



## St. John Lutheran Church

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Houghton Lake,  
MI 48629  
989-366-5164



**April 9, 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*

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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.

### **Prelude**

### **"Only A Holy God"**

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven  
Who else could make every king bow down  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles  
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises  
What other splendour outshines the sun  
What other majesty rules with justice  
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him The One and the Only  
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire  
What other power can raise the dead  
What other name remains undefeated  
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him The One and the Only  
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failing  
Who else would offer His only Son  
Who else invites me to call Him Father  
Only a Holy God Only my Holy God  
Come and behold Him The One and the Only  
Cry out sing holy Forever a Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God  
Come and worship the Holy God

Dustin Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson CCLI Song #7073332  
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## **Welcome and Sharing of the Peace**

### **Opening Song**

### **“Thank You Jesus for the Blood”**

I was a wretch I remember who I was  
I was lost I was blind I was running out of time  
Sin separated the breach was far too wide  
But from the far side of the chasm  
You had me in Your sight  
So You made a way across the great divide  
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here inside  
There at the cross You paid the debt I owed  
Broke my chains freed my soul  
For the first time I had hope  
Thank You Jesus for the blood applied  
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white  
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life  
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light  
You took my place laid inside my tomb of sin  
You were buried for three days  
But then You walked right out again  
And now death has no sting and life has no end  
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied  
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white  
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life  
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

There is nothing stronger  
Than the wonder working power  
Of the blood the blood  
That calls us sons and daughters  
We are ransomed by our Father  
Through the blood the blood

There is nothing stronger  
Than the wonder working power  
Of the blood the blood  
That calls us sons and daughters  
We are ransomed by our Father  
Through the blood the blood

Thank You Jesus for the blood applied  
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white  
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life  
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

Glory to His name    Glory to His Name  
There to my heart was the blood applied  
Glory to His name

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## Invocation

LSB 203

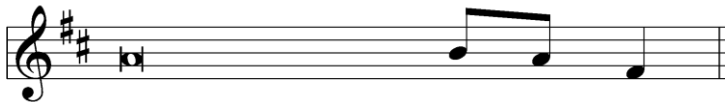
**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** **Amen.**

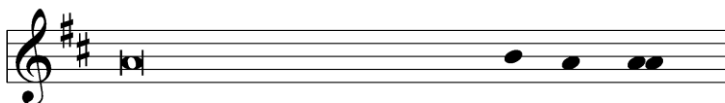
*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*



**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** Hear my prayer, O LORD;

**C** give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

**P** Enter not into judgment with your servant,

**C** for no one living is righteous before you.

**P** For the enemy has pursued my soul;

**C** he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.

**P** Therefore my spirit faints within me;

**C my heart within me is appalled.**

**P** I remember the days of old;

**C I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.**

**P** I stretch out my hands to you;

**C my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

**P** Answer me quickly, O LORD!

**C My spirit fails!**

**P** Hide not your face from me,

**C lest I be like those who go down to the pit.**

**P** Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,

**C for in you I trust.**

**P** Make me know the way I should go,

**C for to you I lift up my soul.**

**P** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

**C I have fled to you for refuge!**

**P** Teach me to do your will,

**C for you are my God!**

**P** Let your good Spirit lead me

**C on level ground!**

**P** For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

**C In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**

**P** And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies,

**C and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.**

## Reading

Matthew 7:1-6

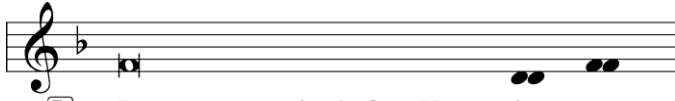
<sup>1</sup>"Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup>For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup>Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. <sup>6</sup>"Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

**C Thanks be to God.**

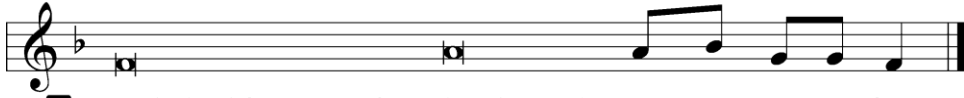
## Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

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## Message



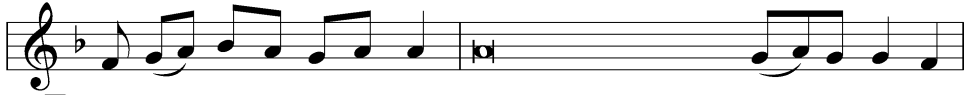
**I** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



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

## Magnificat

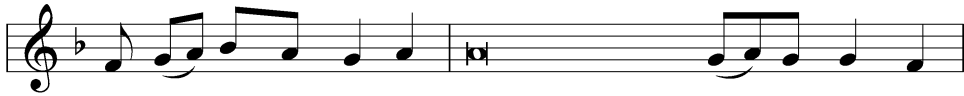
LSB 231



**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

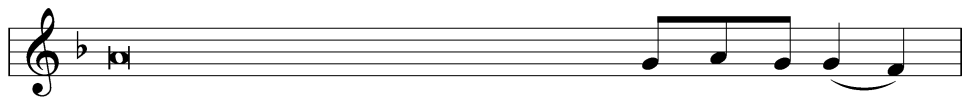




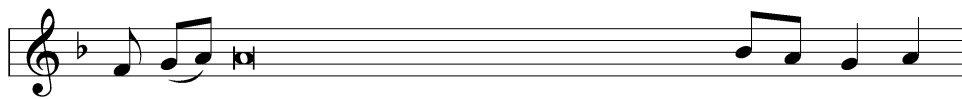
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



**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, 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.

## 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

## "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

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#### **Acknowledgments**

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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