



St. John Lutheran Church

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March 20, 2024

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'*

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, “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 6:4). Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. Baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we have God’s promise that the forgiveness and salvation accomplished by our Lord on the cross is for us and is all we need.

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Hymn

“Amazing Grace” *LSB 744*

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found,

Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,

His Word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares

I have already come;

His grace has brought me safe thus far,

His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail

And mortal life shall cease,

Amazing grace shall then prevail

In heaven’s joy and peace.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise

Than when we’d first begun.

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.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24; 113:3; Joel 2:13; Matthew 16:24; Isaiah 53:5*

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

G let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

G the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

G slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

P Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,

G let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

P Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

G He was bruised for our iniquities.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

G the name of the Lord is to be praised.

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.

First Reading

Hebrews 9:11-28

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so

that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶ For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷ For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹ For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. ²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 19:28-42

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

G **Glory to You, O Lord**

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave

up his spirit.³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him.³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.”³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”³⁸ After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body.³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.⁴² So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

CATECHISM

☒ 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.

Hymn

“There Is a Redeemer” *LSB 971*

There is a Redeemer—
Jesus, God’s own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One. **Refrain**

ref Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit
Till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer,
Name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain. **Refrain**

When I stand in glory,
I will see His face;
There I’ll serve my King forever
In that holy place. **Refrain**

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Message

“Jesus is Finished”

Sermon

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 In peace let us pray to the Lord

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord

C Lord, have mercy.

P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord God, heavenly Father, by the blessed light of Your divine Word You have led us to the knowledge of Your Son. Grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may ever walk in the light of Your truth and, rejoicing with sure confidence in Christ, our Savior, be brought unto everlasting salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

G **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.**

Collect For The Word

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

G **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

Blessing

P Let us bless the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you..

G **Amen.**

Closing Song

“Rock of Ages” *LSB 761*

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

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