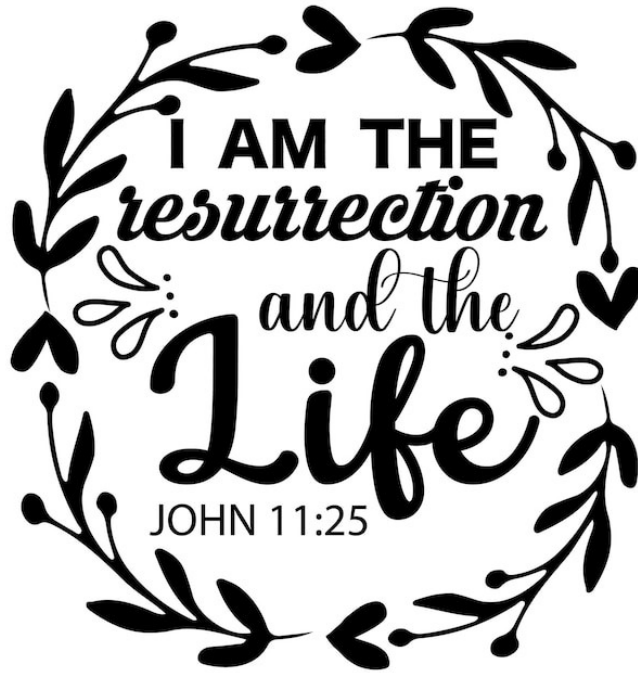




St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
2888 W Houghton
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Houghton Lake, MI
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5:00 - Contemporary



March 21, 2026

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Contemporary 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

Mobile: 989-992-6030

***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'*

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Preludes

"At The Cross"

Oh Lord You've searched me You know my way
Even when I fail You I know You love me

Your holy presence Surrounding me
In every season I know You love me I know You love me

At the cross I bow my knee Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this You have overcome the grave
Your glory fills the highest place What can separate me now

You go before me You shield my way
Your hand upholds me I know You love me

And when the earth fades Falls from my eyes
And You stand before me I know You love me I know You love me

At the cross I bow my knee Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this You have overcome the grave
Your glory fills the highest place What can separate me now

You tore the veil You made a way When You said that it is done
You tore the veil You made a way When You said that it is done

At the cross I bow my knee Where Your blood was shed for me
There's no greater love than this You have overcome the grave
Your glory fills the highest place What can separate me now

You tore the veil You made a way When You said that it is done
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Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

Opening Song

"Rattle"

Saturday was silent Surely it was through
But since when has impossible Ever stopped You
Friday's disappointment Is Sunday's empty tomb
Since when has impossible Ever stopped You

This is the sound of dry bones rattling
This is the praise make a dead man walk again
Open the grave I'm coming out
I'm gonna live gonna live again
This is the sound of dry bones rattling

Pentecostal fire Stirring something new
You're not gonna run out of miracles Anytime soon

Resurrection power Runs in my veins too
I believe there's another miracle Here in this room

This is the sound of dry bones rattling
This is the praise make a dead man walk again
Open the grave I'm coming out I'm gonna live gonna live again
This is the sound of dry bones rattling

My God is able to save and deliver and heal
And restore anything that He wants to
Just ask the man who was thrown On the bones of Elisha
If there's anything that He can't do
Just ask the stone that was rolled At the tomb in the garden
What happens when God says to move
I feel him moving it now I feel him doing it now
I feel him doing it now Do it now do it now

This is the sound of dry bones rattling
This is the praise make a dead man walk again
Open the grave I'm coming out I'm gonna live gonna live again

Open the grave I'm coming out I'm gonna live gonna live again
Open the grave I'm coming out I'm gonna live gonna live again
Open the grave I'm coming out I'm gonna live gonna live again

This is the sound of dry bones rattling

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Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

"I Know A Name"

I know a Name That can silence roaring waves
I know a Name That can empty out a grave
I know a Name It's the only Name that saves
And it's worthy of all praise

I call You Jesus I call You I call You Healer
Risen and reigning in power Something comes out of the grave
Every time I call You Jesus I call You I call You Savior
Worthy of glory forever Something comes out of the grave
Every time I call Your Name

I have a King With dominion over death
He holds the keys In his holy nail-scarred hands
He is the heel That has crushed the serpent's head
Our resurrected Great I Am

I call You Jesus I call You I call You Healer
Risen and reigning in power Something comes out of the grave
Every time I call You Jesus I call You I call You Savior
Worthy of glory forever Something comes out of the grave
Every time I call Your Name Chains break dry bones wake
Every time I call Your Name The gates of hell shake
Every time I call Your Name Every time I call Your Name

Where oh death is now your sting
And where oh grave your victory

Where oh death is now your sting
And where oh grave your victory

Dead things come alive Dead things come alive
Dead things come alive In the name of Jesus
Dead things come alive Dead things come alive
Dead things come alive In the name of Jesus

I call You Jesus I call You I call You Healer
Risen and reigning in power Something comes out of the grave
Every time I call You Jesus I call You I call You Savior

Worthy of glory forever
Something comes out of the grave Every time I call Your Name
Chains break dry bones wake Every time I call Your Name
The gates of hell shake Every time I call Your Name
Dead things come alive Dead things come alive
Dead things come alive In the name of Jesus

I call You Jesus I call You I call You Healer
Risen and reigning in power Something comes out of the grave
Every time I call You Jesus I call You I call You Savior

Worthy of glory forever Something comes out of the grave
Every time I call Your Name

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First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh

to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.'¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 11:17-44

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes,

Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Message Song

“Back To Life”

No longer I who live but Christ in me
For I've been born again my heart is free

The hope of heaven before me the grave behind
Hallelujah You brought me back to life

I won't forget the moment I heard You call my name
Out of the grip of darkness into the light of grace
Just like Lazarus oh You brought me back to life

Where there was dead religion Now there is living faith
All of my hope and freedom I found in Jesus' name
Just like Lazarus oh You brought me back to life

No longer I who live but Christ in me
For I've been born again my heart is free
The hope of heaven before me the grave behind
Hallelujah You brought me back to life

When something says I am guilty I'll point to the price You paid
When something says I'm not worthy I'll point to that empty grave
Just like Lazarus oh You brought me back to life

No longer I who live but Christ in me
For I've been born again my heart is free
The hope of heaven before me the grave behind
Hallelujah You brought me back to life

How can I begin to thank You For all that You've done for me
Jesus to fully praise You it will take all eternity
Just like Lazarus oh You brought me back to life
Oh You brought me back to life You brought me back to life

I'm no longer I who live but Christ in me
For I've been born again my heart is free
The hope of heaven before me the grave behind
Hallelujah You brought me back to life

The enemy thought he had me But Jesus said you are mine
The enemy thought he had me But Jesus said you are mine
The enemy thought he had me But Jesus said you are mine

The enemy thought he had me But Jesus said you are mine
The enemy thought he had me But Jesus said you are mine
The enemy thought he had me But Jesus said you are mine

No longer I who live but Christ in me
For I've been born again my heart is free
The hope of heaven before me the grave behind
Hallelujah You brought me back to life

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Message

“What’s the Point?”

Offering

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



Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

- ☑ 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.**

Sacrament

The Words of Our Lord

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 week 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 present and received in, with, and under 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. Children and those who do not subscribe to these statements are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and should indicate this by keeping their hand folded.

Distribution Song

"Breathe"

This is the air I breathe, This is the air I breathe,
Your holy presence living in me.

This is my daily bread, This is my daily bread,
Your very Word spoken to me

And I, I'm desperate for You.

And I, I'm lost without You.

This is the air I breathe, This is the air I breathe,
Your holy presence living in me.

This is my daily bread, This is my daily bread,
Your very Word spoken to me

And I, I'm desperate for You.

And I, I'm lost without You.

I'm lost without You, I'm lost without You.

Blessing

L 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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Sending Song

“Glorious Day (Passion)”

I was buried beneath my shame. Who could carry that kind of weight?
It was my tomb 'til I met You.

I was breathing but not alive. All my failures I tried to hide.
It was my tomb 'til I met You.

You called my name, and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!

Now Your mercy has saved my soul. Now Your freedom is all that I know.
The old made new, Jesus, when I met You.

You called my name, and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!

I needed rescue. My sin was heavy, but chains break at the weight of Your glory.
I needed shelter. I was an orphan. Now You call me a citizen of Heaven.
When I was broken, You were my healing;
now Your love is the air that I'm breathing.
I have a future. My eyes are open,

'Cause when You called my name, and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day!

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