



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023 | 10:30am

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

The prelude signals a time of silent prayer and reflection.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be God: ✝ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking him, in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to you, that we are by nature sinful and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O most merciful God, who has given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your Word, that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Almighty and merciful God grant you, being penitent, pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of his ✝ Holy Spirit.
Amen.

***HYMN AT THE PROCESSION**

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed **HYMN 337**

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus, Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***KYRIE**

Slow and gentle

Org. *p* Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e -

6 *mf* -lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Chri - ste e - lei - son,

11 *p* Chri - ste e - lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e -

16 -lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

I SAMUEL 16:1-13

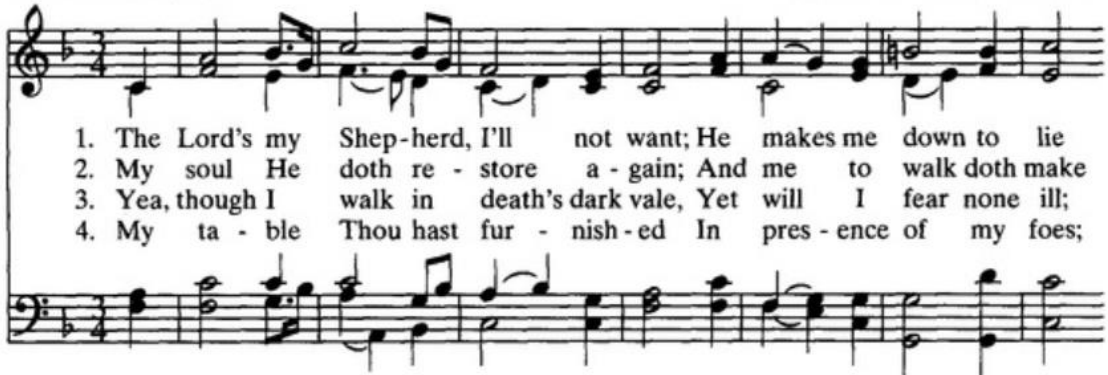
A reading from I Samuel.

THE Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

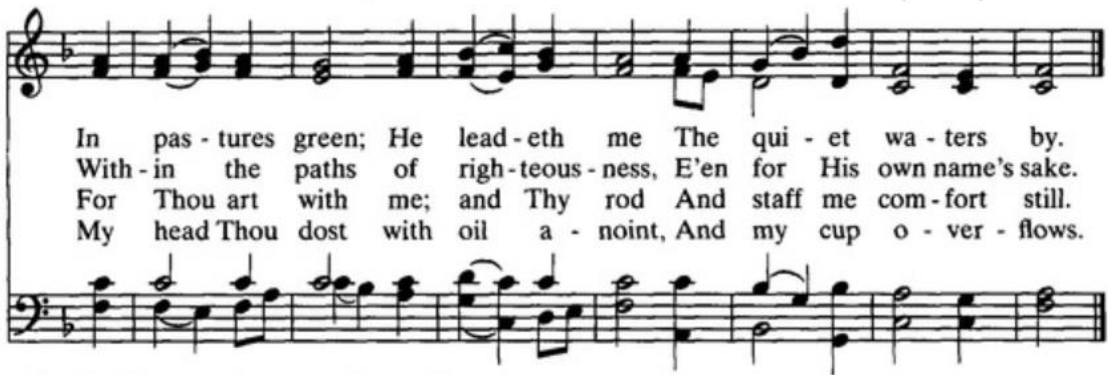
⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



1. The Lord's my Shep-herd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
 2. My soul He doth re - store a - gain; And me to walk doth make
 3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear none ill;
 4. My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence of my foes;



In pas - tures green; He lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
 With - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
 For Thou art with me; and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
 My head Thou dost with oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life
 Shall surely follow me;
 And in God's house forevermore
 My dwelling place shall be.

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

A reading from Ephesians.

ONCE you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,
 "Sleeper, awake!
 Rise from the dead,
 and Christ will shine on you."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***SEQUENCE**

Sing verse 1.



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do

not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.” ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

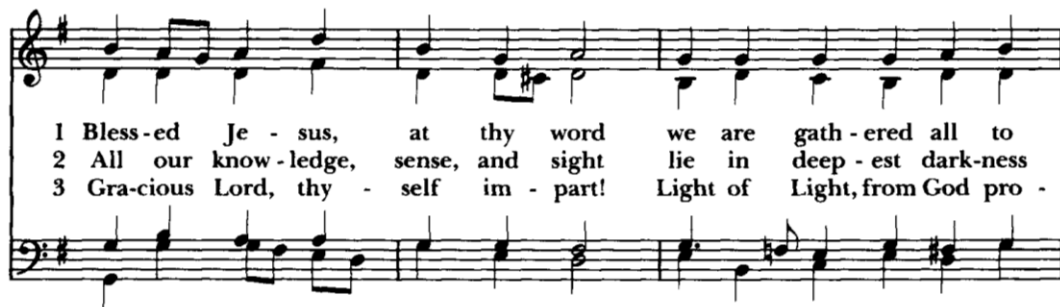
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

***SEQUENCE**

Sing verse 3.

SERMON

PASTOR PEDERSON



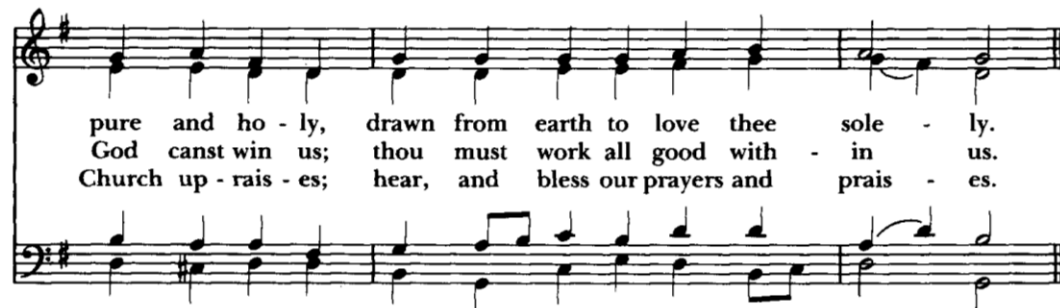
1 Bless-ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
 2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark-ness
 3 Gra-cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -



hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
 shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
 ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,



now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
 with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
 help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy



pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
 God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
 Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each intercession ends with these words:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Instrumental

NKL

***HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, And uphold me with your free Spirit.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Majestic

Org. *f* Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

6 *ff* might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Slower

Org. *p* Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

4 *pp* Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

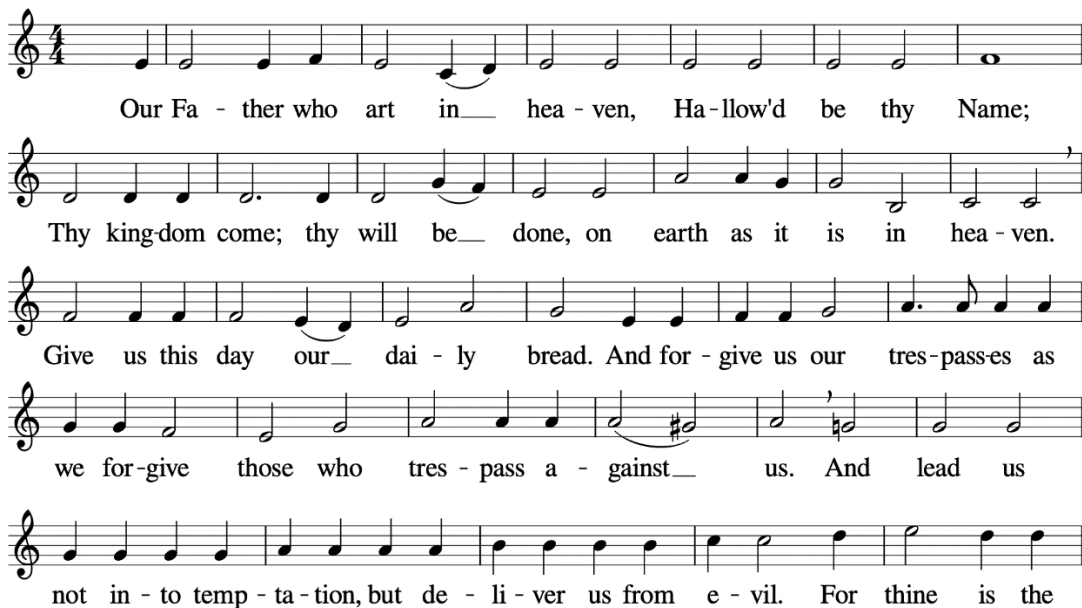
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

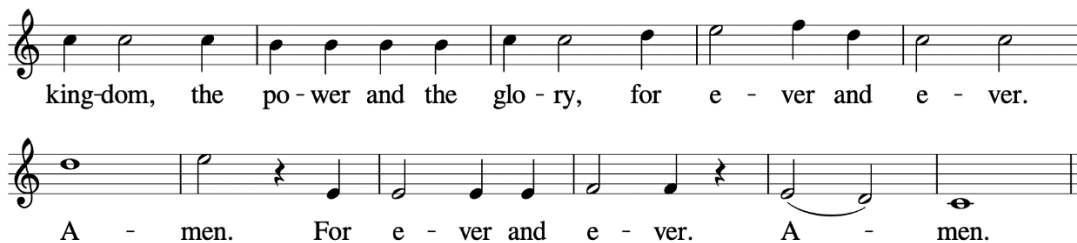
With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther who art in__ hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;
Thy king-dom come; thy will be__ done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.
Give us this day our__ dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres-pass-es as
we for-give those who tres - pass a - gainst__ us. And lead us
not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten free wafers are available if requested.

LAMB OF GOD

Slowly and gently

Org. *p*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

7 *mp*

world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

13 *mf*

sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

19 *p* *pp* *ppp*

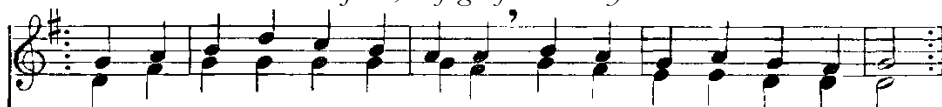
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

TRAD. SCANDINAVIAN TUNE



1. Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Ob - ject of the spir - it's love,
Foun-tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - iour from the world a - bove;



O how oft thine eyes, of - fend - ed, Gaze up - on the sin-ner's fall;



Yet up - on the Cross ex - tend-ed, Thou didst bear the pain of all. A-men.



2 Do we pass that Cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see thee wounded, bleeding,
See thy thorn-encircled brow?
Yet thy sinless death hath brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what thy grace hath taught us
Calms the sinner's stormy breast.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for thee;
May our eyes be ever turning
To thy Cross of agony;
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessèd Saviour's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the Cross, the Crucified. Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.
Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

***BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***HYMN AT THE PROCESSION** *Be Thou My Vision* **HYMN 793**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God!

The congregation exits in silence during Lent.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003253. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Duane C. Pederson
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively
Worship Assistant	Pat Fisher
Reader	Teresa Moses
Communion Assistants	Lois Coffin, Teresa Moses
Acolytes	Sofia Medeiros, Vivian Torre
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Tim Brumbaugh, Diane Egley, Astrid Olsen
Little Free Pantry	Sheila Koch, Michele Taylor

Our thanks to *Karen & Sue Brandt* for hosting the fellowship time following worship today.

40 Days - 40 Items: Lenten Giving for the Little Free Pantry

The Social Ministry Committee invites you to make giving to the Little Free Pantry part of your Lenten discipline, an act of generosity to provide basic, non-food items to those in need. Donate 40 items over 40 days.

How it works:

- The Season of Lent is 40 days. Consider obtaining 40 non-food items for the pantry and deliver the items to the church by Easter Sunday.
- Invite your neighbors, friends, civic groups, and relatives to participate, so we can rebuild our stock of non-food items.
- The specific items we seek are: laundry soap (34 oz), dish soap, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, feminine care products, nuts, nut butters, protein bars, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, toothpaste and brushes, floss and diapers.
- Leave your donations in the narthex weekly or bring everything on Easter Sunday.
- Cash gifts are also welcome. Make gifts to the church and designated, “Little Free Pantry.” We purchase food for the LFP through the Food Bank for cents on the dollar. Because we cannot purchase non-food products at the Food Bank, the above items are requested by way of donation.
- Volunteer to stock the LFP during the week at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4fa9ae2eabfec34-little#/>

Thank you for helping with the LFP during the Season of Lent!

Midnight Run, a ministry to support the homeless in NYC, happens on Saturday, April 29; St. John’s Lutheran is the collection and assembling site. Although it is weeks away, now is the time to collect clothing items and to sign up to volunteer to sort, load the truck, and go into NYC at night.

This event has evolved and Midnight Run now involves numerous interfaith communities.

- St. John’s is assigned specific food items listed below.
- We need persons to sign up for various volunteer tasks prior to the event.

Donations Needed

Please bring only the following needed items: **New T-shirts, new sock and underwear. New or gently used pants, hats, hoodies, light jackets/heavy coats, shirts, shoes, blankets, sleeping bags, sweaters and gloves. We also need large garbage bags.**

These items can be brought to the church on Sunday morning, during the week (M-Th, 9am-12noon) or Saturday, April 29, between 5:30 and 6:45 pm.

Bring Food Items (assigned to St. John's)

Click [here](#) to volunteer to purchase and bring sandwiches, chips, paper cups and lids, and travel-size shampoo. Bring to the church between 5:30 and 6:45 pm, April 29.

Volunteer on April 29

Click [here](#) to help with these tasks between 7:00 - 8:30pm:

- Assemble bags of toiletries
- Assemble lunches
- Sort and fold clothing & load truck

Volunteer to Make the Run into NYC

Click [here](#) to be part of the team going into NYC to distribute food and clothing.

Indicate if you are able to drive and how many will fit in your vehicle.

Questions? Contact Carla Haugen at haugen@optonline.net.

Save the Date

VBS and Music Camp 9am-3pm / July 17-21, 2023

Congregation Council of St. John's Lutheran Church

As of September 1, 2023

Asterisk () denotes Executive Committee member*

Mike Medeiros

*Tim Brumbaugh

Samantha Feeny

Tom Jordan

*Vinnie Bell, Pres.

Mike Medeiros

*Susan Ylitalo, VP

Michele Effren (non-voting)

*Leslie Arvelo

Michele Taylor

Lois Coffin

Charlie Enright

Tom Schlachtenhaufen

*Pastor Pederson *ex officio*

Teresa Moses



MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

Wednesdays at 12:15-12:45

*March 22 KEVIN BAILEY
First Presbyterian, Stamford*

*March 29 ETHAN HAMAN
Noroton Presbyterian, Darien | Yale University*

St. John's Lutheran Church | Stamford, CT
884 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905

Admission is free and open to the public.

Lent-Holy Week Schedule

Midweek Worship Beginning March 1

Wednesdays in Lent

12:15 pm - Lenten Organ Meditation

6:15 pm Soup & Bread - 7:00 pm Worship at St. John's Lutheran

April 6 Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm @ St. Francis Episcopal Church

8:00 Altar of Repose in the Chapel at St. John's Lutheran Church

12 am (Friday) Reading of the St. John Passion in the Chapel at St. John's Lutheran

April 7 Good Friday

12 noon Stations of the Cross at St. John's Lutheran Church

7:00 pm @ St. John's Lutheran Church

April 8 Easter Vigil

7:30 pm @ St. John's Episcopal Church

April 9 Easter Sunday

Festival Eucharist at 8:30 and 10:30 am

Fellowship Hour at 9:30 am

MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S PRESENTS

Friday, March 31, 2023 | 7pm

Free admission: donations accepted

US debut of
Lithuanian organist
Vladimir Antonov-Charsky

St. John's Lutheran Church
884 Newfield Avenue | Stamford, CT*

2023 Easter Flowers & Music Contributions Form

Purchase Easter flowers to help decorate St. John's for Easter and/or contribute to the music program. Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate along with your check made "payable to St. John's Lutheran Church" and marked for the "Easter Flower Fund" or "Worship & Music Fund."

All orders must be in by **Monday, March 27.**

Quantity _____ 6" potted lily (s) @ \$8.00. Total for lilies \$_____

_____ **Please "check" if you will be taking home your lily(s)**

Easter Lilies may be taken home following the 10:30 am Easter Service

\$ _____ Contribution to the Worship & Music Fund

All contributions may be designated **in memory** or **in honor** of a loved one.

~ **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY** ~

Circle One:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Name:

Name:

Given by:

This form, along with your contribution, must be placed in the offering plate or return it to the office no later than Monday, March 27. Thank you!

Amount Enclosed: _____ Envelope Number: _____ Online Contribution _____