



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 16, 2025 | 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

We stand.

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 poor sinners confess to you, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, 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 you 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 *The God of Abraham praise*

HYMN 831

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

SOTHO

mp 1. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.
mf 2. Kri - sti, re hau - he - le.
p 3. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.
Kri - sti, re hau - he - le.
Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.
Kri - sti, re hau - he - le.
Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may

rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis.

A**F****T****E****R** these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sung by the choir. Music by Margaret Burk & Sarah MacDonald (both contemporary)

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days
of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!
- 18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 3:17-41

A reading from Philippians.

BROTHERS and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ⁴¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 1

HYMN 326



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

LUKE 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

AT that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.”³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.’³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and

stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 2

We sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

THE REV^D MARTHA MCCREIGHT

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Thy holy wings

HYMN 613

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.

We kneel or sit.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

We offer our tithes and gifts to the Lord.

Children may bring their gifts to the receptacle on the chancel steps next to the pulpit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Pray that Jerusalem may have peace

STANFORD

We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

CREATE IN ME

HYMN 188

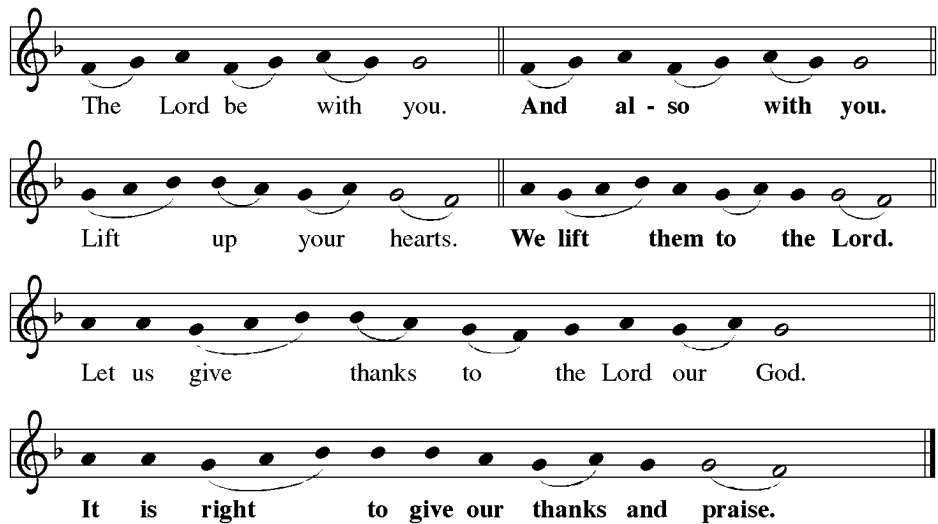
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.



pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

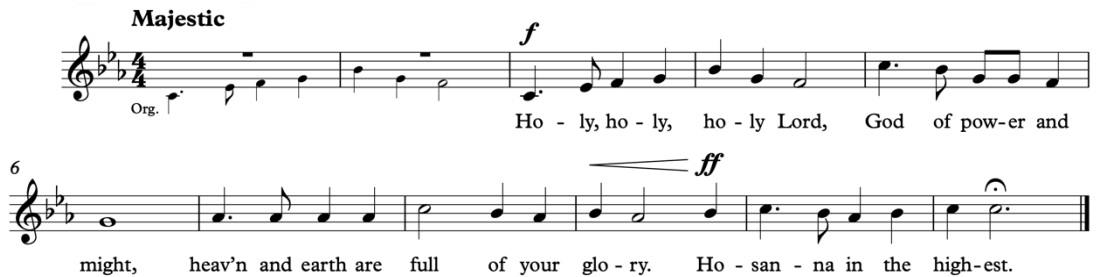
GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. **And al - so 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.

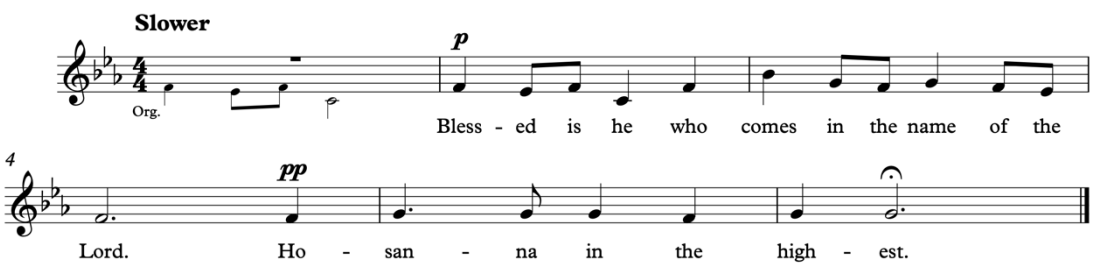
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
 his life-giving passion and death,
 his glorious resurrection and ascension,
 and the promise of his coming again,
 we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
 not as we ought but as we are able;
 we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
 and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
 so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
 may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
 and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
 may be formed to live as your holy people
 and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
 To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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

king-dom, the po-wer and the glo-ry, for e-ver and e-ver.
 A-men. For e-ver and e-ver. A-men.

FRACTION ANTHEM & INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

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 upon request.

We sit.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

Hide not thou thy face

FARRANT

We stand.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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

Eternal Lord of love

HYMN 321

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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Service Music: St. Martin's Mass, David Bednall, Oxford University Press

Lord's Prayer: traditional Afrikaans, translated and arranged by Marnus Lively-Greyling

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev ^d Martha McCreight
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Peter Bartels
Reader	Melissa Bartels
Communion Assistants	Melissa Bartels
Acolytes	Charlotte Dianis
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett & Cathy Mahler
Counters	Cheryl & Joe Milukas, Michele Taylor, Shirley Schulz
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Mike Mahler

Thanks to *Lois Coffin, Sheila Koch, & Michele Taylor* for hosting today's coffee hour. Join us for a time of fellowship in the Welcome Room following this morning's worship.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 18

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 19

11:30 am Lenten Lunch & Devotions - Welcome Room

12:15 pm Lenten Organ Meditations - Sanctuary

6:00 pm Handbells | 7:00 pm Choir

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 23

8:30 am and 10:30 am Worship

Wednesday, March 26

11:30 am Lenten Lunch & Devotions - Welcome Room

12:15 pm Lenten Organ Meditations - Sanctuary

Worship Leaders & Acolytes Needed

We are in need of worship leaders in all areas; reader, worship assistant, communion assistant, and fellowship hour volunteers. Over the upcoming weeks, there are many empty spots to fill. Please look at where you can help out and sign up. Thank you.

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER 2025

LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

12:15 PM to 12:45 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church
Wednesday, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9

MID-LENT CHORAL EVENSONG | *March 30*

4pm at St. John's Episcopal
Father Justin Crisp from St. Barnabas in Greenwich is preaching.
Combined choirs from St. John's Lutheran, St. John's Episcopal, and St. Francis.

PALM-PASSION SUNDAY | *Sunday, April 13*

8:30am and 10:30am in St. John's Lutheran Nave

MAUNDY THURSDAY | *April 17*

Holy Communion and foot washing | 7pm at St. John's Lutheran Church
Altar of Repose | 8pm to Midnight in St. John's Lutheran Chapel
Reading of the St. John Passion | midnight in St. John's Lutheran Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY | *April 18*

Stations of the Cross | 12:15 PM at St. John's Lutheran
Good Friday Liturgy | 7pm at St. Francis Episcopal

GREAT EASTER VIGIL | *Saturday, April 19*

First Mass of Easter at 7:30pm at St. John's Episcopal with Pr. Martha preaching, a combined choir from St. John's Lutheran, St. John's Episcopal, and St. Francis Episcopal, along with brass instruments.

EASTER | *Sunday, April 20*

Holy Communion | 8:30am & 10:30am at St. John's Lutheran Nave
9:30am Easter Egg Hunt



2025 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 **Thursday, April 10.**

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 returned to the office no later than Thursday, April 10. Thank you!

Amount Enclosed: _____ Envelope Number: _____ Online Contribution _____

LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
STAMFORD, CT

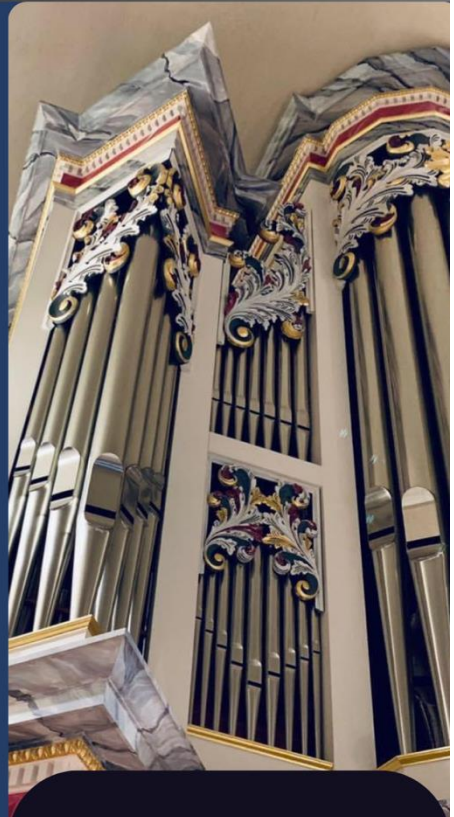
MARCH 12
HOLLY BROADBENT

MARCH 19
HENTUS VAN ROOYEN

MARCH 26
ANNE MARIA LIM

APRIL 2
ETHAN HAMAN

APRIL 9
ZAC SCHURMAN



Join us each
Wednesday for
30-minute
meditations from
12:15 to 12:45.



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

