



St. John's Lutheran Church Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 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 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 *God loved the world*

HYMN 323

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

The musical score for the Kyrie is written in Sotso. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are in Sotso and are repeated three times, corresponding to the three systems. The first system includes dynamic markings: *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano). The lyrics for the first system are: 1. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le. 2. Kri - - sti, re hau - he - le. 3. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le. The second and third systems have the same lyrics: Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le. Kri - - sti, re hau - he - le. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

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 compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of

your love, 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

JOSHUA 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

THE Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 32

Sung by the choir. Music by Walford-Davies.

1 Blessed are they whose unrighteousness is forgiven :
and whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the one unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin :
and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 For while I held my tongue :
my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.

4 For thy hand is heavy upon me day and night :
and my moisture is like the drought in summer.

5 I will acknowledge my sin unto thee :
and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

6 I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord :
and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

7 For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee, in a time when thou mayest be found :

but in the great water-floods they shall not come nigh him.

8 Thou art a place to hide me in, thou shalt preserve me from trouble : thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

9 I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go : and I will guide thee with mine eye.

10 Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding : whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, lest they fall upon thee.

11 Great plagues remain for the ungodly : but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side.

12 Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord : and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

SECOND READING

II CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

A reading from II Corinthians.

FROM now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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 15:1-3, 11-32

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

NOW all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he

squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

Our Father, we have wandered

HYMN 606

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

Ave Verum

STEPHANIE MARTIN (*contemporary*)

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind, from whose pierced side flowed water and blood: Be for us a foretaste of the Heavenly banquet in the trial of death!

O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus, O Jesus, son of Mary, have mercy on me. Amen.

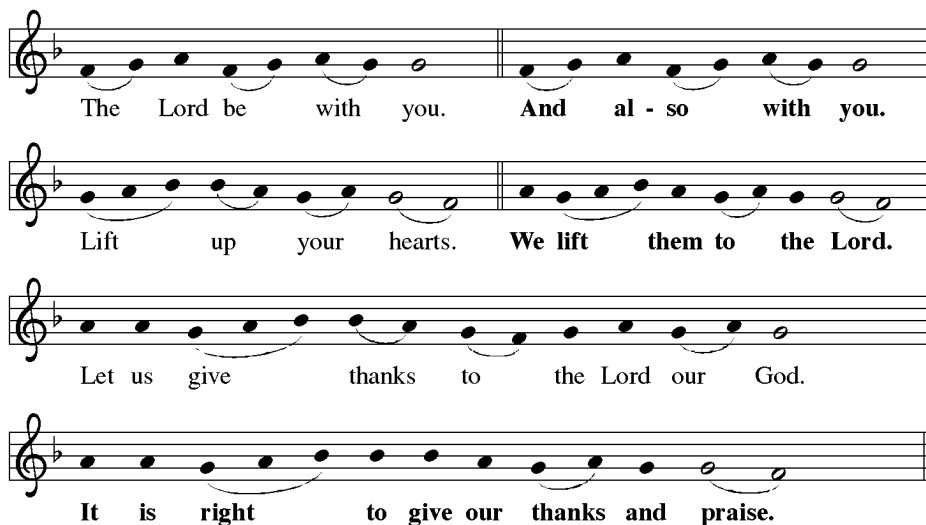
We stand.

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



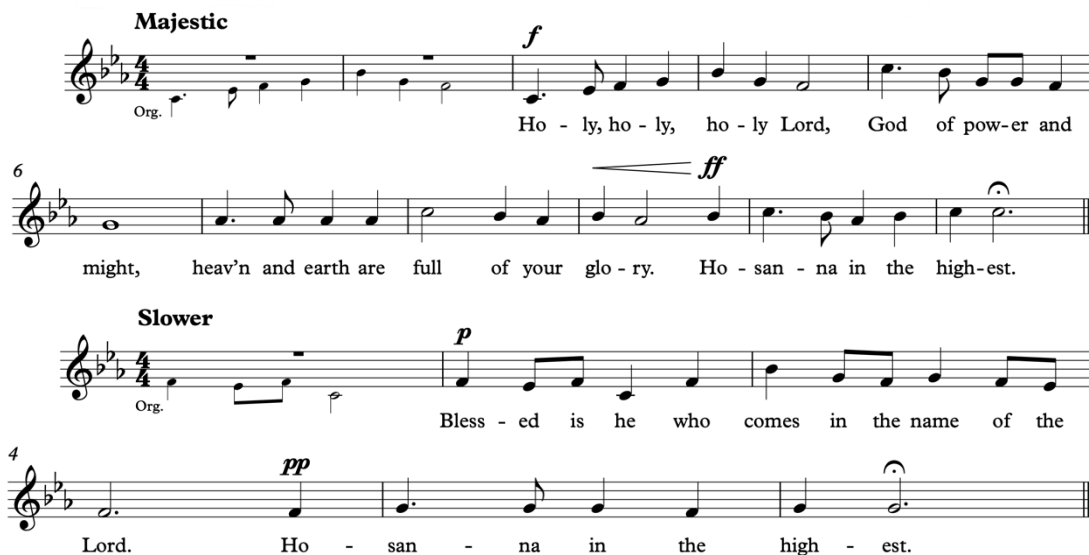
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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 *f*

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

ff

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

Slower *p*

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

pp

4 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

O Salutaris

LANGLAIS

*O saving Victim, opening wide The gate of Heaven to man below; Our foes press hard on every side;
Thine aid supply; thy strength bestow. To thy great name be endless praise, Immortal Godhead, One in
Three. Oh, grant us endless length of days, In our true native land with thee. Amen.*

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

In the cross of Christ I glory

HYMN 324

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 ^d Martha McCreight
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Patricia Fisher
Reader	Susan Ylitalo
Communion Assistants	Lois Coffin & Susan Ylitalo
Acolytes	Liz Ylitalo
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett & Cathy Mahler
Counters	J. Geils, Janet Halpin, Michele Taylor, Shirley Schulz
Little Free Pantry	Peter Coffin & Gary Esposito

Join us for a time of fellowship in the Welcome Room following this morning's worship.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 1

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 2

11:30 am Lenten Lunch & Devotions | 12:15 pm Lenten Organ Meditations

4:30 pm Confirmation Class | 6:00 pm Handbells | 7:00 pm Choir

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 6

8:30 am and 10:30 am Worship

Wednesday, April 9

11:30 am Lenten Lunch & Devotions | 12:15 pm Lenten Organ Meditations

Worship Leaders & Acolytes Needed

We need worship leaders in all areas: reader, worship assistant, communion assistant, and fellowship hour volunteers. In the coming weeks, many positions remain unfilled. Please consider where you can assist 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*

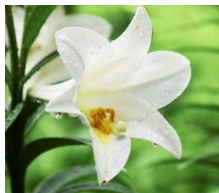
First Mass of Easter at 7:30pm at St. John's Episcopal with Pr. Martha preaching, a combined choir from St. John's Lutheran, St. John's Episcopal, and St. Francis Episcopal, along with brass instruments.

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

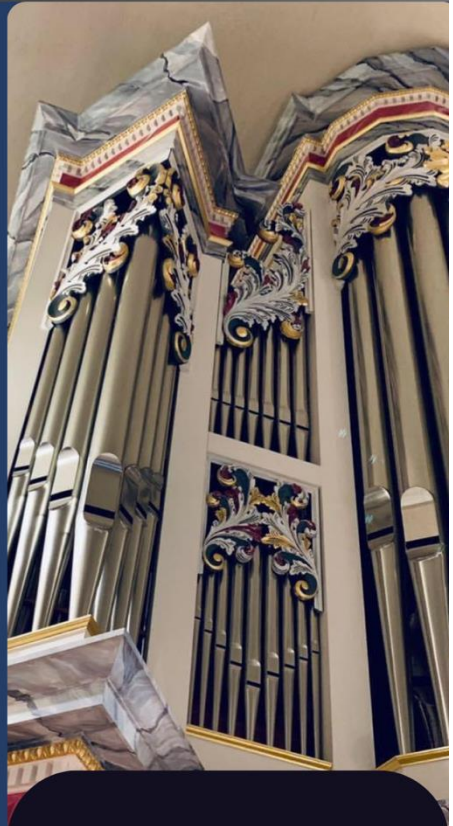
MARCH 12
HOLLY BROADBENT

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

