



St. John Lutheran Church

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March 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.

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: There's a plan where all things work for our good and the Father's glory. The secret is in understanding how it all works together. Job puts it this way—"When he has tested me, I will come forth as gold." (Job 23:10)

Fifth week of Lent

Divine Service Four (pp 203ff)

Prelude

"Praise You in This Storm"

I was sure by now God You would have reached down
And wiped our tears away Stepped in and saved the day
But once again I'll say amen And it's still rainin'

As the thunder rolls I barely hear You whisper Through the rain
I'm with You
And as Your mercy falls I'll raise my hands And praise the God who gives
And takes away

And I'll praise You in this storm And I will lift my hands
For You are who You are No matter where I am
And ev'ry tear I've cried You hold in Your hand You never left my side
And though my heart is torn I will praise You in this storm

I remember when I stumbled in the wind You heard my cry to You
And raised me up again But my strength is almost gone
How can I carry on If I can't find You

As the thunder rolls I barely hear You whisper Through the rain
I'm with You
And as Your mercy falls I'll raise my hands And praise the God who gives
And takes away

And I'll praise You in this storm And I will lift my hands
For You are who You are No matter where I am
And ev'ry tear I've cried You hold in Your hand You never left my side
And though my heart is torn I will praise You in this storm

I lift my eyes unto the hills Where does my help come from
My help comes from the Lord The Maker of heaven and earth

I lift my eyes unto the hills Where does my help come from
My help comes from the Lord The Maker of heaven and earth

And I'll praise You in this storm And I will lift my hands
For You are who You are No matter where I am
And ev'ry tear I've cried You hold in Your hand You never left my side
And though my heart is torn I will praise You in this storm
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Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

“The Wonderful Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross;
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

- P** Loving and merciful Father, when overcome by grief like Job, we wonder what happened to your love and your plan for our lives.
- C** **It feels as though our prayers fall on deaf ears.**
- P** Like Job, we begin looking for you to the east, to the west, to the north and to the south—the four points of the horizon and the compass—but you are nowhere to be found..
- C** **The darkness threatens to swallow us whole and we feel as though we are drowning in an ocean of divine silence.**
- P** Lord, then we are tempted to do something selfish and sinful
- C** **Or something that will bring great shame upon us and those we love.**
- C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P** Hear the word of the LORD from Job 42:10, “The LORD restored the fortunes of Job and gave him twice as much as he had before.” Our God also turned Christ’s crucifixion into an awesome resurrection. He who was dead is now alive and he who was once defeated is now reigning in everlasting glory. Christ forgives you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **I know that my Redeemer lives!**

Song

“Come Jesus Come”

Sometimes I fall to my knees and pray
Come Jesus come let today be the day
Sometimes I feel like I’m gonna break
But I’m holding on to a hope that won’t fade

Come Jesus come We’ve been waiting so long
For the day You return to heal every hurt
And right every wrong We need You right now
Come and turn this around

Deep down I know this world isn’t home
Come Jesus come Come Jesus come

There’ll be no war and there’ll be no chains
When Jesus comes let today be the day
He’ll come for the weak And the strong just the same

And all will believe in the power of His name
Come Jesus come We've been waiting so long
For the day You return to heal every hurt
And right every wrong We need You right now
Come and turn this around
Deep down I know this world isn't home
Come Jesus come Come Jesus come

One day He'll come and we'll stand face to face
Come and lay it all down 'cause it might be today
The time is right now there's no need to wait
Your past will be washed by rivers of grace

Come Jesus come We've been waiting so long
For the day You return to heal every hurt
And right every wrong We need You right now
Come and turn this around
Deep down I know this world isn't home
Come Jesus come Come Jesus come
Come Jesus come

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Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Let us pray together.. **Merciful Father, empower us to believe that when you have tested us, we will come forth as gold, for you work all things together for our good and your everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

G **Amen.**

Today's Scripture Lessons Reflect the Theme of God's plan in our suffering

First Reading

Job 23:1-17

¹ Then Job answered and said:² "Today also my complaint is bitter; my hand is heavy on account of my groaning.³ Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat!⁴ I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.⁵ I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.⁶ Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?

No; he would pay attention to me.⁷ There an upright man could argue with him, and I would be acquitted forever by my judge.⁸ "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and backward, but I do not perceive him;⁹ on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him.

¹⁰ But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.¹¹ My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and have not turned aside.¹² I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.¹³ But he is unchangeable and who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does.¹⁴ For he will complete what he appoints for me, and many such things are in his mind.¹⁵ Therefore I am terrified at his presence; when I consider, I am in dread of him.¹⁶ God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me;¹⁷ yet I am not silenced because of the darkness, nor because thick darkness covers my face.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:25-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

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

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles' Creed

LSB 207

C **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

"Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)"

All these pieces, broken and scattered,
in mercy gathered, mended and whole,
empty handed but not forsaken,
I've been set free! I've been set free!
Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
Oh, I once was lost but now I am found;
was blind but now I see.
Oh I can see You now.
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes;
laying Yourself down,
raising up the broken to life.

You take our failure, You take our weakness.
You set Your treasure in jars of clay.
So take this heart, Lord; I'll be Your vessel,
the world to see Your life in me.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
Oh, I once was lost but now I am found;
was blind but now I see.
Oh I can see You now.
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes;
laying Yourself down,
raising up the broken to life.

(Instrumental Interlude)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
Oh, I once was lost but now I am found;
was blind but now I see.
Oh I can see You now.
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes;
laying Yourself down,
raising up the broken to life.

Message

“Understanding How It All Works Together”

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



Prayers of the Church

- P** Dear Father, you have reconciled us to yourself through the bitter suffering and death of Jesus.
- C** **You have taught us our need for Jesus who is our Mediator and Messiah,**
- P** Our Redeemer and Friend.
- C** **Let him rule as our King,**
- P** Guide us as our Prophet,
- C** **And take away our sin as our High Priest.**
- P** So that come what may, we will live in him and cleave to him in faith forever.
- C** **For we believe that,**
- P** When you have tested us, we will come forth as gold,
(Additional Prayers)
- P** God of tender compassion, we believe that there's a plan.
- C** **A divine plan.**
- P** A plan where all things are working for our good.
- C** **And your glory.**
- P** And so we pray confidently in the name of Jesus Christ.
- 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

“Jesus Messiah”

He became sin, who knew no sin,
That we might become His righteousness.
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.

Love so amazing, love so amazing.
Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine,
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.
Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You.
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.
Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all. Lord of all. The Lord of all.

Acknowledgments

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