



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 6, 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 *Through the night*

HYMN 327

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.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our
desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our

lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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

ISAIAH 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

THUS says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sung by the choir. Music by Stanford.

- ¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- ²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- ³Then they said among the nations, *
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
- ⁴The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- ⁵Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- ⁶Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- ⁷Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-14

A reading from Philippians.

IF anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 wīnds 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 St. John, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

SIX days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

Alas! And did my Savior bleed

HYMN 337

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

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

A Litany

PHILIP MOORE (*contemporary*)

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.

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

Let nothing ever grieve thee

BRAHMS

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

Christ, the life of all the living

HYMN 339

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	Peter Bartels
Reader	Melissa Bartels
Communion Assistants	Michele Effren, Cathy Mahler
Acolytes	
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	J. Geils, Janet Halpin, Charlie Enright
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Michael Mahler

Thanks to *Michele Effren & Cathy Mahler* 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, April 8

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm via Zoom

Wednesday, April 9

11:30 am Lenten Lunch & Devotions - Welcome Room | 12:15 pm Lenten Organ

Meditations – Sanctuary | 4:30 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Handbells | 7:00 pm Choir

UPCOMING EVENTS

Palm Sunday, April 13

8:30 am and 10:30 am Worship

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.

This week we pray for . . . Pastor Denis and Carol Albrecht, Andrew, Beryl, Collette, Diane, Don, Jean, Jeanette, Jack, Marie, Nicolette, and Sandra

If you have pastoral needs, please reach out to Pastor Martha by email MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com or on her cell phone (406)565-3592.



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



holy week



maundy thursday

St. John's Lutheran

7pm | Choral Eucharist

8pm-12midnight

Altar of repose in the chapel

good friday

St. John's Lutheran | 12noon

12noon Stations of the Cross

St. Francis Episcopal | 7pm

Choral Service



easter vigil

St. John's Episcopal | 7.30pm

Choral Eucharist

easter

St. John's Lutheran

8:30am | Eucharist

9:30am | Easter Egg Hunt

10:30am | Choral Eucharist

