



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 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.

THE GREAT LITANY

HYMN 238

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.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy.

WHEN you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it,² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from

the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.”⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God,⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us,⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God.¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 91: 1-2, 9-16

Sung by the choir. Music by Janet Yieh (b. 1992)

- ¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
 abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
² He shall say to the Lord,
 “You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
 my God in whom I put my trust.”
⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
 and the Most High your habitation,
¹⁰ There shall no evil happen to you, *
 neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
 to keep you in all your ways.

¹²They shall bear you in their hands, *
 lest you dash your foot against a stone.
¹³You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
 you shall trample the young lion and the serpent
 under your feet.
¹⁴Because he is bound to me in love,
 therefore will I deliver him; *
 I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
¹⁵He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
 I am with him in trouble;
 I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
¹⁶With long life will I satisfy him, *
 and show him my salvation.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 10:8-13

A reading from Romans.

THE word is near you,
 on your lips and in your heart”
 (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your
 lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
 you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one
 confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who
 believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and
 Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For,
 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand. SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 1

HYMN 315



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 wĩnds 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 4:1-13

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,
‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from

here,¹⁰ for it is written,
 ‘He will command his angels concerning you,
 to protect you,’¹¹ and
 ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

O love, how deep

DEUS TOURUM MILITUM

UNISON



1 O	love,	how	deep,	how	broad,	how
2 For	us	bap -	tized,	for	us	he
3 For	us	he	prayed;	for	us	he
4 For	us	to	wic -	ked	hands	be -
5 For	us	he	rose	from	death	a -
6 All	glo -	ry	to	our	Lord	and



high,	How	pass -	ing	thought	and	fan -	ta -
bore	his	ho -	ly	fast	and	hun -	gered
taught;	for	us	his	dai -	ly	works	he
trayed,	Scourged,	mocked,	in	pur -	ple	robe	ar -
gain;	For	us	he	went	on	high	to
God	For	love	so	deep,	so	high,	so



sy, That God, the Son of
sore, for us temp - ta - tion
wrought; by words and signs and
rayed, He bore the shame - ful
reign; For us he sent his
broad, The Tri - ni - ty whom



God, should take Our mor - tal
sharp he knew; for us the
ac - - - tions thus still seek - ing
cross and death, For us gave
Spi - - - rit here To guide, to
we a - dored For - e - - - ver



form for mor - - - tals' sake.
temp - - - ter ov - - - er - threw.
not him - self, but us.
up his dy - ing breath.
streng - - - then and to cheer.
and for - ev - - - er - more.

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

Lead us, heavenly father

HIGGINSON (*contemporary*)

We stand.

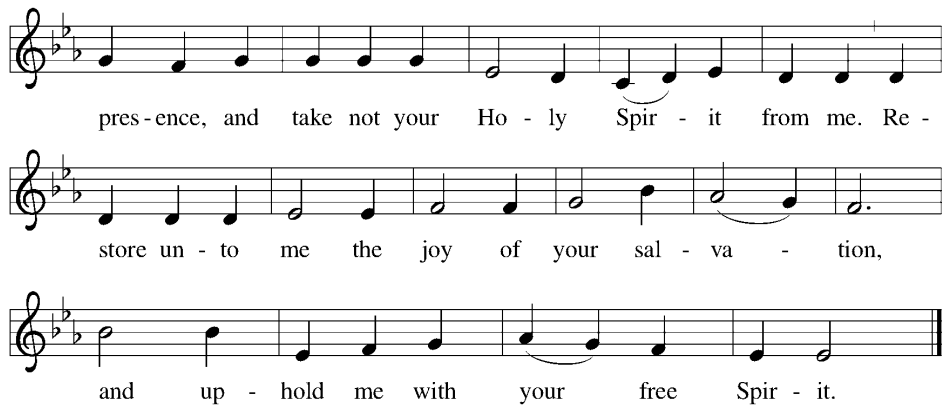
HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

CREATE IN ME

HYMN 188

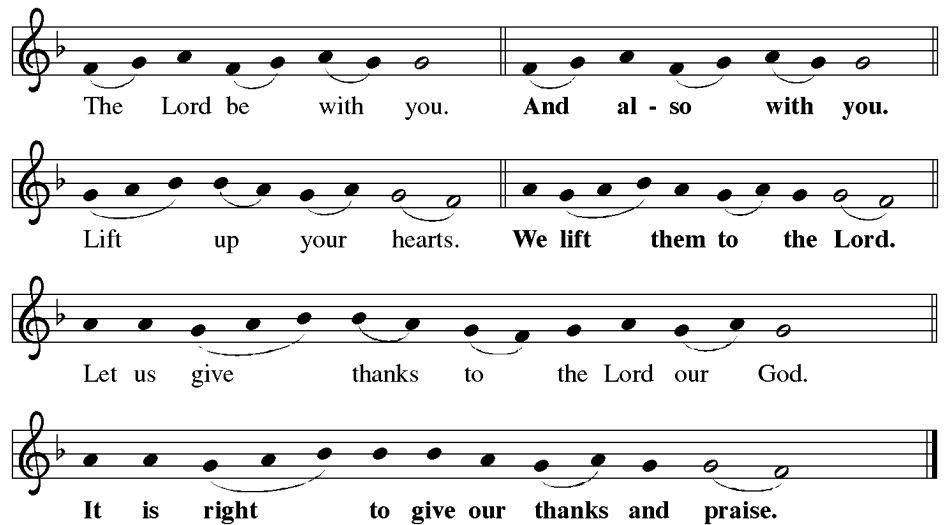
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

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.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Slowly and gently

Org. **p** Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

7 **mp** world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

13 **mf** sin of the world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

19 **rit.** **p** **pp** **ppp** take a - way the sin of the world, grant us peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM *Miserere mei: Have mercy on me, O God, and blot out my offenses.* LOTTI

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 *A mighty fortress*

HYMN 505

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	Pat Fisher
Reader	Jen Leffers
Communion Assistants	Jen Leffers, Michele Taylor
Acolytes	Max Leffers
Usher	Eric Lane, Sam Leffers
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett & Cathy Mahler
Counters	Cheryl & Joe Milukas, Michele Taylor, Shirley Schulz
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Mike Mahler

Thanks to *Camilla & Mike Medeiros* 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 11

Choristers - 5:15 pm Choir Room | Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 12

Lenten Organ Meditations - 12:15 pm | Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm Choir Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 16

8:30 and 10:30 am Worship



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

ASH WEDNESDAY | *March 5*

12:15pm at St. John's Chapel

7pm at St. John's Lutheran

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



MISSION STATEMENT

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church Stamford CT is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
STAMFORD, CT

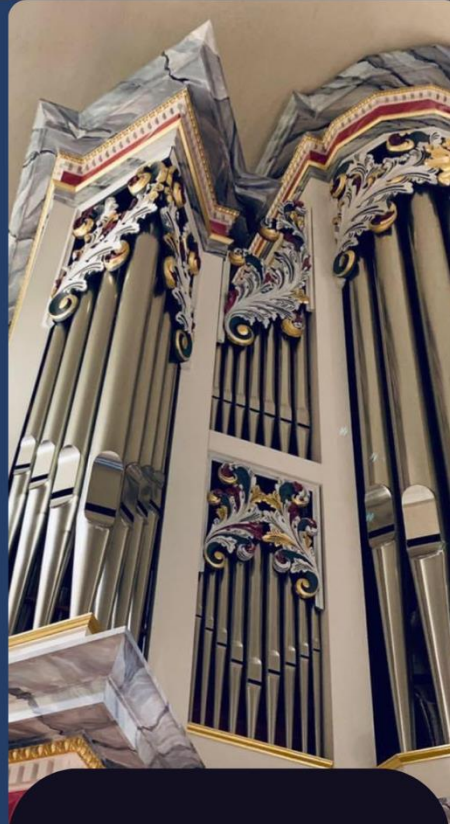
MARCH 12
HOLLY BROADBENT

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.



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