



St. John Lutheran Church

2888 W Houghton
Lake Dr
Houghton Lake,
MI 48629
989-366-5164

9:00 - Traditional

HOLINESS & RIGHTEOUSNESS

March 30, 2025

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

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'*

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Divine Service Four (pp 203ff)

Prelude

Sharing of the Peace and Welcome

Opening Song

"In Christ There is No East or West" LSB 653

In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

With God there is no tribe or race;
In Him we all are one.
He loves us as His children through
Our faith in His dear Son.

So, brothers, sisters, praise His name
Who died to set us free
From sin, division, hate, and shame,
From spite and enmity!

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be;
Who serves my Father as His child
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west;
In Him meet south and north.
All Christian souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

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Invocation

LSB 203

L 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

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

L Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

L Almighty God,

C **Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

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

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

L Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

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

L For I know my transgressions,

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

L Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

C so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

L Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

C and in sin did my mother conceive me.

L Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

C and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

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.

Lord, Have Mercy (*Sung*)

LSB 204

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

Prayer of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L 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

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the fifteenth chapter

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

¹¹ And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to

celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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 ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Children’s Message

Message Song

“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**

Text: Melody Green, 1946, alt.

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Message

“Disestablishmentarian”

Offering

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Prayer of the Church

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.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

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

C **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 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.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond Text:
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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

P Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this beneficial gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in 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 Amen.

Blessing

L 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, Lead Thou On” *LSB 718*

Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand
To our fatherland.

If the way be drear,
If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many_a woe
To our home we go.

When we seek relief
From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore
Where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won.
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand
In our fatherland.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.

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Acknowledgments

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