



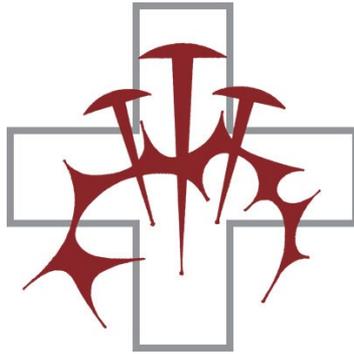
St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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.

From Darkness to Light

Today we rejoice in the gracious work of God who opens our eyes and leads us from darkness into light. In the midst of our Lenten journey of repentance and reflection, Christ meets us with healing mercy and transforming truth. As we worship today, may the Light of the world illumine our hearts, restore our sight, and draw us into a deeper faith that trusts not in what we see, but in the saving grace of God.

Preparation for Worship and Welcome

Hymn

“Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten”

LSB 914

Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten
Radiance of the Father’s face,
Word made flesh, who lived among us
Full of truth and full of grace,
Shine upon our human darkness;
Pierce the night that shrouds our race.

Word eternal, through Your being
God created all we see,
When the empty spaces echoed
With the Father’s “Let there be . . .”
Light and life burst from the glorious
Power of Your majesty!

Still Your brooding Spirit hovers
Over chaos, dark and deep,
Calling out with invitation:
“Rise, awaken from your sleep;
Christ the Lord will shine upon you
And from death your soul shall keep.”

Come, Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit
In our hearts Your work begin,
Bring the healing restoration
Of Your image lost by sin;
From Your fullness all receiving
Grace on grace, new life within!

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. 27:4-6; antiphon: Ps. 25:15

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a
rock.

**And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

**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.**

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

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-shipped 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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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

Isaiah 42:14-21

For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8-14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

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.



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



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



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

Holy Gospel

John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39

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

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

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

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

Deacon Townley

Hymn

“O Son of God, in Galilee”

LSB 841

O Son of God, in Galilee
You made the deaf to hear,
The mute to speak, the blind to see;
O blessed Lord, be near.

O listen to the silent prayer
Of Your afflicted ones.
O bid them cast on You their care;
Your grace to them make known.

The speechless tongue, the lifeless ear
You can restore, O Lord;
Your “Ephphatha,” O Savior dear,
Can instant help afford.

Meanwhile to them the list'ning ear
Of steadfast faith impart,
And let Your Word bring light and cheer
To ev'ry troubled heart.

Then in Your promised happy land
Each loss will prove a gain;
All myst'ries we shall understand,
For You will make them plain.

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



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



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

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB 620

Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off’ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
“Come and taste the blessed feast.”

Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,

Blood and body, giv'n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursèd tree.

God descends with heav'nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

LSB 697

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
And Christ shall give you light;
So learn His love, its length and breadth,
Its fullness, depth, and height.

To us on earth He came to bring
From sin and fear release,
To give the Spirit's unity,
The very bond of peace.

Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
Who died that He might save;
With kind and gentle hearts forgive
As God in Christ forgave.

For us Christ lived, for us He died,
 And conquered in the strife;
 Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
 And Christ shall give you life.

“Amazing Grace”

LSB 744

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
 That saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost but now am found,
 Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,
 His Word my hope secures;
 He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
 I have already come;
 His grace has brought me safe thus far,
 His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
 And mortal life shall cease,
 Amazing grace shall then prevail
 In heaven’s joy and peace.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
 Than when we’d first begun.

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 I give thee peace.

C Amen.

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May God, who by His power raised from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, hold You in His love, surround you with His presence, give you

grace for every need, and present you whole and holy in the day of
Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Hymn

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

LSB 922

Go, My children, with My blessing,

Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you;

You are My own.

In My love’s baptismal river

I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing—

You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven,

At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you,

What I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son’s story;

Here you touched Him, saw His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven,

At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished,

Closer to Me;

Grow in love and love by serving,

Joyful and free.

Here My Spirit’s power filled you;

Here His tender comfort stilled you.

Go, My children, fed and nourished,

Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you

And give you peace;

I the Lord will smile upon you

And give you peace:

I the Lord will be your Father,

Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, My children; I will keep you

And give you peace.

Announcements

Lenten Supper

Wednesday, March 18th, 5:00 – 6:30

Serving picnic foods, including hot dogs, chips, picnic salads, and desserts.

Proceeds to benefit the St. John's SOCIAL MINISTRY Dedicated Fund.



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.

Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 4th at 10am

CANDY needed! Donations can be dropped in the front office or Anna's office. Thank you!

Acknowledgments

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

Our Mission Statement

"We are here to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 28:18-20) and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This mission begins with our St. John's family and extends to the Midland Community and the world."