



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 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

*O Jesus, joy*

HYMN 658

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.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death,  
and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your

saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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

ISAIAH 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

**H**O, , everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 68:1-8

*Sung by the choir. Music by Daniel Ficarri (b. 1996).*

<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.  
<sup>2</sup> Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.  
<sup>3</sup> For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.  
<sup>4</sup> So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.  
<sup>5</sup> My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
<sup>6</sup> When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.  
<sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
<sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING

I CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

A reading from I Corinthians.

**I** DO not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they

were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**A**T that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.<sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?<sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.<sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’<sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.<sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 2

*We sit.*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

THE REV<sup>D</sup> MARTHA MCCREIGHT

*We stand.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*If you but trust in God to guide you*

HYMN 769

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

*Like as the hart*

HOWELLS

*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  
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

*Pilgrims' Hymn*

PAULUS

*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      *Guide me ever*

**HYMN 618**

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*

*Southern African Mass; trad.*

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev <sup>d</sup> Martha McCreight
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Jennifer Leffers
Communion Assistants	Jennifer Leffers
Acolytes	Max Leffers
Usher	Eric Lane & Sam Leffers
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett & Cathy Mahler
Counters	J. Geils, Janet Halpin, Michele Taylor, Shirley Schulz
Little Free Pantry	Shirley Schulz

Thanks to *Kathy Caraballo & Janet Segerdell* for hosting today's coffee hour. Join us for a time of fellowship in the Welcome Room following this morning's worship.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### **Tuesday, March 25**

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

### **Wednesday, March 26**

11:30 am Lenten Lunch & Devotions - Welcome Room

12:15 pm Lenten Organ Meditations - Sanctuary

4:30 pm Confirmation Class - Sweden Room

6:00 pm Handbells | 7:00 pm Choir

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday, March 30**

8:30 am and 10:30 am Worship

### **Wednesday, April 2**

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

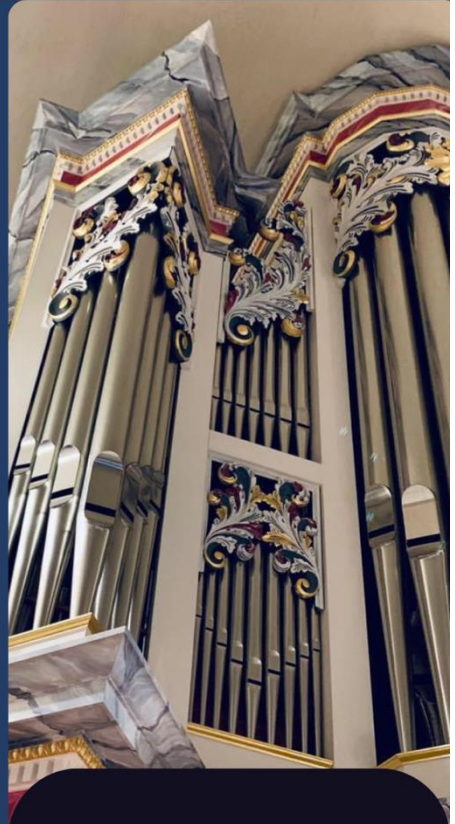
MARCH 12  
HOLLY BROADBENT

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

