



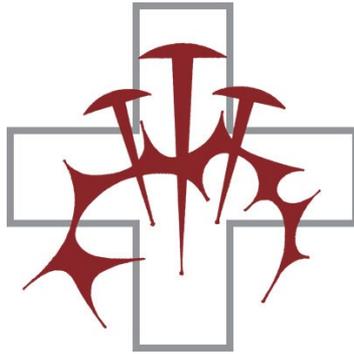
St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

8 a.m. Worship



TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ... go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/> Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.

Called to Trust the Promise

Today we hear God's call to step forward in faith, trusting His promises even when the way ahead is unclear. Lent is a season of holy invitation, away from self-reliance and toward deeper dependence on God's grace. As we gather in worship today, may the Spirit open our hearts to trust God's leading, to surrender what we cling to, and to walk confidently in the promise of the new life He freely gives.

Preparation for Worship and Welcome

Hymn

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”

LSB 571

God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

Invocation and Exhortation

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Confession and Absolution

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 105:4-7; antiphon: Ps. 105:8

He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the 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.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1-9

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 4:1-8,13-17

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many

nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

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

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

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

[Jesus said:] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand
of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Message Alaine Massey and Jessica Theimer

Hymn

“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”

LSB 708

Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
 With tender mercy cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share.
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare
 If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.
 Thou art the portion I have sought;
 Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
 In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify Thy lavish grace
 And help and serve my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile;
Let Satan not my soul defile.
 Give strength and patience unto me
 To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.

Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Lord's Prayer

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.

The Words of Institution

Pax Domini

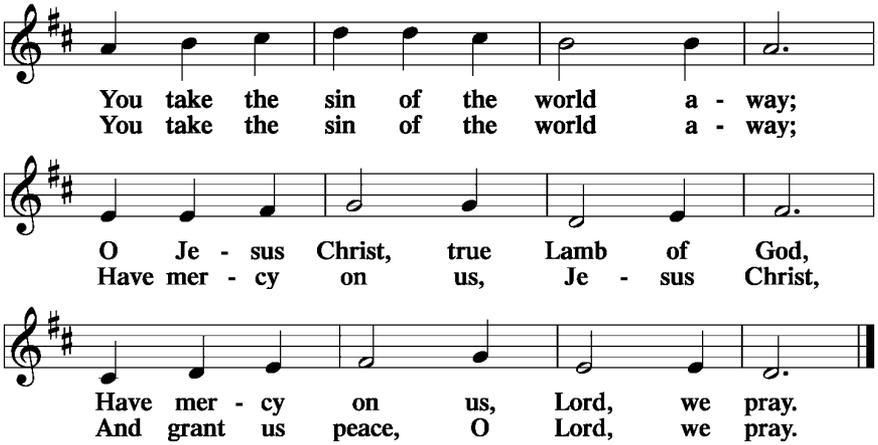
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymns

“The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord”

LSB 634

The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 We celebrate with one accord;
 It is our comfort in distress,
 Our heart’s sweet joy and happiness.

He blotted out with His own blood
 The judgment that against us stood;
 For us He full atonement made,
 And all our debt He fully paid.

That this forever true shall be
 He gives a solemn guarantee:
 In this His holy Supper here
 We taste His love so sweet, so near.

His Word proclaims and we believe
 That in this Supper we receive
 His very body, as He said,
 His very blood for sinners shed.

We dare not ask how this can be,
 But simply hold the mystery
 And trust this word where life begins:
 “Given and shed for all your sins.”

They who this word do not believe
This food unworthily receive,
Salvation here will never find—
May we this warning keep in mind!

But blest is each believing guest
Who in these promises finds rest;
For Jesus shall in love remain
With all who here His grace obtain.

Help us sincerely to believe
That we may worthily receive
Your Supper and in You find rest.
Amen! They who believe are blest.

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB 423

Jesus, refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life’s desert dreary,
Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,
Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
You have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us
Calms the sinner’s deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior’s side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

All who believe and are baptized
 Shall see the Lord’s salvation;
 Baptized into the death of Christ,
 They are a new creation.
 Through Christ’s redemption they shall stand
 Among the glorious, heav’nly band
 Of ev’ry tribe and nation.

With one accord, O God, we pray:
 Grant us Your Holy Spirit.
 Help us in our infirmity
 Through Jesus’ blood and merit.
 Grant us to grow in grace each day
 That by this sacrament we may
 Eternal life inherit.

Nunc Dimittis

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.

C Amen.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the love of God enfold you. May the grace of God uphold you.

May the power of God set you free to love and serve all God's people.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“Jesus, Lead Thou On”

LSB 718

Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand
To our fatherland.

If the way be drear,
If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many_a woe
To our home we go.

When we seek relief
From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore
Where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won.
Heav’nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand
In our fatherland.

Announcements

Lenten Supper

Wednesday, March 4th, 5:00 – 6:30

Hosted by St. John's Men's Group

St. John's Lutheran School Open House

St. John's Lutheran School will be hosting an Open House on March 7, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. We serve students in Grades Preschool through 8th and are now accepting applications for the 2026–2027 school year.

Operetta

The students of St. John's Lutheran School will be presenting the operetta, "Giddyup, Giddalong, Gideon". The musical based on the account of Gideon from Judges 6-8 in the Bible. The play will be performed on Friday, March 13th at 1:30 pm & 7:00 pm in the school gymnasium. All are welcome to come. A freewill offering will be taken at the door.



EASTER LILIES

TO CELEBRATE THE
RESURRECTION OF
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,
JESUS CHRIST

If you wish to purchase an Easter lily for Easter Sunday, April 5th, please fill out and return your order form with payment to the church office by Wednesday, March 18th. Order forms can be found outside the church office on the bulletin board. Order Details are provided on the order forms; should you have questions please contact Robin Steinke at 989.859.7148.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group at Grand Traverse Pie

Company meets every week at 8am. Come and join us for fellowship and breakfast as we study the book of Matthew. Currently embracing Matthew 7:11, “strengthen and enlarge your heart by exercise of the Golden Rule.” For questions, please see Mike & Deb Stark and Steve Kamin. All are welcome!

Women of St John's

The next Women of St John's meeting will be held on **Monday, March 9** at 12:30pm. We meet in Room 2. We invite all women to join us as we discuss plans for future projects.

Journey Through When From Death I'm Free Hymn Journal for Holy Week This Lent

Monday, March 16th, Lounge, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

No Expertise Required Enroll today by adding your name and email to the sign-up sheet located in the office or e-mail Linda Bebeau at llsmb@chartermi.net. All materials will be supplied for in-class use.

LHM

Thanks to your generosity during the Lutheran Hour Ministries door offering in February, we were able to send a check for \$534 to LHM to support their mission work. LHM.org

St. John's Lutheran Church & School
Website QRC:



(989) 835-5861
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Church Secretary: Kate, Carissa,
Kathy
(ext. 1203)

Senior Pastor: Daniel Kempin
(ext. 1201)

Associate Pastor: Joshua Parsons
(ext. 1202)

Dir. of Family Life: Anna Kruger
(ext. 1204)

School Secretary: Sarah Graham
(ext. 1301)

School Principal: Brad Massey
(ext. 1300)

Business Manager: Kris Zastrow
(ext. 1206)

Dir. of Worship Music: Karen Kempin
(ext. 1205)