



## St. John Lutheran Church

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**March 22, 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*

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***‘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

### "The Veil"

My life is in Your hands I know You love me  
My life is in your hands I'm yours  
I'll never understand how much You love me  
But one thing that I know for sure

When the veil was torn my sin was forgiven  
Who could ask for more than this  
With arms open wide You bled and died  
My heart was reborn When the veil was torn

Come and go with me into the future  
Come and go with me today  
God I'll follow where You lead this wild adventure  
My life forever changed  
Jesus my life forever changed

When the veil was torn my sin was forgiven  
Who could ask for more than this  
With arms open wide You bled and died  
My heart was reborn

I am free I am changing  
I'm redeemed not forsaken  
You saved me and it's so amazing  
I love You Lord I love You Lord I love You Lord  
I love You Lord I love You Lord I love You Lord

When the veil was torn my sin was forgiven  
Who could ask for more than this  
When the veil was torn my sin was forgiven  
Who could ask for more than this

With Your arms open wide you bled and died  
My heart was reborn My heart was reborn when the veil was torn

## Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

### Opening Song

### “The Wonderful Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.  
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.  
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;  
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

### Invocation

**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.*

### Prayer as we enter Worship

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

**G** **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.

**G** **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,

**G** **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...
- C** **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

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

<sup>1</sup> “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the

LORD swore to give to your fathers. <sup>2</sup> And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. <sup>3</sup> And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup> Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. <sup>6</sup> So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. <sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup> a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup> And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

John 6:25-34

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St John the sixth chapter

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

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup> So they said

to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?”<sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”<sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.<sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”<sup>34</sup> They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

**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**

## **“Ancient Words”**

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;  
They resound with God’s own heart, O, let the ancient words impart;

Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope;  
In this world where’er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you;  
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,  
Came to us through sacrifice; O, heed the faithful words of Christ;

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;  
They resound with God’s own heart; O, let the ancient words impart.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you;  
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you;  
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

O let the ancient words impart.

## Message

***"Lasting Food"***

## Offering

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



## 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

## “Jesus Messiah”

He became sin, who knew no sin,  
That we might become His righteousness.  
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.

Love so amazing, love so amazing.  
Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.  
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.  
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine,  
Broken and poured out, all for love.  
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.  
Love so amazing love so amazing.  
Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.  
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.  
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You.  
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.  
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.  
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all, Lord of all, the Lord of all.

### 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 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.)

