



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 9, 2025

AS WE GATHER



Who is the greatest conqueror ever to have walked on earth? Using the criterion of how much territory a conqueror ruled over, the Mongol warrior Genghis Khan could be considered the greatest conqueror in history. At the peak of his power in the thirteenth century AD, his rule extended over 4,860,000 square miles. Coming in at the second spot was the Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great. The borders of his empire in the fourth century BC included much of Europe and North Africa and parts of the Middle East and Asia, which totaled some 2,180,000 square miles. History reveals that those massive empires did not survive long past the deaths of these warrior leaders. In our worship, we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the “Conqueror renowned” (*LSB* 554:1) who “triumphed over cross and grave” (*LSB* 551:4). His coming to earth to bring about a matchless victory for us over evil and all that oppresses us is eternal and limitless!

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Stand

OPENING HYMN

656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 With might of ours can naught be done,
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
Soon were our loss ef - fect ed;
All ea - ger to de - vour us,
Nor an - y thanks have for it;

He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain

That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,

dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,

Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -

is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main eth.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel | Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand



SERVICE OF THE WORD

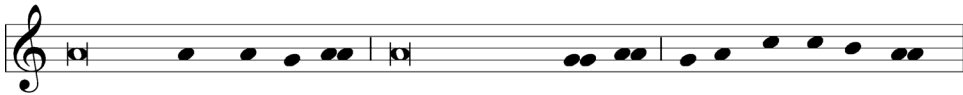
KYRIE



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



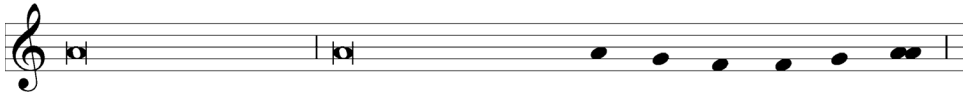
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



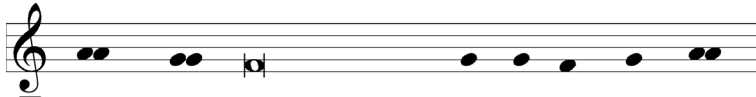
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 3:1–13

A The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 3.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 91:1–13; antiphon: v. 1

L He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

C I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

L For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

C He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

L You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

C **A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.**

L You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.

C **Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.**

L For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

C On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

L You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

A The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 12.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem

to be weaker are indispensable,²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“‘You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.’”

⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’” ¹¹and

“‘On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And

prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal

for our sin, And free us from our past.
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024
Tune: The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635, Edinburgh
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708390
Tune: Public domain

SERMON

Look at the price tag...is it worth it?

Pastor Mark Stapleton

Stand

APOSTLE’S CREED

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Kneel | Silence for reflection.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ and for all people according to their needs.

For the Church, the people of God led from slavery in the wilderness of death to freedom and life through the forgiveness of sin; for boldness to proclaim this saving Gospel to all those still captive; and for strength in the face of temptation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all pastors and church workers, that they be kept in holiness, and for those who receive their ministry that they be brought to faith and sustained in hope, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For courage in the face of temptation, strength in time of test, and hope in the face of despair that nothing may cause our faith to waver from our confidence in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For blessing upon the government and institutions of our land, for the light of God's Word to shine in the wilderness of unbelief, and for peace in our nation and among the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our call committee, may the Holy Spirit guide their discussions and actions as they discern a new shepherd to lead this faith community, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and those who suffer any need of body, mind, or soul, that God grant them healing according to His will and strength to endure their afflictions, [*especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (8:00am)

Cantata Choir of St. John's

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Matthew Culloton (b.1976)

*Create in me a clean heart,
O God and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from me.*



OFFERTORY HYMN

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and tune: Public domain

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.

BENEDICTION

- P

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
- C

Amen.

SOLEMN BELL TOLL

*The congregation is asked to leave the sanctuary in silence
out of observance of the penitential nature of the season of Lent*



*Lenten Worship
Services*

LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE (Dinner 6PM)	Wednesday, Mar. 12, 7PM
LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE (Dinner 6PM)	Wednesday, Mar. 19, 7PM
LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE (Dinner 6PM)	Wednesday, Mar. 26, 7PM
LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE (Dinner 6PM)	Wednesday, Apr. 2, 7PM
LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE (Dinner 6PM)	Wednesday, Apr. 9, 7PM
PALM SUNDAY	Sunday, Apr. 13, 8AM & 10:45 AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY	Thursday, Apr. 17, 7PM
GOOD FRIDAY SUNG PASSION ACCORDING TO JOHN	Friday, Apr. 18, 3PM
TENEBRAE SERVICE	Friday, Apr. 18, 7PM
EASTER SUNDAY WITH CHOIR, BRASS & TIMPANI	Sunday, Apr. 20, 8AM & 10:45AM
EASTER BREAKFAST (BETWEEN SERVICES)	Sunday, Apr. 20, 9-10:30am

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist

Mr. Tom Wykert, Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music

The Cantata Choir (8:00am)

Mark Behnke, Lector (8:00am)

Jackson Almond, Lector (10:45am)

Brady Almond, Acolyte (10:45am)

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE



Looking for an easy way to contribute to the Mission of St. John's Lutheran Church and School? Use this QR Code to be able to give a one-time or recurring donation to the fund of your choice, by credit/debit card, or checking account.

LECTOR MINISTRY

We are always seeking new lectors to join our ministry. If you are interested, please email Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music, at m.brunelle@stjohnslagrange.org. We use Sign Up Genius to schedule our lectors. You just sign up for the service times that fit your schedule.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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EQUIPPING † ENGAGING † ENCOURAGING

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