

March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year B
9:00 a.m.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins, trusting in God's wisdom and strength rather than our own.

Merciful God,

We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and hurting those without. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Forgive us and free us, that we may know the joy of life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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. In the name of Jesus † Christ you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READING: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God’s mercy endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe, gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death’s door.

Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.

You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“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.

¹⁷“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. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love,
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do,
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word,
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Softly
 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1854-1911
 Music: HANKEY, William E. Fisher, 1849-1938

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. Responding to "Hear us, O God," with "Your mercy is great."

PEACE

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Because the kingdom of God has come near in Jesus Christ, we are called to respond in tangible ways. By doing acts of justice and compassion, and by sharing our resources, we bear witness to the good news of the gospel.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, our treasures come only from you. It is only through your goodness, that we have received so much. We came into this life with nothing, and we leave the same way. Guide us, and inspire us, to share ourselves and the resources we have. In Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

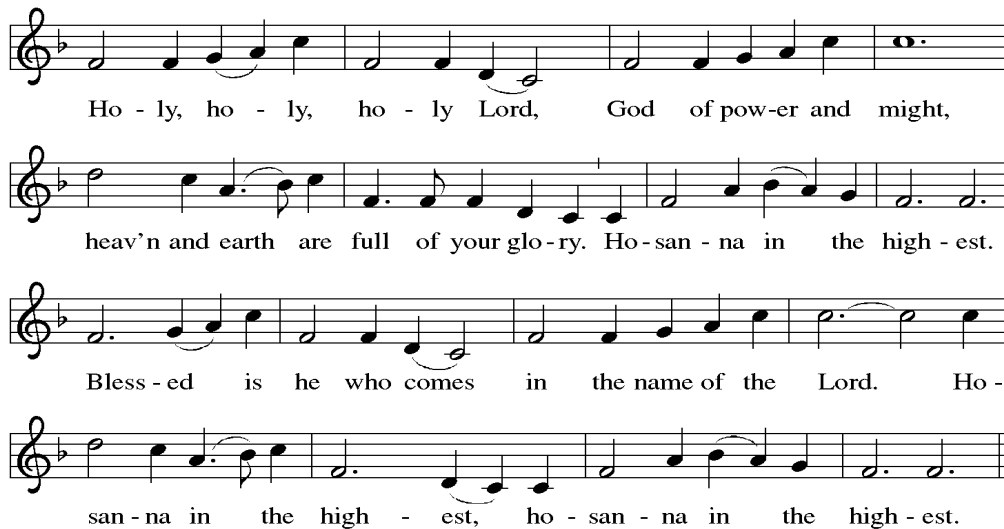
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism,

we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Come to Christ's table; here you will find bread for the journey. Come to the banquet, here you will find a feast for hungry hearts. Come to our Lord; who forgives, sustains, and restores. Amen.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,

we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this

thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
 hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
 self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
 home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
 bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with

Refrain

sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
 liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
 food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
 One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
 ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Text: Susan R. Biehl, b. 1952
 Music: ARGENTINE SANTO | BREAK NOW THE BREAD, Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.
 Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

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 touch the world with your love.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the love of God,

The grace of Christ,

And the light of the Spirit,

Bless † you and keep you, now and forever.

Amen.

Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be giv - en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re-joic-es;
with ev-er joy-ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir-it blest, who reign in high-est heav-en,

who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
the one e-ter-nal God, whom earth and heav'n a-dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev-er-more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878.
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16). May you sense that divine love through this time of worship. Welcome.

As Nicodemus did (John 3), I bring all my questions to you, Jesus. Thank you for welcoming me — and my quandaries — always.

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.

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

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ’s Table.

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 *Shopping Cart* next to the main entrance. **Reminder, food pantries cannot accept expired donations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 10 at 11:00 a.m. Gospel of Mark Session 3 will discuss Mark chapter 11 through the end of the Gospel.

Sunday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday & Bibles handed out to youth.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt: St. John’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, March 24th following worship! All children are welcome! We will gather the kids after Fellowship to read the Easter story, make a craft, and end with a candy-filled Easter Egg Hunt!

Sign-up sheet for Easter Breakfast is in the Narthex. We are in need of volunteers to bring fruit, desserts, and to help clean and set up. Your time, talent, and dedication are appreciated to make Easter Breakfast a success!

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Holy Week 2024

Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service.

Friday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service.

Easter Sunday, March 31 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services.

9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast.

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Synod Assembly registration is now open. See Pastor Maggie to for details.

St. John Quilting Wishlist. Left over fabric or never used fabric, light weight denim, cotton or flannel sheets, pillow cases, cotton curtains (unlined), cotton shower curtains. If you are interested, come join us! You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

Men's Breakfast. Pastor Will from Trinity in Stettin and St. Peter's in Marathon has invited all men from St. John to meet the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. At LC Restaurant, in Marathon (Formerly the Village Inn).

Book Club Announcement. We will not meet in March to give everyone extra time to read our April book, *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. Date in April TBD.

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 10 – March 17

Today

- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Gospel of Mark, Session 3

March 12

- 8:30 a.m. Quilting
- 9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

March 13

- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service

March 17

- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School