



## St. John Lutheran Church

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Houghton Lake,  
MI 48629  
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**April 2, 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](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**

## **Service - Vespers**

The word *Lent* comes from an old English word for spring. The Lenten season, like the spring season, is a time for reflection and renewal. Our midweek Lenten services this year will prepare us to consider our identity and connection with a life in Christ as the baptized children of God. This Lenten season, we will walk through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7. Jesus' desire was for his original hearers to gain a deeper understanding of the counter-cultural life Christians are to live. To do this, we must first consider our lives and the distance our sins have removed us from our Creator. Once we have a realistic awareness of our standing before a holy God, we can then seek the power of his Holy Spirit to reverse our current path and come before him as repentant sinners. May God move in your hearts and lives during this time of reflection and renewal.

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

### **Opening Song**

### **"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" LSB 702**

My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine.

Now hear me while I pray;  
Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart;  
My zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me,  
Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide;

Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Text: Public domain

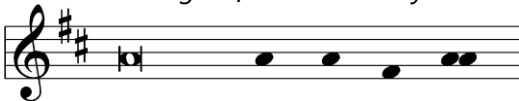
## Invocation

LSB 203

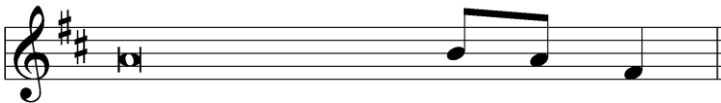
**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

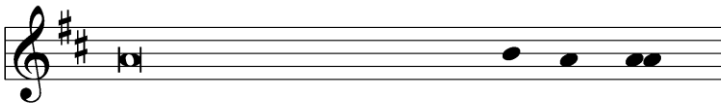
*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.  
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

## Psalm

- P** The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
**C** **whom shall I fear?**  
**P** The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
**C** **of whom shall I be afraid?**  
**P** When evildoers assail me  
**C** **to eat up my flesh,**  
**P** my adversaries and foes,  
**C** **it is they who stumble and fall.**  
**P** Though an army encamp against me,  
**C** **my heart shall not fear;**  
**P** though war arise against me,  
**C** **yet I will be confident.**  
**P** One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
**C** **that will I seek after:**  
**P** that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
**C** **all the days of my life,**  
**P** to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
**C** **and to inquire in his temple.**  
**P** For he will hide me in his shelter  
**C** **in the day of trouble;**  
**P** he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
**C** **he will lift me high upon a rock.**

**P** And now my head shall be lifted up  
**C** **above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;**  
**P** I will sing and make melody  
**C** **to the LORD.**  
**P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
**C** **be gracious to me and answer me!**  
**P** You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you,  
**C** **"Your face, LORD, do I seek." Hide not your face from me.**  
**P** Turn not your servant away in anger,  
**C** **O you who have been my help.**  
**P** Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
**C** **O God of my salvation!**  
**P** For my father and my mother have forsaken me,  
**C** **but the LORD will take me in.**  
**P** Teach me your way, O LORD,  
**C** **and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.**  
**P** Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;  
**C** **for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.**  
**P** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
**C** **in the land of the living!**  
**P** Wait for the LORD;  
**C** **be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

## Reading

Matthew 6:25-34

<sup>25</sup>"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes

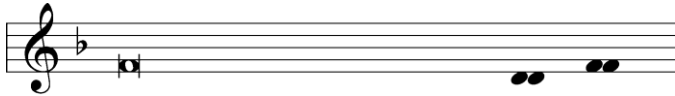


Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

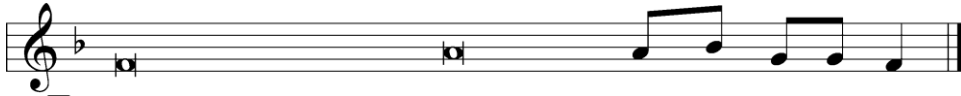
Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a tribute far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Text: Public domain

## Message



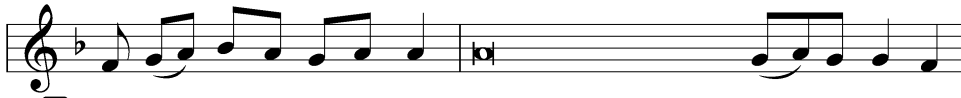
**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

## Magnificat

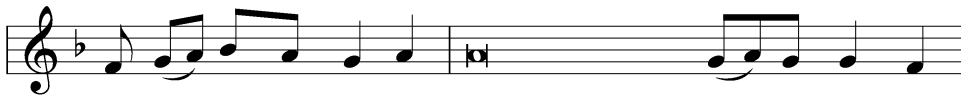
LSB 231



**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



**I** for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



**II** For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



**I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



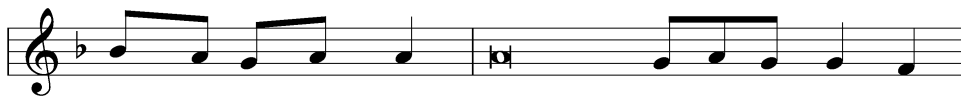
**II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



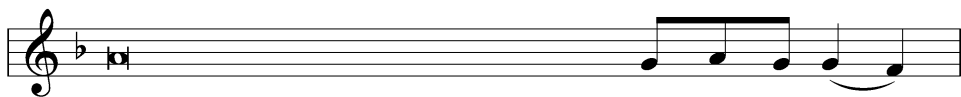
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



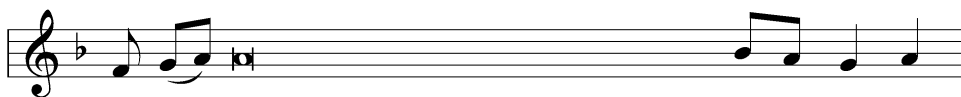
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



**I** He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



**II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

## Offering

## Kyrie

LSB 233



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## 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.



**L** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

## Prayer of the Day

**L** Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Prayer for Peace

**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.



**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C** A - men.

## Closing Hymn

### “When Peace, like a River” *LSB 763*

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

**Ref** It is well (It is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul),  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. **Refrain**

He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **Refrain**

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
Even so it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt. Text: Public domain

#### **Acknowledgments**

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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