



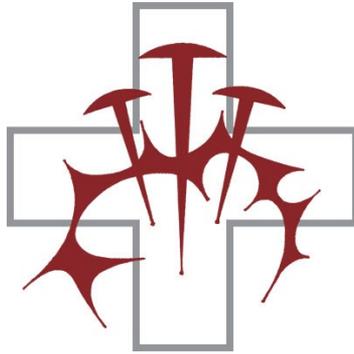
St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

10:45 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.

"Our God"

Words and Music by Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, Christ Tomlin and Jesse Reeves
©2010 Atlas Mountain Songs | Rising Springs Music | Thankyou Music | Vamos Publishing | worshiptogether.com
songs

Water You turned into wine,
Opened the eyes of the blind;
There's no one like You,
None like You.

Into the darkness You shine,
Out of the ashes, we rise;
There's no one like You, none like You.

Chorus: Our God is greater, our God is stronger;
God, You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer, awesome in power,
Our God, Our God.

(Repeat from the beginning)

Bridge (2x): And if our God is for us,
Then who could ever stop us,
And if our God is with us,
Then what could stand against?

What could stand against?

Chorus 2x

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

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

C God of compassion, in Jesus Christ You did not disdain the company of sinners but welcomed them with love. Look upon us in mercy, we pray. Our sins are more than we can bear; our pasts enslave us; our misdeeds are beyond correcting. Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo; free us from a past we cannot change; heal what we can no longer fix. Grace our lives with Your love and turn the tears of our past into the joys of new life with You. Amen.

P The Lord God said: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Brothers and sisters: In Christ, all of God's promises are "Yes." Hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed. Take heart, your sins are forgiven!

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.

Collect of the Day

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.**

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

♪ "No Longer Slaves"

Words and Music by Jonathan David Helsler, Brian Johnson and Joel Case
©2014 Bethel Music Publishing

You unravel me with a melody. You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies till all my fears are gone.

Chorus: I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.
I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.

From my Mother's womb You have chosen me;
Love has called my name.
I've been born again into Your family;
Your blood flows through my veins. (*Chorus 2x*)

Instrumental

Bridge (2x): You split the sea so I could walk right through it.
 My fears were drowned in perfect love.
 You rescued me so I could stand and sing:
 I am a child of God.

I am a child of God. I am a child of God.

Chorus: I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.
 I'm no longer a slave to fear; I am a child of God.

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

The 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.**

Communion Preparation

P Let us pray.

**C You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your
 Son, our Lord. He took upon Himself the weight of our sin and
 carried the burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way,
 and, though tempted, was sinless to the end. Baptized as a sinner in
 our place, He went willingly to His death and by Your power was
 raised to new life. In His dying and rising, You delivered us from
 slavery to sin and death and made with us a new covenant in this
 holy meal.**

The Words of Institution

♪ “He Will Hold Me Fast”

Words and Music by Ada Habershon and Matthew Merker
©2013 Getty Music Publishing | Matthew Merker Music

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life’s fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus: He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He’ll not let my soul be lost; His Promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. *(Chorus)*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last! *(Chorus 2x)*

♪ “Always”

Words and Music by Kristian Stanfill and Jason Ingram
© 2010 sixsteps Music | worshiptogether.com songs | Spirit Nashville Three | So Essential Tunes

My foes are many, they rise against me,
But I will hold my ground.
I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm;
My help is on the way, my help is on the way.

Chorus: Oh, my God, He will not delay;
My refuge and strength always.
I will not fear; His promise is true,
My God will come through always, always.

Trouble surrounds me, chaos abounding;
My soul will rest in You.
I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm;
My help is on the way, my help is on the way. *(Chorus)*

Bridge (4x): I lift my eyes up; my help comes from the Lord.

Chorus: Oh, my God, He will not delay;
My refuge and strength always.

I will not fear; His promise is true,
My God will come through always, always.

Ending: Oh, my God, He will not delay;
My refuge and strength always. Always.

Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to 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.

"God So Loved"

Words and Music by Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash and Andrew Berghold
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Designee | We The Kingdom Music

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty.
Come to the well that never runs dry.
Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners, come find His mercy.
Come to the table; He will satisfy.
Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for.

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.
Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us.

Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

The power of hell forever defeated.
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.
For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.

Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.
For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save.

For God so loved the world that He gave us.
His one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.
The power of hell forever defeated.
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.
For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.

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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facebook.com/sjlmidland

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)