



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

10:30 Service of the Word

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

-from Sundays and Seasons

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's
abiding love.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**Our lives end up oppressing others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Give Thanks

(For music turn to Hymn 12 in the Songbook binder)

Verse

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

Chorus

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us."
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us."**

Repeat Verse and Chorus

Text and music: Henry Smith, Copyright 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; CCLI #20285

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Dialog (Romans 10)

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope, and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading Isaiah 55:10-13

B: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Proverbs 21:2-7 (*read responsively*)

D: All deeds are right in the sight of the doer,
but the LORD weighs the heart.

**C: To do righteousness and justice
is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.**

D: Haughty eyes and a proud heart—
the lamp of the wicked—are sin.

**C: The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,
but everyone who is hasty comes only to want.**

D: The getting of treasures by a lying tongue
is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.

**C: The violence of the wicked will sweep them away,
because they refuse to do what is just.**

Second Reading Romans 8:1-11

E: [Paul writes] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Deuteronomy 30:14)

C: The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart.

Gospel Reading Luke 8:1-21

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Soon afterwards [Jesus] went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, ²as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone

out, ³and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

⁴When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: ⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. ⁷Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" ⁹Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.'" ¹¹"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. ¹⁴As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance. ¹⁶"No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. ¹⁷For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. ¹⁸Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away." ¹⁹Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. ²⁰And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." ²¹But he said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Day by Day
(For music see Hymn 790 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest.**
2. **Day by day, I know you will provide me
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.**
3. **Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.**

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

Special Music

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Gracious God,

C: in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

“For Lent,” adapted, from *Collects and Prayers* (Philadelphia: United Lutheran Publishing House, 1935) 195-196.

O God our heavenly Father, who did so love the world as to give Your Only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life: We give thanks to You for His holy life on earth, for His precious sufferings and death, and for His glorious victory over sin and evil; and we beseech You to grant us a lively faith in Him and a portion in the life which He has obtained for us.

We pray for the holy Church throughout the world. We pray for the ministers of Your Word and sacraments, for the bishop of our synod, and for all who are leaders in our congregation. We pray for the rulers of our state and nation, for our judges and magistrates, asking You that all these in their several callings may serve truly and faithfully Your glory and to the good government of the people; remembering always the strict and solemn account which they must give before the judgment seat of Christ.

We pray for all Christian people, that they may live in Your faith and fear, in dutiful obedience to You and in charity toward one another. We intercede for all who desire, or have need of our prayers: the sick, the sorrowing, the forsaken, and the despondent. We ask You to grant them those spiritual and temporal gifts which will be to their present and eternal welfare.

We pray for ourselves, that, in Your mercy, these holy days may bring anew to our hearts all that our Lord has done for us and for our eternal salvation. We mourn our sinfulness and seek Your forgiveness and grace. Grant that we may ever rejoice in Your love and find strength for life's way, so that we may faithfully carry whatever our cross and steadfastly walk the way set before us with thankful joy, and at last taste

the peace of our Lord's victory in the rest which He has prepared for all who love Him.

We praise You for all those who have departed this life in the faith of Christ, and pray You that we may be made partakers with them in the glorious resurrection unto life everlasting.

All which things we humbly pray in the Name of Him Who humbled Himself, and became obedient to death, even death of the Cross, Jesus Christ, our adorable Savior, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever One God, world without end.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

C: Amen.

P: May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn O God Beyond All Praising

(For music see Hymn 880 in the Red Hymnal)

1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
as blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
2. The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown-
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.
3. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996, copyright 1982, 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company. Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	The Urbanics

Worship assistants for next Sunday, April 6

Greeters and Ushers	Janice Lockwood
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant	Sally Mansfield
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist