



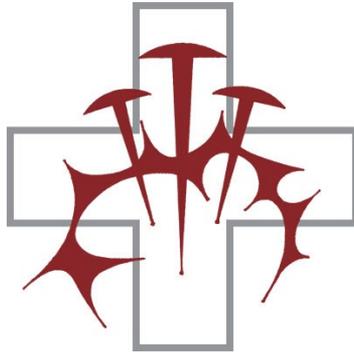
# St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 15, 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.*

# 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.*

## ♪ “Bless God”

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Words and Music by Brandon Lake, Brooke Ligertwood and Cody Carnes  
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Blessed are those who run to Him,  
Who place their hope and confidence in Jesus.  
He won't forsake them.  
Blessed are those who seek His face,  
Who bend their knee and fix their gaze on Jesus.  
They won't be shaken.

Chorus 1: Come on and praise the Lord with me.  
Sing if you love His name.  
Come on and lift your voice with me.  
He's worthy of all our praise.

Blessed are those who walk with Him,  
Whose hearts are set on pilgrimage with Jesus.  
They'll see His glory.  
Blessed are those who die to live,  
Whose joy it is to give it all for Jesus  
And for Him only. Oh Jesus, all for Your glory.

Chorus 2: Come on and praise the Lord with me.  
Sing if you love His name.  
Come on and lift your voice with me.  
He's worthy of all our praise.  
Come on and bring your offering.  
Sing if you've known His grace.  
Come on and lift up your holy hands.  
He's worthy of all our praise.

Bridge: Bless God in the sanctuary.  
Bless God in the fields of plenty.  
Bless God in the darkest valley.  
Every chance I get, I bless Your name.

Bless God when my hands are empty.  
Bless God with a praise that costs me.  
Bless God when nobody's watching.  
Every chance I get, I bless Your name.

Bless God when the weapon's forming.  
Bless God when the walls are falling.  
Bless God, 'cause He goes before me.  
Every chance I get, I bless Your name.

Bless God for He holds the victory.  
Bless God for He's always with me.  
Bless God for He's always worthy.  
Every chance I get, I bless Your name.  
(Every chance I get, I bless Your name.)

Chorus 2: Come on and praise the Lord with me.  
Sing if you love His name.  
Come on and lift your voice with me.  
He's worthy of all our praise.  
Come on and bring your offering.  
Sing if you've known His grace.  
Come on and lift up your holy hands.  
He's worthy of all our praise.

Ending: He's worthy of all our praise. He's worthy of all our praise.

## 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 **Righteous God, in Christ You became sin for us. But we confess that too often we ignore our sin. We keep silent about the sin that clings to us. Forgive us. In Christ take away our iniquity. You are our stronghold, our hiding place. Today we confess our sins, that we might then rejoice and be glad in You, Amen.**  
P Hear the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## 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.

## Collect of the Day

**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.**

## 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

### "You Alone Can Rescue"

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Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin

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Who, O Lord, could save themselves,  
Their own soul could heal?  
Our shame was deeper than the sea.  
Your grace is deeper still.

Who, O Lord, could save themselves,  
Their own soul could heal?  
Our shame was deeper than the sea.  
Your grace is deeper still.

Chorus: And You alone can rescue, You alone can save.  
You alone can lift us from the grave.  
You came down to find us, led us out of death.  
To You alone belongs the highest praise.

You, O Lord, have made a way.  
The great divide, You healed.  
For when our hearts were far away,  
Your love went further still.  
Yes, Your love goes further still (*Chorus*)

To You alone belongs the highest praise.

**(8x)** We lift up our eyes, lift up our eyes.  
You're the giver of life.

And You alone can rescue, You alone can save.  
You alone can lift us from the grave.  
You came down to find us, led us out of death.  
To You alone belongs the highest praise.  
To you alone belongs the highest praise.  
To you alone belongs the highest praise.  
To you alone.

## 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** With joy we praise You, gracious God, for You have created  
heaven and earth, made us in Your image, and kept covenant with  
us. We give You thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose grace  
we may triumph over temptation, be more fervent in prayer, and  
be more generous in love. Therefore we join our voices with all the  
saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of  
Your name. Amen.

### The Words of Institution

#### “God Who Bleeds”

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Words and Music by Cara Berg, Benji Cowart, Jon Gruen, Matt Preston, Isaac Watts, arr. by Alex Namarro  
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O my soul, who could ever know  
How deep my sins go?  
O my soul.

All the gold on the earth could never pay  
For the debt that I have made,  
On my soul.

Chorus: Now I see just how great my need,  
In His hands and in His feet.  
Lamb of God, oh, my soul shall sing,  
Hallelujah to the God who bleeds.

Oh, what love, knew I'd never have enough,  
So He chose to pay in blood,  
Oh what love.

I'm in awe, every earthly gain is lost,  
At the wonder of the cross  
Oh what love. (*Chorus*)

Bridge (2x): See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow down for me.  
Forever all my praise will be,  
Glory to the God who bleeds.

Chorus: Now I see just how great my need,  
In His hands and in His feet.  
Lamb of God, oh, my soul shall sing,  
Hallelujah to the God who bleeds.

Hallelujah to the God who bleeds.

## **“Way Maker”**

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Words and Music by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu  
©2016 Integrity Music

You are here, moving in our midst; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are here, working in this place; I worship You, I worship You. (repeat)

You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are. (repeat)

You are here, touching every heart; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are here, healing every heart; I worship You, I worship You.

You are here, turning lives around; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are here, mending every heart; I worship You, I worship You Lord.

You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are. (repeat)

That is who You are.  
That is who You are.  
That is who You are.  
That is who You are. (repeat)

(You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are. (repeat)

Even when I don't see it, You're working.  
Even when I don't feel it, You're working.  
You never stop, You never stop working.  
You never stop, You never stop working. (repeat several times)

(You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are. (repeat)  
That is who You are.  
That is who You are.  
That is who You are.  
That is who You are. (repeat)

## **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 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.**

# 🎵 “There’s Nothing That Our God Can’t Do”

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Words and Music by Brandon Lake, Kristian Stanfill and Jonathan Smith

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worshipitogether.com songs | Be Essential Songs | Cashagamble Jet Music | Bethel Music Publishing

Just one word, You calm the storm that surrounds me.  
Just one word, The darkness has to retreat.  
Just one touch, I feel the presence of heaven.  
Just one touch, My eyes were opened to see.  
My heart can't help but believe.

There's nothing that our God can't do,  
There's not a mountain that He can't move.  
Oh, praise the name that makes a way!  
There's nothing that our God can't do.

Just one word, You heal what's broken inside me.  
Just one word, and you revive ev'ry dream.  
Just one touch, I feel the power of heaven.  
Just one touch, My eyes were opened to see.  
My heart can't help but believe.

There's nothing that our God can't do.  
There's not a mountain that He can't move.  
Oh, praise the name that makes a way!  
There's nothing that our God can't do.

There's nothing that our God can't do.  
There's not a prison wall He can't break through.  
Oh, praise the name that makes a way!  
There's nothing that our God can't do.

**Bridge (2x):**     I will believe for greater things  
                          There's no power like the power of Jesus  
                          Let faith arise let all agree  
                          There's no power like the power of Jesus

I will believe for greater things  
There's no power like the power of Jesus  
Let faith arise let all agree  
There's no power like His power.

There's nothing that our God can't do.  
There's not a mountain that He can't move.

Oh, praise the name that makes a way!  
There's nothing that our God can't do.

There's nothing that our God can't do.  
There's not a prison wall He can't break through.  
Oh, praise the name that makes a way!  
There's nothing that our God can't do. Oh!

## Announcements

### Lenten Supper

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup>, please fill out and return your order form with payment to the church office by Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

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

### 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."