

# 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.

#### 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.



#### 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.

HUS says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM PSALM 126

Sung by the choir. Music by Stanford.

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \* then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \* and our tongue with shouts of joy.

<sup>3</sup>Then they said among the nations, \*

"The Lord has done great things for them."

<sup>4</sup>The Lord has done great things for us, \* and we are glad indeed.

<sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \* like the watercourses of the Negev.

<sup>6</sup>Those who sowed with tears \* will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>7</sup>Those 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.

The anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised 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; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More 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

<sup>9</sup>and 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. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not 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.

<sup>13</sup>Beloved, 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, <sup>14</sup>I 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 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.



road where faith is then leads be - side still wa ters, the found. to geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found. Our writ - ten on found. cov - e - nant is roads, as faith is

GOSPEL JOHN 12:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

Solution IX days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary 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. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (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.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You 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<sup>D</sup> MARTHA MCCREIGHT

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alas! And did my Savior bleed

**HYMN 337** 

#### APOSTLES' CREED

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.

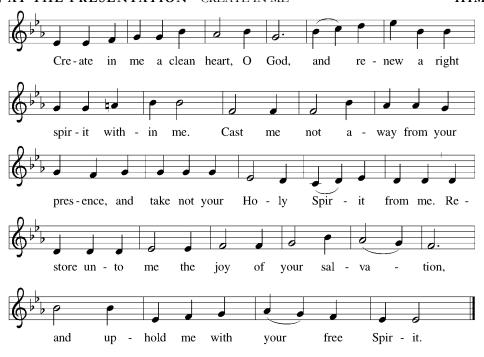
Children may bring their gifts to the receptacle on the chancel steps next to the pulpit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

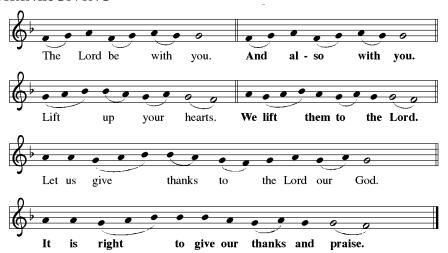
A Litany

PHILIP MOORE (contemporary)

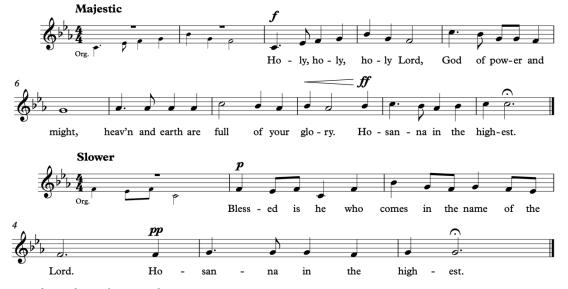
#### HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION CREATE IN ME



#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

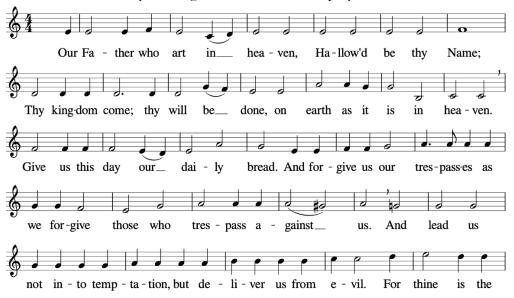
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.





#### 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<sup>d</sup> 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

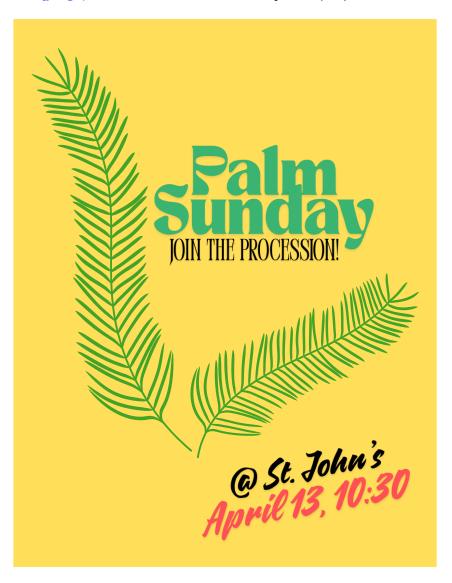
8:30 am and 10:30 am Worship

# 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 <a href="MMcCreight@silcstamford.com">MMcCreight@silcstamford.com</a> 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								
	\$C	ontribution to	the Wor	ship &	Music	c Fund			
All contributions may be designated in memory or in honor of a loved one.  ~ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ~									
Circle	One:	In Memory o	f:				In Hor	nor of:	
Name:	:								
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Amoun	nt Enclosed:	Envelope	e Numbe	r:	O:	nline Con	ıtribution	ı	

# 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.



# 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

St. John's Lutheran 8:30am | Eucharist 9:30am | Easter Egg Hunt 10:30am | Choral Eucharist

