



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 3, 2024 | 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

Drop, drop, slow tears

GIBBONS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* 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 *Christ is made the sure foundation*

HYMN 645

*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 - fe - na, re hau - he - le.
mf 2. Kri - sti, re hau - he - le.
p 3. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

Mo - fe - na, re hau - he - le.
Kri - sti, re hau - he - le.
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Kri - sti, re hau - he - le.
Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously.
Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

EXODUS 20:1-17

A reading from Exodus.

GOD spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sung by the choir. Music by Sarah MacDonald.

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- ² One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- ³ Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴ Their sound has gone out into all lands, *and their message to the ends of the world.
- ⁵ In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- ⁸ The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

SECOND READING

I CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

A reading from I Corinthians.

THE message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and

Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*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

JOHN 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and

began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 3

SERMON

THE REV. MARK GRORUD

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

In the cross of Christ I glory

HYMN 324

*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.

The assembly kneels or sits for the prayers

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

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

*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
ff
6 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.

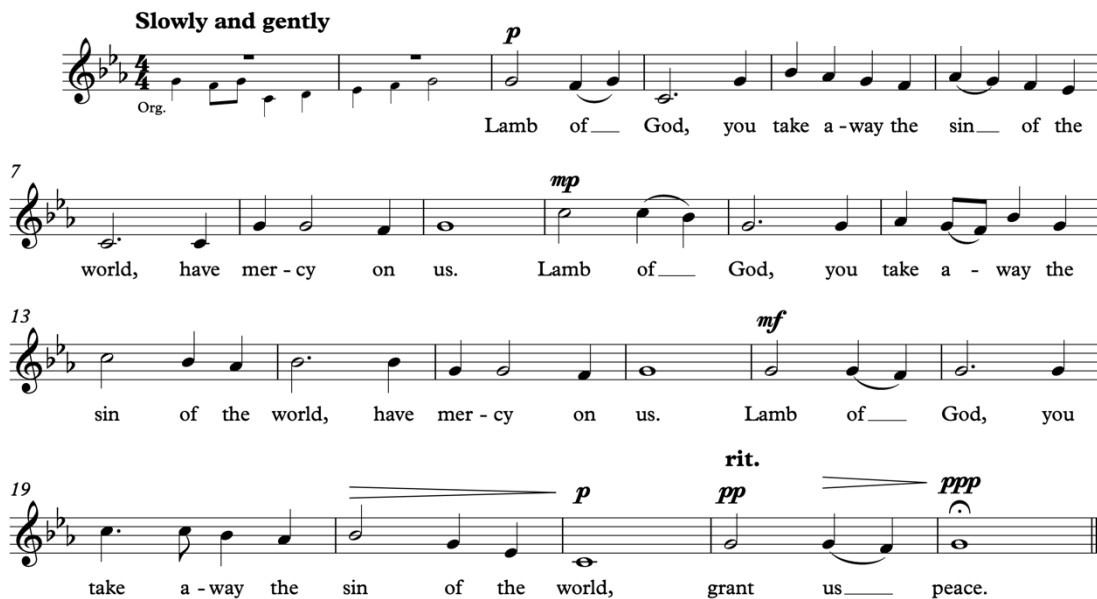
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

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

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

If ye love me

PETER NIEDEMANN (*cacontemporary*)

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

When I survey the wondrous cross

HYMN 803

***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

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Rebecca Bourret
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Pat Fisher
Reader	Jen Leffers
Communion Assistants	Jen Leffers, Janet Segerdell
Acolytes	Gino D'Orta, Max Leffers
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	Pat Fisher, Michele Taylor
Little Free Pantry	Steve Eno & Irene Hendricks

Thanks to *Michele Effren, Cathy & Mike Mahler* for hosting today's coffee hour. Join us for a time of fellowship in the Welcome Room following this morning's worship.

Upcoming. . .

Sneak Peek Bible Study Tuesday at 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88521189521>. Passcode: 355925

Join in the virtual "sneak peek" of the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday!

Starting February 12, the once-monthly **Adult Ed** program will move to the Second Monday of each month at 7pm. The zoom link

is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6993581055>

Spring dates: March 11, April 8, and May 13



New worship assistant and acolyte robes

The Worship and Music Committee has chosen new robes for our acolytes and worship assistants to replace the current white robes, which are twenty years old. The new robes will match the same color as the current blue choir robes, making them interchangeable for different sizes and will also be fitted with a white scapular that is worn over the robe.

If you would like to help, each robe is \$235, and we need to order 12. Gifts of any size can be made to the church, marked “robes” in the memo.

We need you! If you’re interested in becoming a reader, worship assistant, communion assistant, or host for coffee hour, please email Nancy or Nathan for more information. These minimal commitments have a great impact on the life and worship at St. John’s. Your participation in worship is vitally important and needed.



MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

Wednesdays at 12:15-12:45

March 6 LIYA PETRIDES
St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes, Riverside

March 13 KEVIN BAILEY
First Presbyterian, Stamford

March 29 VLADIMIR ANTONOV-CHARSKY
London, UK

St. John's Lutheran Church | Stamford, CT
884 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905

Admission is free and open to the public.

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Mid-week Lenten Soup Supper & Services

6:15pm soup & 7-7:30pm service

St. John's Lutheran: March 6,

St. John's Episcopal: March 13 and 20

Lenten Organ Meditations

12:15-12:45 at St. John's Lutheran

Wednesday, March 6, 13, and 20

Palm-Passion Sunday | Sunday, March 24

8:30am & 10:30am in St. John's Lutheran Nave

Maundy Thursday | *March 28*

Holy Communion and foot washing | 7pm at St. Francis Episcopal

Altar of Repose | 8pm-12midnight in St. John's Lutheran Chapel

Reading of the St. John Passion | 12midnight in St. John's Lutheran Chapel

Good Friday | *March 29*

Stations of the Cross | 12:15 at St. John's Lutheran

Good Friday Liturgy | 7pm at St. John's Lutheran

Great Easter Vigil | *Saturday, March 30*

First Mass of Easter | 7:30pm at St. John's Episcopal with Rev. Grorud

preaching, combined choir of St. John's Lutheran, St. John's Episcopal, and

St. Francis Episcopal, and brass

Easter | *Sunday, March 31*

Holy Communion | 8:30am & 10:30am at St. John's Lutheran Nave

9:30am Easter Egg Hunt and coffee hour.

UPDATE FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce that after completing our Ministry Site Profile this week, we are moving forward to the next phase of our call process. The Call Committee had its first orientation meeting with Reverend Steven Wilco, marking the beginning of an important journey.

Committee members are fully engaged and committed to working diligently throughout this process. We want to ensure that everyone is kept in the loop, so expect regular updates on our progress to be shared with both the council and the entire congregation.

Let's keep our Call Committee in our prayers as they undertake this vital work for our church's future.

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.