



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 17, 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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

My song is love unknown
(verses 1-4)

HYMN 343

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

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.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

THE The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Sung by the choir. Music based on hymn 188, adapted by NKL.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ² Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- ⁵ And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- ⁶ Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁷ For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- ⁸ Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *

- wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- ⁹ Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- ¹⁰ Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹¹ Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹² Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- ¹³ Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 5:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

CHRIST did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
⁶as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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.



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 the twelfth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

NOW among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake,

not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 3.

We sit.

SERMON

THE REV. MARK GRORUD

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Eternal Lord of Love

HYMN 321

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 for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit.

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

Pilgrim's Hymn

STEPHEN PAULUS (*contemporary*)

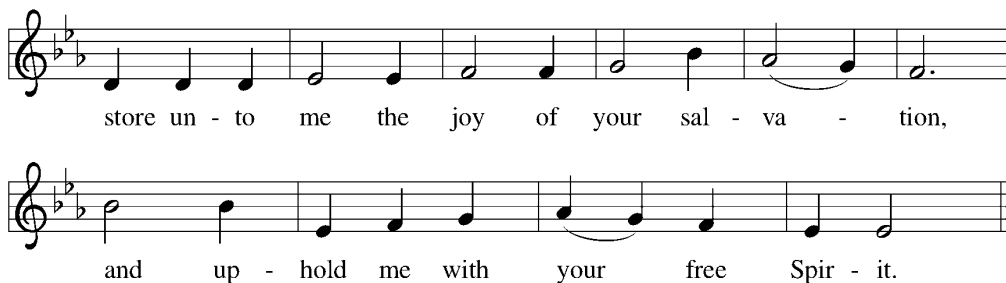
We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

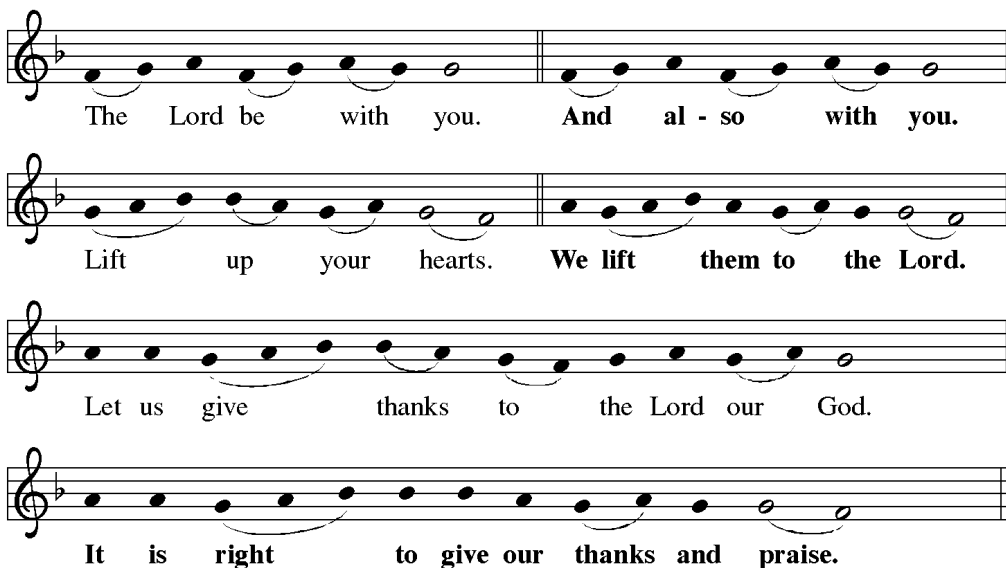
CREATE IN ME

HYMN 188

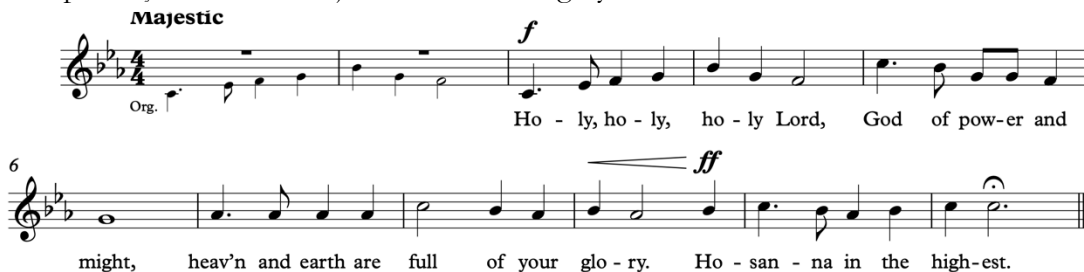
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



Slower

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'Slower'. The first staff begins with an organ introduction ('Org.') and then features a melody starting on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the' are aligned under this staff. The second staff starts with a measure rest, followed by a half note G4, then quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics 'Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' are aligned under this staff. Dynamics include a piano (*p*) marking at the start of the first staff and a pianissimo (*pp*) marking at the start of the second staff.

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

Go not far from me, O God

ZINGARELLI

We stand.

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.



- My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
- He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
- Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
- 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
 but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
 re - sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
 He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
 But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
 Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
 thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have
 my dear Lord made away;
 a murderer they save,
 the prince of life they slay.
 Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
 that he his foes from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home
 my Lord on earth might have;
 in death, no friendly tomb
 but what a stranger gave.
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home;
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing—
 no story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
 I all my days could gladly spend!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The congregation leaves in silence during Lent.

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Service Music: St. Martin's Mass, David Bednall, Oxford University Press; Kyrie: Southern African trad. (Sotho); Lord's Prayer: Afrikaans (arr. Marnus Lively-Greyling)

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Mark Grorud
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Susan Ylitalo
Communion Assistants	Pat Fisher, Janet Segerdell
Acolytes	Leo McCullough, Liz Ylitalo
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	Diane Egley, Cheryl and Joe Milukas, Michele Taylor
Little Free Pantry	Gary Olson



Why do we wear robes? Why do colors on the altar change? Why do we use candles? What is that "poncho" that Pastor wears? How do they know how to set the Altar for Communion? What the heck is all this? Do we need it? Sacristy- what's that or what's in it?

Unless you're on the Altar Committee, you likely show up on a Sunday, open the hymnal or bulletin, and go with the flow. But do you ever wonder why we use these "things" in worship or wonder what their meaning or history is?

If you're interested in these questions, have your own, or want a refresher course, we'll meet **in person** at **St. John's Lutheran**, at **7:00 pm on Monday, March 18**. Park on the side or in front of the church and enter through the main entrance. We'll meet in the front pews of the church. Handouts will be provided.

Prayer requests Beginning this week, a new prayer list will be made every month. If you have names to submit, please email Nancy by Monday, March 18.

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!

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Mid-week Lenten Soup Supper & Services

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

St. John’s Episcopal: *March 20*

Lenten Organ Meditations

12:15-12:45 at St. John’s Lutheran

Wednesday, 20 | *Vlad Antonov-Charskey from London*

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 | *12:15pm 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 hot cross buns coffee hour

New worship assistant and acolyte robes



The Worship and Music Committee has ordered new robes for our acolytes and worship assistants to replace the current white robes, which are twenty years old. The new robes are due to arrive in April and 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, totaling \$3,000. 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.

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.