



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT | THE FIRST SUNDAY IN PASSIONTIDE

March 26, 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.

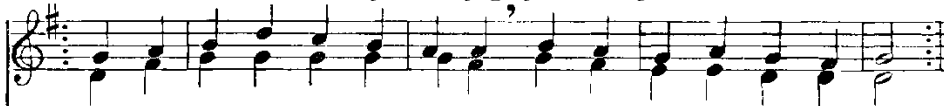
Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking him, in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

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** *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.

*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.
Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

A reading from Ezekiel

THE hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on 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.”

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,’ says the Lord.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord :
Lord, hear my voice.

²O let thine ears consider well :
the voice of my complaint.

³If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss :
O Lord, who may abide it?

⁴For there is mercy with thee :
therefore shalt thou be feared.

⁵I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him :
in his word is my trust.

⁶My soul fleeth unto the Lord :
before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

⁷O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy :
and with him is plenteous redemption.

⁸And he shall redeem Israel :
from all his sins.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:6-11

A reading from Romans.

TO set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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.

***GOSPEL**

JOHN 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to John.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

NOW a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he

said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” ¹¹After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in

spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

***SEQUENCE**

Sing verse 3.

SERMON

PASTOR PEDERSON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lord, thee I love with all my heart*

HYMN 750



1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee, ne'er from me de-part;
2 Yea, Lord, thine own rich boun-ty gave my bod - y, soul, and all I have
3 Lord, let at last thine an-gels come, to A-br'ham's bos-om bear me home,



with ten-der mer-cy cheer me. Earth has no plea-sure I would share,
in this poor life of la - bor. Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place
that I may die un-fear - ing; and in its nar - row cham-ber keep



yea, heav'n it - self were void and bare if thou, Lord, were not near me.
may glo - ri - fy thy lav - ish grace and serve and help my neigh - bor.
my bod - y safe in peace-ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.



And should my heart for sor-row break, my trust in thee can noth-ing shake.
Let no false teach-ing me be-guile, let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
And then from death a-wak-en me, that these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; thy pre - cious
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me to bear my
O Son of God, thy glo - rious face, my Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
cross and fol - low thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at - tend,



my God and Lord, for - sake me not! I trust thy word.
my God and Lord, in death thy com - fort still af - ford.
my prayer at - tend, and I will praise thee with - out end!

*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

Christus Factus Est

MARTIN

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.

*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.

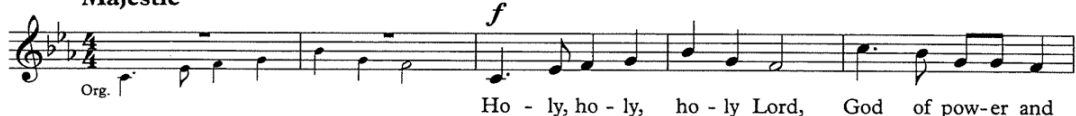
We lift them to the Lord.

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*



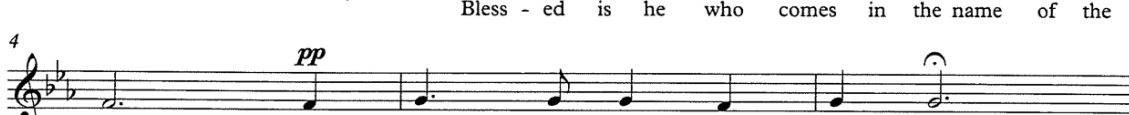
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

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.

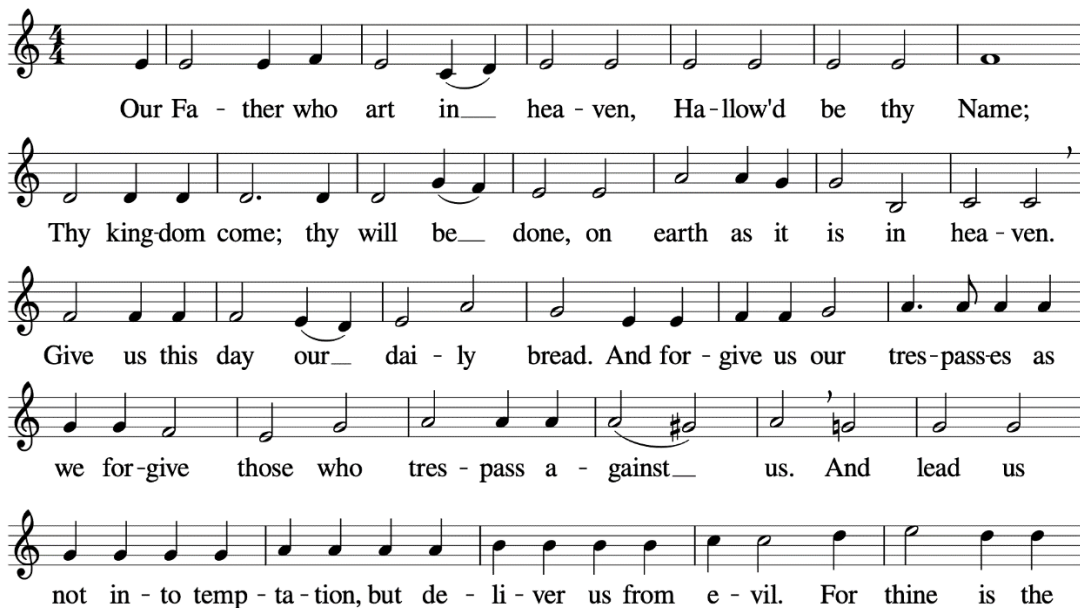
In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

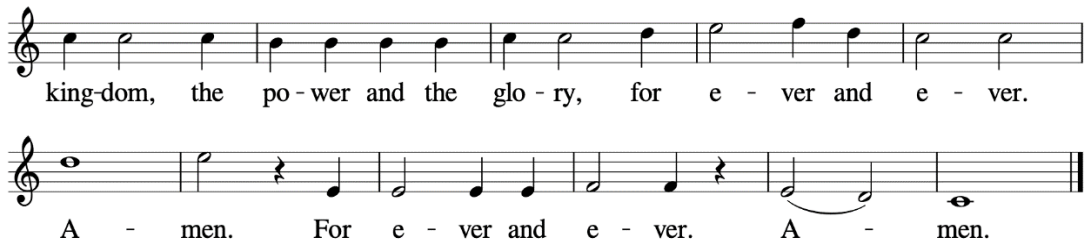
With your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God,
 blessed and holy Trinity,
 now and forever.

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 - passes 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

p

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

mp

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

mf

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

p *pp* *ppp*

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

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

VOLUNTARY

Instrumental

NKL

*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 *Christ, the lift of all the living* **HYMN 339**

*DISMISSAL

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

The congregation exits in silence during Lent.

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Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Duane C. Pederson
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively
Worship Assistant	Vincent Bell
Reader	Max Leffers
Communion Assistants	Anita Gallo, Jen Leffers
Acolytes	Gus Leffers, Wes Gallo
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Diane Egley, Cheryl & Joe Milukas, Astrid Olsen, Michele Taylor
Little Free Pantry	Gary Olson

Our thanks to *Julia Aneshansley, Amy Newball, & Michele Taylor* for hosting the fellowship time following worship today.

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

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 designed, "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 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

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 _____