



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 2026



It often seems that life is a debate about the things we do not know. What is truth? What is right and wrong? Where is God? None of these questions are theoretical and all of them are answered in Christ, whom we know as Savior and Redeemer. The Law reveals the depth of our need and our sinful hearts. Christ makes known the love of the Father. Gathered in worship, we meet where Christ is—in His Word and Sacraments. Faith is not about what we do not know but about what we do know. Christ is our all. He fulfills the promise of the Old Testament and completes our redemption.

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

Stand

OPENING HYMN

855 For All the Faithful Women



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en Who served in days of old,
 2 Re - call the out - cast wom - an With whom the Lord con-versed;
 3 O God, for saints and ser - vants, Those named and those un - known
 △ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



To You shall thanks be giv - en; To all, their sto - ry told.
 Christ gave her liv - ing wa - ter To quench her deep - est thirst.
 In whom through all the a - ges Your light of glo - ry shone,
 All praise the Ho - ly Spir - it, Who binds the Church in one!



They served with strength and glad - ness In tasks Your wis - dom gave.
 Like hers, our hearts are yearn - ing; Christ of - fers us His Word.
 We of - fer glad thanks - giv - ing And fer - vent prayer we raise
 With saints who went be - fore us, With saints who wit - ness still,



To You their lives bore wit - ness, Pro - claimed Your pow'r to save.
 Then may our lips be burn - ing To wit - ness to our Lord.
 That, faith - ful in Your ser - vice, Our lives may sing Your praise.
 We sing glad Al - le - lu - ias And strive to do Your will.

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 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

C whose sin is covered.

P For to everyone who has will more be given,

C and he will have an abundance.

P I will pass over you,

C and no plague will befall you to destroy you.

Kneel or sit

Silence for meditation and reflection

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Blessed are those who dwell in Your house ever singing Your praise!

C Blessed are those whose strength is in You, in whose hearts are the highways to Zion.

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.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



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



G 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.



G 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 God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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

Exodus 17:1-7

A The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, chapter 17.

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 95:1–9; antiphon: v. 6

L Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

C Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

L For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

C In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

L The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

C Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

L For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

C Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

L when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

EPISTLE

Romans 5:1–8

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 5.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

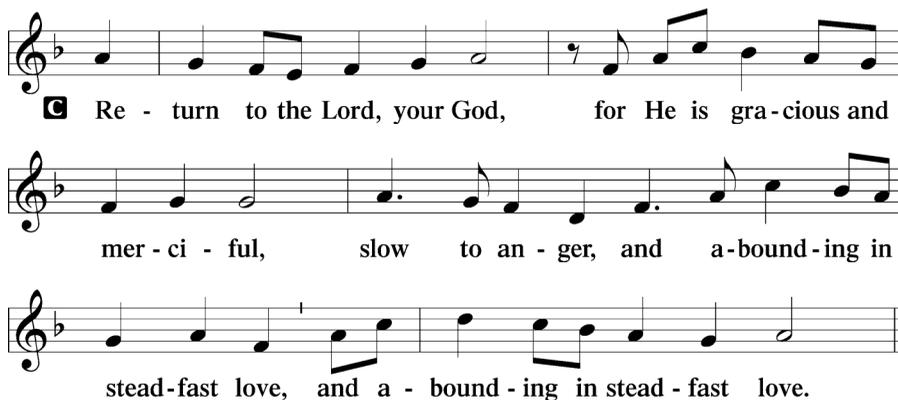
⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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. John, the fourth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **G** Praise to You, O Christ.



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
 2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -
 4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you
 ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all
 mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,
 fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
 glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
 Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the
 All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.
 Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
 last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

SERMON

God...Where are You?

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 the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For our American troops who are at war in Iran. Strengthen them physically and mentally. When fear rises - give them courage. When exhaustion sets in - give them endurance. When they feel isolated - remind them they are not alone. Be with their families back home. Calm their fears. Give them peace as they wait and pray. Surround them with support and comfort, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For those who are sick, [*especially . . . and*], all who are injured or suffer in body or soul, that God grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and trust, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

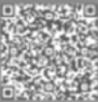
P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest.

Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

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

ANTHEM (10:45am)

HYMN OF MERCY

Dan Forrest (b.1978)

*Gracious Lord, Thy mercy filleth All the earth below:
And from heaven's throne it falleth when to Thee I go.*

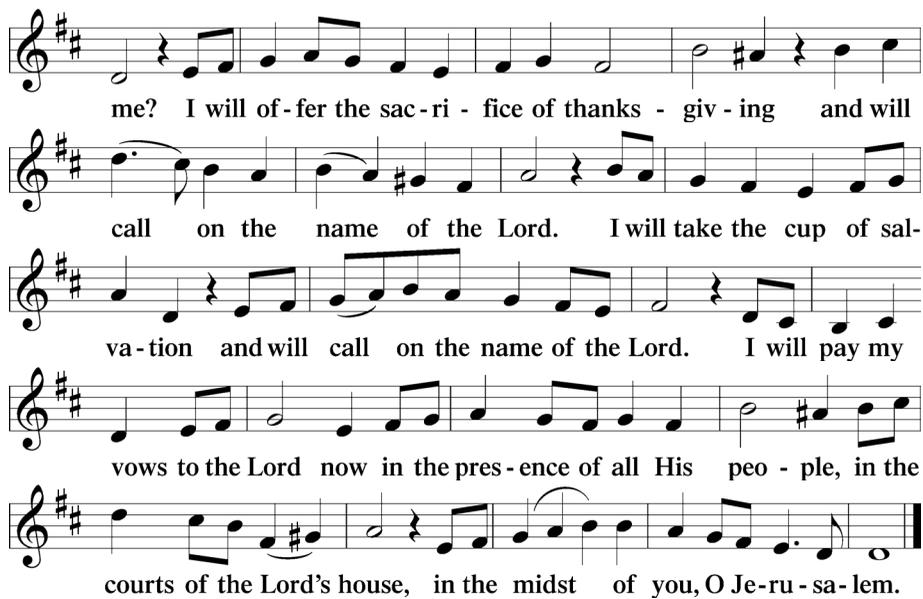
Christina Lass Moore, *flute*

Dana Shinneman, *piano*

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

Sue Kunz, Lector | 8:00am

Sherrie Smith, Lector | 10:45am

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 1 | Flowers at the Altar were given to the Glory of God by Charlie Becker in memory of his wonderful, loving wife Claudia.

March 8 | Flowers at the Altar are given to the glory of God by Amy Strombom in celebration of her son Camillo Strombom's 21st birthday on March 10th.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

The School Board is very happy to announce that another full-time student has joined the preschool class this past week, bringing the total number up to 16. We are so grateful to God for continuing to send us families that want their children to be at a Christ-centered school.

The Board of Education is thankful for all of our faithful volunteers already working with Special Events, 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) 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 a Family-friendly Magician, 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 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.

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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. JOHN'S



holy week

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 29 at 8:00am & 10:45am (*Cantata Choir*)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2 @ 7:00pm (*Cantata Choir*)

GOOD FRIDAY SUNG PASSION ACCORDING TO JOHN

Friday, April 3 @ 3:00pm (*Cantata Choir*)

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE WITH THE SUNG PASSION

Friday, April 3 @ 7:00pm (*Cantata Choir*)

EASTER SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY WITH CHOIR, BRASS & TIMPANI

Sunday, April 5 @ 8:00am & 10:45am

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST (*Between Services*)

Sunday, April 5 from 9:00am to 10:30am



EQUIPPING ✝ ENGAGING ✝ ENCOURAGING

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

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