G** Amen.

## Service of the Word

**P** My eyes are ever toward the Lord,

**G** **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

**P** One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

**C** that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

**P** For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

**C** he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

**P** And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

**C** I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

### **Gloria Patri** *(Sung)*

*LSB 186*

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **Lord, Have Mercy** *(Sung)*

*LSB 186*

**C** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray together...

**C** **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. Amen.**

### **First Reading**

Isaiah 42:14-21

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. <sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. <sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. <sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." <sup>18</sup>Hear,

you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! <sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? <sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. <sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying,

"I am the man." <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world

began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

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



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** 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 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.

## Children's Message

### Message Song

*"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685*

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us  
And to sin our spirits lure.

Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
Where He is, there is no loss.

Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe;  
Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction,  
Give to us immortal breath.

Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die,  
There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken.  
Jesus, You are now our head.

We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be,  
Life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002579



## Message

## “Don’t Walk in the Dark”

## Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



## Offering Song - Sung

LSB 192

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

### Service of the Sacrament

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.  
**P** It is truly meet, right, and proper ... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Holy, Holy, Holy (Sung)

LSB 195

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray: LSB 196  
**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.

**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

## The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

## The Peace of the Lord

LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** A - men.

## Lamb of God *(Sung)*

LSB 198

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

## Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?
2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?
3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?
4. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?
5. Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?
6. Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer **"yes"** to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.

## Distribution Hymn

## “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *LSB 686*

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry  
Me to realms of endless day.

## Song of Simeon *(Sung)*

*LSB 199*

**☞ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## Post-Communion Prayer

**☞** 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 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.



**C** A - men.

## Blessing

LSB 202

- 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** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Closing Song

***“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”*** LSB 704

Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,  
Illumined with the light of grace  
That issues from Your holy face.

Remove the pow’r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity  
That I may have the strength and will  
Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord,  
That gladly I obey Your Word.  
Let what You will be my desire,  
And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only You may love  
And seek those things which are above  
Till I behold You face to face,  
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

Text: Johann Friedrich Ruopp, 1672–1708; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Text: Public domain

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One and Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All Hymns from the Lutheran Service Book are used by permission and printed under the authority of **LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100011308**.