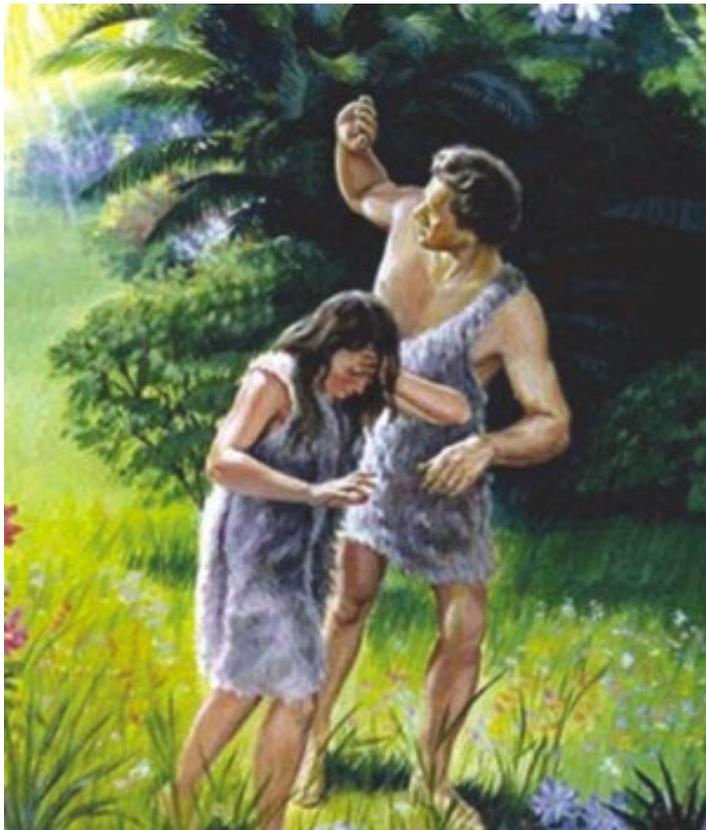




ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026



Adam and Jesus are a study in contrasts. Where man in the Garden of Eden was weak before the devil's wiles, Jesus returns the words of Satan with the Word of God. In so doing, He does not simply repeat words but expresses His trust and confidence in the Father. The Spirit led Jesus to the place of temptation knowing that Jesus knew what Adam forgot. Thanks be to God the error of Adam is not like the gift of God in Christ. What Adam lost, Christ won and not for Himself but for all who believe in Him. The family of sinners born with Adam's sin is contrasted with the sons and daughters of righteousness born of Christ and His atoning work. Everyone suffers from Adam's sin but only those who believe know the saving fruits of Christ's holy obedience.

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

Stand

OPENING HYMN

418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

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 Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635, Edinburgh

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708390

Tune: Public domain

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.

OPENING SENTENCES

P As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

C I have come down to deliver them.

P If anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.

C In [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth.

Kneel

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P I acknowledged my sin to You.

C I did not cover up my iniquity.

P I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

C And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

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.

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

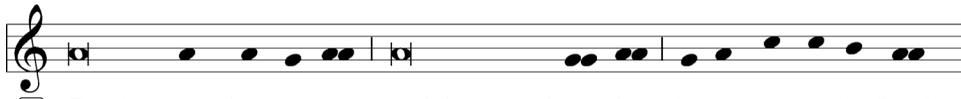
KYRIE



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.**

Ⓐ 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.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;

he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32:1–7

A Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

C Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

- A** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- C** **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- A** I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- C** **Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**
- A** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

EPISTLE

Romans 5:12–19

- A** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 5.

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

- 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.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1–11

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple
⁶and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,” and

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

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

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

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON HYMN

562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall



1 All man - kind fell in Ad - am's fall; One com - mon
2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps And us in
3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, Flow thoughts and
5 As by one man all man - kind fell And, born in



sin in - fects us all. From one to all the
dread - ful bond - age keeps; In guilt we draw our
deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the
sin, was doomed to hell, So by one Man, who



curse de - scends, And o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.
in - fant breath And reap its fruits of woe and death.
dark - ened soul Seeks not nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.
took our place, We all were jus - ti - fied by grace.

SERMON

The Debt is Cancelled

Pastor Mark Stapleton

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

C 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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For a mighty fortress is our God,
C a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, You are our sword and shield against the attacks of Satan. As we journey through this Lenten season, protect us from the assaults of the devil, remind us of our Baptism, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. For a mighty fortress is our God,
C a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, You sent Jesus into our world to bear our temptations and share in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief, [*especially . . .*]. Point them to the hope of resurrection and eternal life with You. For a mighty fortress is our God,
C a sword and shield victorious.
- P** Lord God, we pray for all those who are not yet baptized into Christ, that the Spirit would lead them toward the promises of Baptism and the family of the church.
For a mighty fortress is our God,
C a sword and shield victorious.

P Lord God, we pray for our nation and its leaders. For President Biden and Vice President Harris and their staffs, for Congress and all lawmakers, for the Supreme Court and all judges. We pray that You, Lord, would make Your ways and paths known to them, that You would lead them in the truth and teach them. For a mighty fortress is our God,

C a sword and shield victorious.

P Lord God, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your will.

For a mighty fortress is our God,

C a sword and shield victorious.

P Lord God, we commend all these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers, 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

OFFERING

Ways to Give	IN-PERSON 	MAIL 505 S Park Road La Grange IL 60525	ONLINE VANCO 	zelle  directpay@stjohnslagrang.org
-----------------------------	---	--	--	---

ANTHEM (8:00am)

O GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME

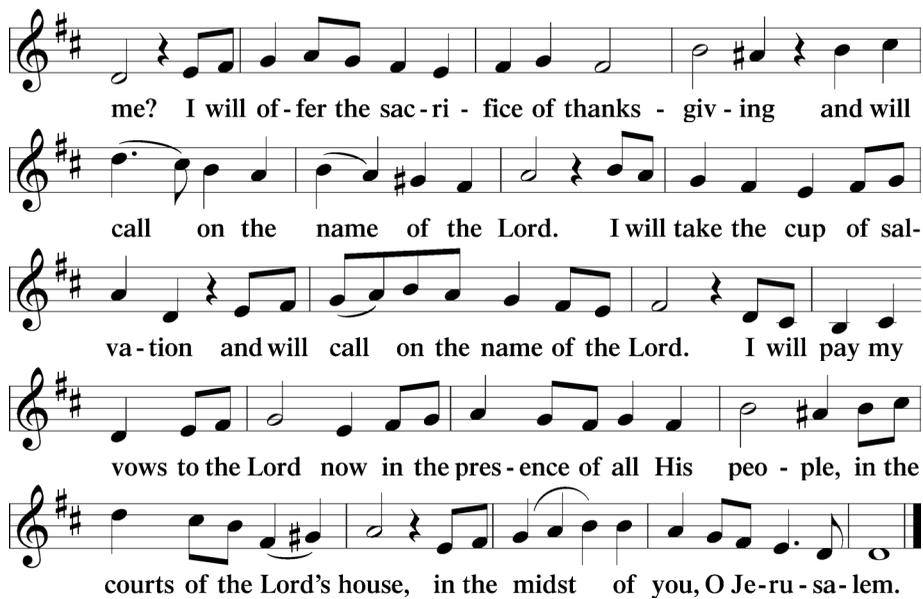
Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)

*O God, be merciful to me. In you, I trust; you are my Savior.
Under the shadow of your wing, I take refuge; each day I trust and hope in you.*

OFFERTORY



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Cantata Choir of St. John's | 8:00am

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Mary and Joseph, the earthly parents of Jesus. From Julie Barnstable

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

The day school here at St. John's has always been a big outreach ministry of our church. Our school is smaller, but our mission remains the same - teaching children and their families about the love of Jesus while providing excellent academic education with a Christian worldview.

Our Preschool has welcomed another full-time student into the class this past week which brings the total number of students up to 15. Our next Open House is scheduled for February 22nd from noon - 2pm.

The Board of Education is thankful for all our faithful volunteers already working with Preschool chapel, music classes and library time. If you would also like to help our school grow, please consider one or more of the following:

- 1) Share a special skill with the preschoolers (such as a craft or art project, a fun activity in the gym, etc.)
- 2) Give or continue to give to the Annual Fund (goes directly to support the school.)
- 3) Participate in TRIP program (goes toward school scholarship fund.)
- 4) Assist with delivery of flyers to local churches and families.
- 5) Pray for the school staff and Board of Education members, as well as more students and families that need to hear the Good News about Jesus.



LENTEN SERMON SERIES:

The Seven Last Words of Christ

WEDNESDAY VESPERS | Wednesday, February 25

6:00pm Fellowship Dinner

7:00pm Service

WEDNESDAY VESPERS | Wednesday, March 4

6:00pm Fellowship Dinner

7:00pm Service

WEDNESDAY VESPERS | Wednesday, March 11

6:00pm Fellowship Dinner

7:00pm Service

WEDNESDAY VESPERS | Wednesday, March 18

6:00pm Fellowship Dinner

7:00pm Service

WEDNESDAY VESPERS | Wednesday, March 25

6:00pm Fellowship Dinner

7:00pm Service

LENTEN VESPERS are evening prayer services held during Lent, focusing on reflection, repentance, and preparation for Easter. Common in Catholic, Lutheran, and Orthodox traditions, these services typically occur on Wednesdays, featuring psalms, scripture, the Magnificat, and prayers that contemplate Christ's passion and sacrifice.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House



MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry at St. John's is entirely supported by the generosity of our congregation through contributions to the Music Fund. This fund enables us to offer uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship and glorifies God.

The three pillars of Christian stewardship—time, talent, and treasure—are essential for any music

program to flourish and grow. In that spirit, the Board of Worship invites you to prayerfully consider supporting the Music Fund. White contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and online donations may also be made.



DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC



Symphonic Wind Ensemble

2026 Tour

Dr. Louis Menchaca, Director

Saturday, February 28
7:00 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church

505 S. Park Rd.

La Grange, Illinois 60525

(708) 354-1690 Ext. 222

m.brunelle@stjohnslagrange.org

Free Will
Offering