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# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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## ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

MARCH 22, 2026



While Lent focuses on Christ's suffering and upcoming death, these Readings turn to the resurrection and life. Ezekiel takes us to the valley of the dry bones, and we hear the promise "you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves" (Ezekiel 37:13). Romans 8 finishes with the promise "He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (v. 11). John 11 tells of Lazarus coming out of the tomb after four days, but the climax comes earlier when Jesus declares He is the resurrection and life. Psalm 130 starts with a cry from the depths to God that asks the Lord to be attentive to our pleas, but it ends with the hope we have in the Lord. Every Sunday, including those in Lent, is a celebration of Christ's resurrection.

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

*Stand*

OPENING HYMN

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to  
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He  
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to  
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,  
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,  
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion  
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts  
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,  
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.  
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.  
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.*

## EXHORTATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

- P** The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting.  
**C** In the morning you shall be filled with bread.
- P** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound.  
**C** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
- P** My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.  
**C** I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger.

*Kneel or sit*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!
- C** O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- P** If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

*Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we cry to You from the depths of our sin. We were born into those depths and need Your Word to call us out of them. We have sinned against You with our thoughts, our words, our actions, and our inactions. We have lived according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. From the depths, we wait for You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, deliver our soul from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling. 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.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. You are precious in His sight because Christ is in you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

*Stand*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

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### 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.



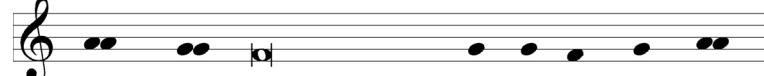
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



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.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

**L** The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 37.

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.'

<sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open

your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 130*

**L** Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

**C** **If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,**

**O Lord, who could stand?**

**But with you there is forgiveness,**

**that you may be feared.**

**L** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

**C** **O Israel, hope in the LORD!**

**For with the LORD there is steadfast love,**

**and with him is plentiful redemption.**

**And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

## EPISTLE

*Romans 8:1–11*

**L** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 8.

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For 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 for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For 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. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

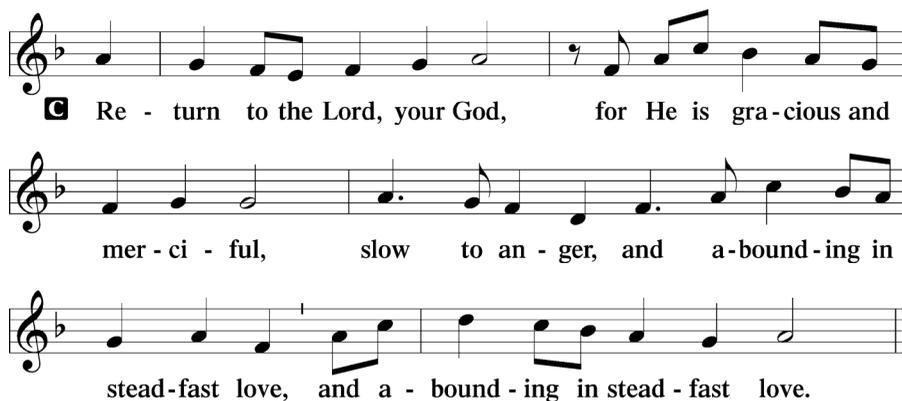
<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

**L** 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

*John 11:1-44*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he

whom you love is ill.”<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

<sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” <sup>11</sup> After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” <sup>13</sup> Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup> So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup> Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus

wept. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days."

<sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

<sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

<sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

SERMON HYMN

819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -  
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is  
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy  
4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood  
keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness  
a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our  
His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom  
And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and  
Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:  
of His might All things are just and good and right:  
praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:  
ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:



To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3); tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4); tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt.  
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615  
Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

## How Strong is Your Faith?

Pastor Mark Stapleton

## SOLO

## GETHSEMANE

Melanie Hoffman (b.1957)

Sofie Hemminger, *soprano*

Rebecca Hemminger, *piano*

*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** Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, as you raised Lazarus from the dead, we turn to you in our need. We pray that You look upon us with the same compassion you showed to Martha and Mary. Lord, You are the Resurrection and the Life; speak a word of power into our troubled world, commanding the darkness to leave and life to return. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, amid both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [*name(s)*] and all who are in need, always praying for them: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OFFERING

<b>Ways to Give</b>	<b>IN-PERSON</b>	<b>MAIL</b>	<b>ONLINE</b>		<b>zelle</b>	
		505 S Park Road La Grange IL 60525	<b>VANCO</b>			

## ANTHEM (10:45am)

### WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

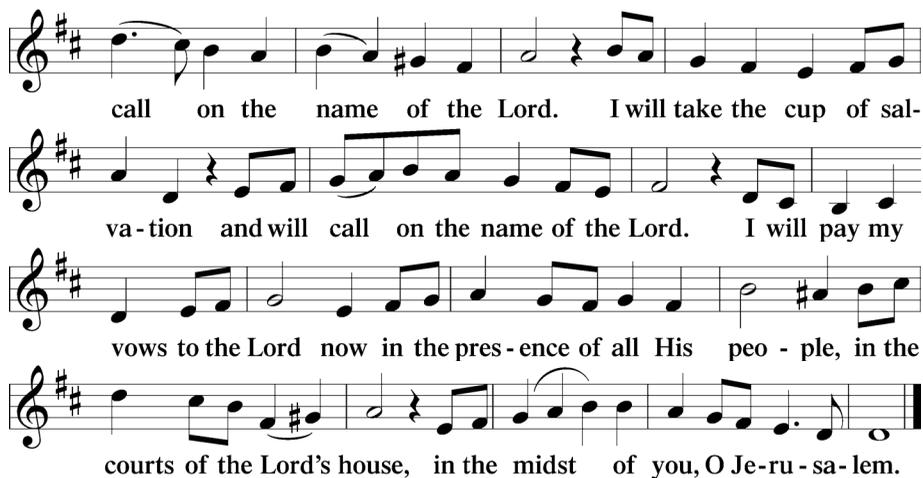
Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died.  
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.  
Lord, that I should boast, save the death of Christ, my God!*

## 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 | 10:45am

JoAnn Pyritz, Lector, 8:00am | Mary Grether, Lector, 10:45am

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Are given to the Glory to God and in celebration and gratitude from John and Connie O'Brien for the many blessings they have received.

## **ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL NEWS**

*"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6*

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is well underway here at St. John's. We are so grateful to God for continuing to send us families that want their children to be at a Christ-centered school. We hope you enjoyed the video of our adorable preschoolers singing to their Very Important People on VIP day during Lutheran Schools Week.

The Board of Education is thankful for all our faithful volunteers already working with Special Events, Preschool chapel, music classes and library time. To support our growing school, please consider one or more of the following:

- 1) Recommend our Preschool and Kindergarten to your family, friends and neighbors.
- 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.
- 6) Volunteer to help at a Special Event - look for information coming soon about an outdoor Petting Zoo and Spring Break VBS.

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.

# LENTEN SERMON SERIES:

The Seven Last Words of Christ

WEDNESDAY VESPERS | Wednesday, March 25

6:00pm Fellowship Dinner | 7:00pm Service

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY

AT ST. JOHN'S

### holy Week

#### PALM SUNDAY

8:00am & 10:45am (*Cantata Choir*)

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00pm (*Cantata Choir*)

#### GOOD FRIDAY SUNG PASSION ACCORDING TO JOHN

3:00pm (*Cantata Choir*)

#### GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE WITH THE SUNG PASSION

7:00pm (*Cantata Choir*)

### EASTER SUNDAY

#### EASTER SUNDAY WITH CHOIR, BRASS & TIMPANI

8:00am & 10:45am

#### EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST (*Between Services*)

9:00am to 10:30am

