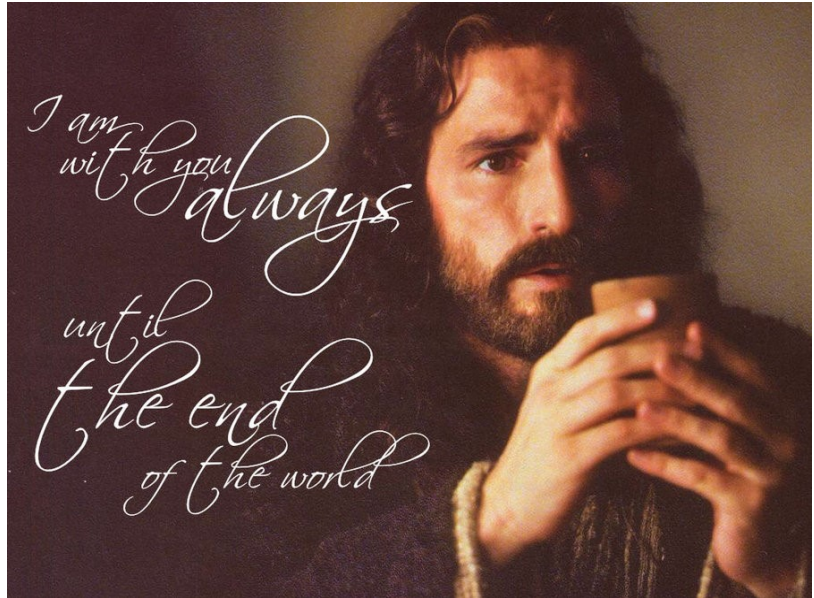




St. John Lutheran Church

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April 2, 2026 – Maundy Thursday

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

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

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'

Prelude

Creative Worship Service

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

"For Those Tears I Died"

You said You'd come and share all my sorrows
You said You'd be there for all my tomorrows;
I came so close to sending You away,
But just like You promised You came there to stay -
I just had to pray! **Refrain**

Refrain: And Jesus said,
"Come to the water, stand by My side,
I know you are thirsty – You won't be denied;
I felt every tear – drop when in darkness you cried,
And I strove to remind you
That for those tears I died."

Your goodness so great I can't understand,
And, dear Lord, I know that all this was planned;
I know You're here now and always will be,
Your love loosed my chains and in You I'm free -
But Jesus, why Me? **Refrain**

Jesus, I give You my heart and my soul!
I know that without God I'd never be whole;
Savior, you opened all the right doors,
And I thank You and praise You from earth's humble shores –
Take me, I'm Yours! **Refrain**

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** By means of His Word and Supper, we gather together this day to receive our Savior's mercy and respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and deed, we are spiritually bankrupt and unworthy of the grace we receive. Yet at the invitation of our loving Redeemer, we come to His Table and take our place with Him. Acknowledging our sin, let us find refuge in our God of grace and say, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

In silent prayer, we reflect on God's Word and confess our sins to the Lord.

- P** Let us pray together:

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life, that we may enjoy the fullness of Your presence at the feast You have prepared for all who trust in You. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise again for you so that you may be redeemed and restored. You have been invited to the eternal banquet, the heavenly feast, where our Savior and Host delights us with the richest of fare, the forgiveness of sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a servant of Christ and your pastor, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Service of the Word

- P** Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
C **our God is merciful.**
P I love the Lord, because he has heard
C **my voice and my pleas for mercy.**
P Because he inclined his ear to me,
C **therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**
P The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
C **I suffered distress and anguish.**
P Then I called on the name of the Lord:
C **"O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"**
P Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
C **our God is merciful.**

Lord, Have Mercy *(Sung)*

LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray...Lord Jesus, in this sacred Meal You have left us a remembrance of Your suffering and death for our salvation.

C **As we eat with You in the kingdom of God, grant that our hearts and minds may be turned to You alone;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 24:3-8

³ Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." ⁴ And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." ⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:17-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-sixth chapter

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

¹⁷ Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ He said, "Go into

the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. ²⁰ When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹ And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵ Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." ³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

C 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 ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Message Song

“The Old Rugged Cross”

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suff'ring and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain **Refrain**

Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

Oh, that old rugged Cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary **Refrain**

In the old rugged Cross, stain'd with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me **Refrain**

To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share **Refrain**

Message

“Ratings”

Offering

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



Offering Song - Sung

LSB 159

G What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us lift up our hearts and voices to the God of all mercy as He has invited us to pray to Him in the name of our Savior and in the way in which He has taught us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Our Father in heaven, look with mercy upon us, for without Your aid we are spiritually poor, crippled, blind, and lame. Grant us grace that Your holy name is kept sacred among us and that, in all the world, Your Son may be known through the preaching of Your Word to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** King of kings, may Your rule and reign come to us and expand throughout the world. Bring all who are blinded by sin and bound by death to know Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Work through our earthly leaders and public servants so that Your hand of blessing may be known to all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that by faith we cling to the One who was betrayed and handed over to death for us. Into Your care we commend those who have needs in both soul and body, especially for those on our prayer list and for all those we name before You in the silence of our hearts, ... We ask that Your will may be done among us, Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P How blessed we are to eat bread in Your kingdom, O God! Lord Jesus, You alone are the Bread of Life, and You alone satisfy our hungry hearts. Grant to us our daily bread and help us to realize that You daily and richly provide for all that we need according to Your own riches and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us. Center our hearts and minds on You alone. As we recognize that we are spiritually bankrupt without Your mercy, grant that the spirit of unforgiveness be removed from us so that we live in peace with You and with one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us to take refuge in Your grace. On this very night, You were betrayed by one of Your own and handed over to death. Direct us to follow You to the cross of Calvary, where You laid down Your life to deliver us from the evil one and all his works and all his ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We belong to You, O Lord. Renew us, guide us, and lead us so that we may bless Your holy name and celebrate the feast You have prepared for us,

C **for Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.**

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.

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

C Jesus prepares His Table before us and invites us to feast with Him in His eternal kingdom.

P Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of Christ's cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

The Peace of the Lord

LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Lamb of God *(sung)*

LSB 210

C 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

"What Wondrous Love is This" LSB 543

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down

Beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb,

Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free,

I'll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.

Text: Public domain

Song of Simeon (*Sung*)

LSB 211

☐ 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 through the gift of Your body and blood in this sacred Meal.
- C** **Enable us with renewed minds and hearts to always love and trust in You alone; Amen.**
- P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **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.
- C** **Amen.**

The Stripping of the Altar

A Reading from Psalm 22

The Cross and the Altar – where blood was shed

The congregation leaves in silence when the lights come up.

Acknowledgments
Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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