



St. John Lutheran Church

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February 18, 2026

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 Joyfully 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'*

One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is the book of Job. This Lent nine sermons will help us dig deeply into Job's central message. Tonight, we begin with Job 1:1–12. And what will we learn? *We will learn to fly blind.*

A Time of Preparation

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

The Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

P 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.

The following hymn will be sung during the imposition of ashes.

Opening Song ***“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”*** LSB 419

Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the_adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour Of the_insulting tempter’s pow’r,
Turn, O turn a fav’ring eye;
Hear our penitential cry!

By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies O’er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh; Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav’n restored, Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt. 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.

Call to Worship (based upon Job 19:23-27)

P Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll.

C **That they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!**

P I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

C **And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.**

P I myself will see him with my own eyes, I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

C **I know that my Redeemer lives!**

Confession and Forgiveness

P O Lord, our Lord.

C **You are compassionate beyond comparison.**

P Loving beyond imagination.

C **And faithful beyond our betrayal.**

P Just as David declares, "My sin is ever before me."

C **We, too, admit our transgressions.**

P We have become stained with wrongdoing.

C **Sacrificing the goodness of your love for the fleeting wealth of this world**

P We have abandoned your commandments.

C **Caring less for your creation and more for our own ambitions.**

P Wash us clean, O God of mercy, and deliver us from ourselves.

C **Help us hear your voice calling us back.**

P Remind us of your love bringing us home.

C **And renew our spirits that we might trust you with our whole hearts.**

P As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce to you God's marvelous and amazing grace. You are forgiven, forever, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **I know that my Redeemer lives!**

Hymn

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” *LSB 440 vs 5 & 6*

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!
Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav’n above Sing Your praise forever.

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81

Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Let us pray together...

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness; 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

Job 1:1-12

¹ There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ² There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³ He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. ⁴ His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually. ⁶ Now there was a day

when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ⁸ And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" ⁹ Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason?" ¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." ¹² And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the fourth chapter

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

¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'" ⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,'" ¹¹ and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" ¹² And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

G 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.

Message Song

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus" LSB 606

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursèd load.

I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.

I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases;
He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.

I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89 Text: Public domain

Message

“Flying Blind”

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord God, sometimes our hearts are glazed over and hardened by grief.
- C** **We wonder in the middle of our pain whether we can trust you or not.**
- P** Sometimes, we even wonder if you are our enemy.
- C** **Help us take a long look at your love you give us in Jesus Christ.**
- P** Help us make a choice for faith instead of despair.
- C** **Help us see that the hand you offer us is one that is scarred with pain**
- P** Help us accept the comfort given by Christ’s bleeding love.
- C** **Because we can’t see you, O God, help us listen, and listen closely.**
- P** For your words give hope to the hopeless, courage to the fearful and joy to the downcast.
- C** **Chiefly let us hear and believe these words, “Take, eat, this is my body. Take, drink, this is my blood.”**
- P** In your holy name we pray, Jesus.
- C** **Amen.**

Offering

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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

☩ 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.
☩ 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

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” *LSB 611*

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Text: Public domain

Song of Simeon *(Sung)*

LSB 211

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

Benediction

- P** The LORD gives.
- C** **And the LORD takes away.**
- P** Blessed be the name of the LORD.
- C** **Yes, blessed be the name of the LORD!**
- P** We go forth confidently in the name of our LORD...
- C** **The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” *LSB 610*

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free
And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be
And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle’s strife;
In all my pain and misery,
O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt.
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Acknowledgments

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