

# March 5, 2023 9:00 a.m. Second Sunday in Lent, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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# Sunday, March 5th 2023

Second Sunday in Lent, Year A Reverend Maggie Westaby

### **WELCOME**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + One God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

#### Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. *Silence is kept for reflection.* 

Holy God,

We confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy,

+ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

You are our helper, our shade, and our protector. You are able to give life to the dead, to call into being things that do not exist. We trust in your power to make all things new; to keep us in sunlight and moonlight, along rocky paths and pathways unknown; until all our going and coming brings us at last to your kingdom promised in Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

### **OPENING HYMN**

# The Glory of These Forty Days



Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt. Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, Getstliche Lieder, 1543
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## FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 121**

I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my help come from?

# My help comes from the LORD, Creator of heaven and earth.

The LORD will not let your foot slip, nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

# Behold, God will neither slumber nor sleep;

the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

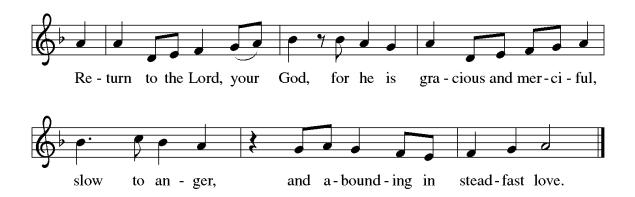
# the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep you safe.

# The LORD will watch over your coming and going, both now and for evermore.

The Word of the Lord.

## Thanks be to God.



## GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to

you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** 

**HYMN OF THE DAY** 

# Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart



Test: George Croly, 1780-1860 Music: MÖRECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

## **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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

### **OFFERING**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God,

Receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.** 

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

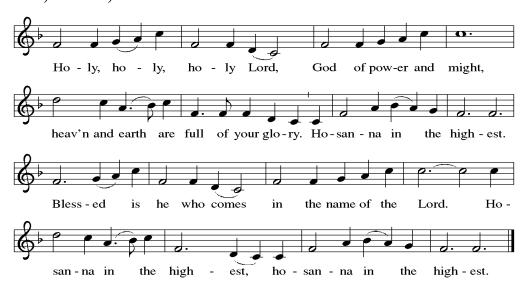
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

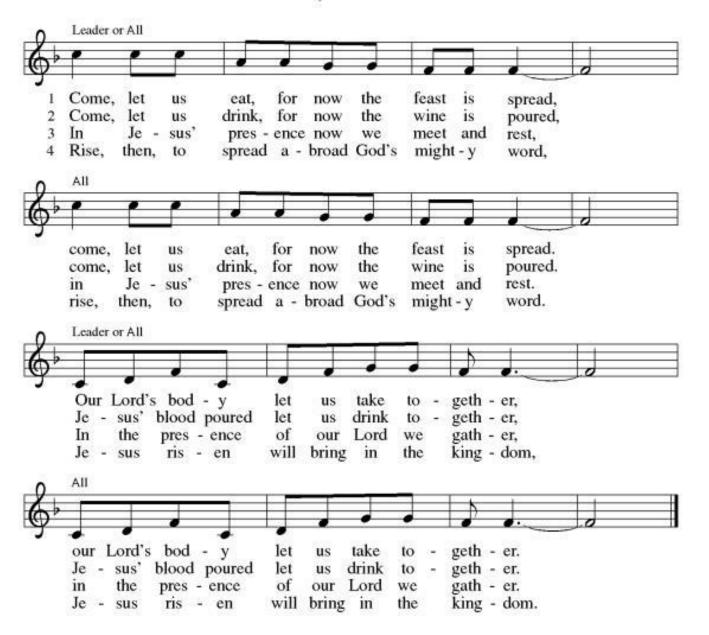
## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

# Come, Let Us Eat

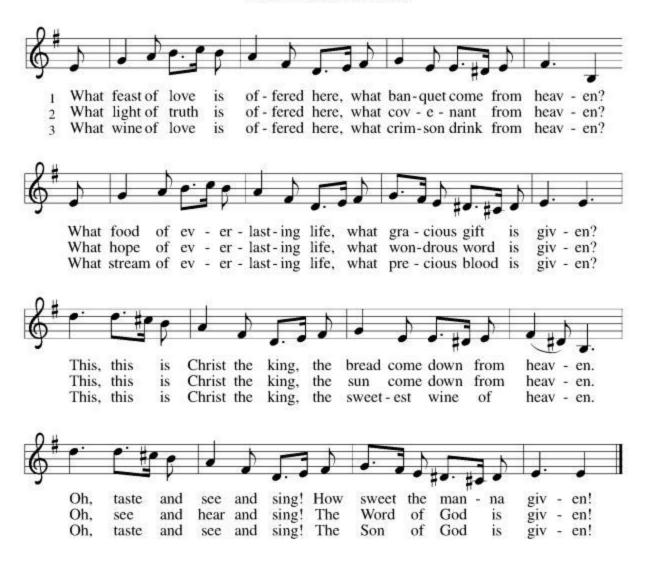


Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt. Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## What Feast of Love



Text: Delores Dufner, osa, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,

At your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and care for the world with your love in our hearts.

Amen.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **BLESSING**

As you go out and come in,
May God keep you by sunlight, moonlight, and twilight;
May Christ encompass you with love, peace, and hope;
And may the Holy Spirit empower you with life anew;
In the name of the Father + Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

# **SENDING SONG**

# O Living Bread from Heaven



Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878; alt. Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

## Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! No matter our circumstances, "[our] help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:2, NRSV). We gather to worship our loving Creator. Welcome.

Holy Spirit, when you lead us into the wilderness, assure us of your constant presence.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

*To those who are visiting:* Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

## Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John's at (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us.

**Food Basket.** Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt:** St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> following worship! All children are welcome! We will gather for Fellowship, read the Easter story, make a craft, and end with a candy-filled Easter Egg Hunt!

**Fellowship help needed!** There are a lot of open Sundays. If you are able, please sign up. A sign-up sheet for the month of March is in the Narthex. Thank you!

**March Newsletter.** Pick up your March Newsletter in the Narthex, or access it on our webpage <a href="https://stjohnwausau.org/more/newsletter/">https://stjohnwausau.org/more/newsletter/</a>

**St. John Email.** If you have not received any emails from Pastor Maggie, please email her to be added to the St. John Email List.

New Pictorial Directory. Say cheese! We are excited to announce a new church directory will be coming soon and hope to see all your beautiful smiling faces in the directory! There are 3 days you can schedule a session to have pictures taken. The dates are April 10th, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the church parish hall. You are welcome to bring pet/s to be photographed with you. We hope all will schedule a no sales pressure session. Photo examples and a pricing brochure are in the narthex. You can schedule your picture taking session, using the QR code located on the sign in the narthex, or through the link on the home page of our church website <a href="www.stjohnwausau.org">www.stjohnwausau.org</a> For those who do not have electronic means to schedule a session or for anyone who may have questions please contact Jan Mueller dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com. For those who are unable to have pictures taken at the dates and times listed above, you may submit a photo for the directory. There is a \$15 charge to submit your photo, please contact Jan Mueller for more information. Smile!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

# Coming This Week @ St. John March 5 – March 12

**Today** 

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

March 7

8:30 a.m. Quilting

9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

March 8

5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner6:30 p.m. Lenten Service

March 12

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School