



## St. John Lutheran Church

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**February 14, 2024**

# *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*

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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'*

## **As We Gather**

From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3–4). Baptism involves death, burial, and resurrection. During Lent, we discover that Jesus is not the only one who suffers, dies, and rises again. Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. We do so through the eyes of the Holy Evangelist, Saint John, as we hear, in John 18–19, of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest, Jesus facing Annas and Caiaphas, Jesus before Pilate, Jesus delivered, Jesus crucified, and Jesus’ death and burial. Look for this Lenten season to provide a deeper understanding of your Baptism into the passion and death of Christ, with the result as Paul describes it: we are “always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies” (2 Corinthians 4:10).

## **A Time of Preparation**

### **Welcome and Sharing of the Peace**

### **THE BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

- ☐ Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

**C** Hide not Your face from Your servant; for I am in distress; make haste to answer me. Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

*The people come forward to receive the ashes as the pastor repeats Genesis 3:19  
over each penitent.*

**P** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*Each return to their place. A hymn may be sung during the imposition of ashes.*

## Opening Song

**“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days” LSB 418**

O Lord, throughout these forty days  
You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
And free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and You won;  
Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
In God’s eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed

And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves,  
Since we have known God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord,  
And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns,  
We join in heaven's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930

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## Invocation

LSB 203

**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.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

**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.**

*Time of silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**P** The ashes of our sin remind us of the curse of death and our need for Your redemption.

**C** **For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and renew us. Mark us with Your cross and take our sins from us. Help us to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, in His mercy delivered His Son over to the death of the cross to bear the burden of our brokenness, becoming sin for us "so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). The ashes of your sin have been taken away and you have been marked

and redeemed by Christ, the Crucified. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I 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

**P** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**C** **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**C** **according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

**P** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

**C** **and cleanse me from my sin!**

**P** For I know my transgressions,

**C** **and my sin is ever before me.**

**P** Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**C** **and renew a right spirit within me.**

**P** Cast me not away from your presence,

**C** **and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**P** Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**C** **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**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** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**C** **a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.** *LSB 204*

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

## Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who come to You in repentance and faith.

**C** **Cleanse us from the ashes of our sin that we may hold fast to the promise that we have been marked and redeemed by the Christ, the Crucified,**

**P** who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## First Reading

Joel 2:12-19

<sup>12</sup> "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. <sup>14</sup> Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. <sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" <sup>18</sup> Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. <sup>19</sup> The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

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

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

**P** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

**C** **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

<sup>20</sup> .... We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup> Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup> We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every

way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup> by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

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

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

**P** Return to the LORD, your God,

**C** **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

## Gospel Reading

John 18:1-11

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

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

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" <sup>5</sup> They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." <sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." <sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

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

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

## Message Song

## “What Wondrous Love is This” *LSB 543*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down

Beneath God’s righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb,

Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.

And when from death I’m free,

I’ll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,

And through eternity I’ll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.

Text: Public domain

## Message

## “The Powerless “I Am””



## Nicene Creed

LSB 206

**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  $\times$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** As we begin our journey through this season of repentance and renewal, let us return to the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. O God, You call us to turn from sin and to live in the joy and freedom of the forgiveness earned through the merits of Jesus Christ. Give us strength to persevere on our Lenten journey. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O God, You call people everywhere to work in harmony for the good of all humanity. Empower the leaders of the nations to be peacemakers. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O God, grant compassion to all who minister to the sick and infirm: medical professionals, healing practitioners, and all caregivers. Show Your

mercy to those who are ill, [*especially . . .*] and bring them peace of mind and heart. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O God, You call us to turn from our sin and to live for You alone. Guide us through these forty days of Lent to a fuller appreciation of Your baptismal grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Merciful God, hear our cry when we call to You; renew and uphold us with Your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## Offering

### Service of the Sacrament

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, 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 208*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **The Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 162*

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 209*

**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.**

## **The Peace of the Lord**

*LSB 209*

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

**C** Amen.

## Lamb of God (sung)

LSB 210

- ☞ O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

## 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 Song

### "Just as I Am, without One Plea" LSB 570

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.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Text: Public domain

## Song of Simeon *(Sung)*

LSB 211

- ☞ O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel. All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

## Post-Communion Prayer

- ☞** Let us pray... O Jesus, Lamb of God, we thank You for refreshing us yet again through Your Word and Sacrament.
- ☞ Assure us by Your Spirit that we have been marked and redeemed by You, the One who was crucified for us;**
- ☞** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☞ Amen.**

## Blessing

- ☞** 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.
- ☞ Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

## “Now the Light Has Gone Away” *LSB 887*

*sts. 1–5*

Now the light has gone away;  
Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking Thee to watch and keep  
And to send me quiet sleep.

Jesus, Savior, wash away  
All that has been wrong today;  
Help me ev'ry day to be  
Good and gentle, more like Thee.

Let my near and dear ones be  
Always near and dear to Thee;  
O bring me and all I love  
To Thy happy home above.

Now my evening praise I give;  
Thou didst die that I might live.  
All my blessings come from Thee;  
Oh, how good Thou art to me!

Thou, my best and kindest Friend,  
Thou wilt love me to the end.  
Let me love Thee more and more,  
Always better than before.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, alt.

Text: Public domain

### Acknowledgments

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