



**St. John  
Lutheran  
Church**

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**March 4, 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.

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'***

**Theme of the Day:** Old Testament laments often make us feel uncomfortable. Why can't these people just pick themselves up and move on? Frequently we respond to their cries with two words—*"Fly over!"* But Job won't let us do that. And neither will Jesus.

## Third week of Lent

**Divine Service Four** (pp 203ff)

### Prelude

### Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

### Opening Song      **"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"** *LSB 435 vs 1-3*

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,  
Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain  
Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide,  
Opened when our Savior died.  
  
Come in poverty and meanness,  
Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness,  
From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
Ye shall walk with God in light.  
  
Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.

### 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.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

**P** O God of our salvation,

**C** **Give me light as I come to you out of the darkness of my sin.**

**P** Let your truth pierce my heart.

**C** **Let your Holy Spirit sweep away my excuses.**

**P** Bring me mercy and compassion so I see the glory of your kingdom,

**C** **Given when you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be my Savior.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord, I declare in the name of Jesus Christ, that you are forgiven, washed clean and spotless in the blood of the Lamb. May the God of mercy who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you strong in your faith, fervent in your hope and abounding in great joy

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

**Song**

**"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"** *LSB 435 vs 4*

They that drink shall live forever;

'Tis a soul-renewing flood.

God is faithful; God will never

Break His covenant of blood,

Signed when our Redeemer died,

Sealed when He was glorified.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt. Text: Public domain

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.. God of tender mercies and overflowing compassion, hear us as we lament and grieve over life's tragedies and point us to your healing love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Today's Scripture Lessons Reflect the Theme of God's Gift of Laments*

## **First Reading**

Job 3:1-26

<sup>1</sup> After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. <sup>2</sup> And Job said:

<sup>3</sup> "Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.'<sup>4</sup> Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon it.<sup>5</sup> Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.<sup>6</sup> That night—let thick darkness seize it! Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; let it not come into the number of the months.<sup>7</sup> Behold, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry enter it.<sup>8</sup> Let those curse it who curse the day, who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.<sup>9</sup> Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it hope for light, but have none, nor see the eyelids of the morning,<sup>10</sup> because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, nor hide trouble from my eyes.<sup>11</sup> "Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire?<sup>12</sup> Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?<sup>13</sup> For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest,<sup>14</sup> with kings and counselors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves,<sup>15</sup> or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver.<sup>16</sup> Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light?<sup>17</sup> There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest.<sup>18</sup> There the prisoners are at ease together; they hear not the voice of the taskmaster.<sup>19</sup> The small and the great are there, and the slave is free from his master.<sup>20</sup> "Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul,<sup>21</sup> who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures,<sup>22</sup> who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave?<sup>23</sup> Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?<sup>24</sup> For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water.<sup>25</sup> For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me.<sup>26</sup> I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of

this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 5:1-12

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Apostles' Creed

LSB 207

**☒ 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.**

## Message Song

**“Glory Be to Jesus”** *LSB 433 vs 1-4*

Glory be to Jesus,  
Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood  
From His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal  
In that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion,  
Infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages  
Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment  
Did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance  
Pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus  
For our pardon cries.

## Message

**“Learning to Lament”**

## Offering

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## Prayer of the Church

- P** We thank you, Father, for the gift of Jesus,
- C** **Who bore our sins in his body on the cross.**
- P** May this cross be for us like the tree that sweetens our bitter suffering,
- C** **Like the rod that blossoms with life and beauty,**
- P** Like the bronze serpent that calls us to look to you when the pain of life overtakes us and we are surrounded with suffering.
- C** **Teach us to bear our own cross,**
- P** And to believe that with it you send grace and mercy.

*(Additional Prayers)*

- P** Forgive us, dear Father, for wanting to fly over pain and confusion.
- C** **We stuff it. We deny it. And we would rather avoid it.**
- P** Empower us to claim your promise,
- C** **“Weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”**
- P** And so we trust in our Savior’s Easter morning resurrection victory by saying,
- C** **I know that my Redeemer lives!**
- P** In Christ’s holy name we pray.
- C** **Amen**

## 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.**

## Blessing

- P** 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.
- G** Amen.

## Closing Song

## “Glory Be to Jesus” *LSB 433 vs 5-6*

Oft as earth exulting  
Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing  
Make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices,  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious blood!

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### Acknowledgments

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