



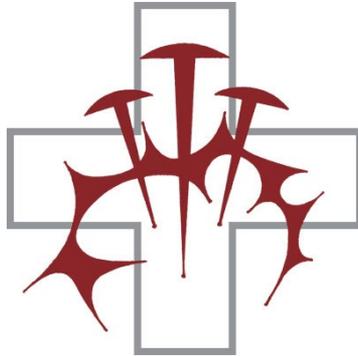
St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 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 Death to Life

Today we stand at the threshold of both grief and hope as Jesus speaks life into places that seem beyond redemption. Lent has led us through honest reflection on sin, loss, and human frailty, and today we hear the promise that death does not have the final word. As we worship, may Christ's voice call us out of all that binds us, strengthen our trust in Him who is the resurrection and the life, and prepare our hearts for the victory that is to come.

"Christ Is Risen"

Words and Music by Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson and Matt Brock
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Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame,
But fix our eyes upon the cross,
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us, freely You've bled for us.

Chorus: Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.
Christ is risen from the dead,
We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake,
Come and rise up from the grave.

Beneath the weight of all our sin,
You bowed to none but heaven's will;
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown,
No burden great can hold You down.
In strength You reign; Forever let Your church proclaim: *(Chorus)*

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light;
The glory of God has defeated the night. Singing:

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light;
Our God is not dead; He's alive, He's alive! *(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 Search me, O God, and know my heart;

C **Try me and know my thoughts.**

P See if there is any wicked way in me,

C **And lead me in the way everlasting.**

P Lord, we confess.

C **We confess that sometimes we doubt, that sometimes we question You. We confess that sometimes our faith is not what it should be. We confess that during trials and suffering we struggle with worship, with prayer, and with the things You have called us to do. We confess that doubt creeps in, because we do not keep our eyes, our ears, and our minds focused on You, Jesus. We confess that often our focus is more on the world than it is on Your Kingdom. We confess and repent of our ways, Lord, ways that do not put You first in our lives.**

P God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In Him, your sins are forgiven. Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 116:1-4, 8; antiphon: Ps. 116:15

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

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.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your

people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and 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.

Handbell Choir

“A Prayer on Slane”

arr. Honore

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law

of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 11:17-27,38-53

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

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

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the

people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed

**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 T everlasting. Amen.**

♪ “Look to the Lamb”

Words and Music by Bryan Torwalt, Lindy Cofer, Mitch Wong and Tommy Iceland
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Songs for TIM | Torwalt music Publishing Global | A Wong Made Write Publishing | Integrity's Praise! Music

There's only one Name that is worthy.
There's only one King on the throne.
He is the light of our salvation.
All praise belongs to Him alone.

There's only one way to the Father,
One love that melts a heart of stone.
He is the life and resurrection.
All praise belongs to Him alone.

Chorus: Look to the Lamb.
See the Son of God, the Savior crucified.
See the crown of thorns, the nails, His wounded side.
He is worthy. Look to the Lamb.
See the One who is forever glorified.
There is love and there is fire in His eyes.
He is worthy. He is worthy.

He is the Alpha and Omega.
He was and is and is to come.
He will return to shouts of glory.

His name is Jesus Christ, our God.
His name is Jesus Christ, our God. (*Chorus*)

Bridge (2x): The elders bow, the creatures cry,
Saints and angels glorify.
The anthem echoes day and night, “Worthy.”
Eyes like fire, hair like wool,
Voice like many waters roar.
Matchless and most beautiful, worthy.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy.

Chorus: Look to the Lamb.
See the Son of God, the Savior crucified.

See the crown of thorns, the nails, His wounded side.
He is worthy. Look to the Lamb.
See the One who is forever glorified.
There is love and there is fire in His eyes.
He is worthy. He is worthy.

Ending: You are worthy.

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.

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 God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your
spirit, soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do
this.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

🎵 “Your Love Awakens Me”

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Chris Quilala

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There were walls between us.
By the cross You came and broke them down,
You broke them down.
And there were chains around us.
By Your grace we are no longer bound,
No longer bound.

You called me out of the grave.
You called me into the light.
You called my name and then, my heart came alive.
Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. *(repeat)*

Feel the darkness shaking,
All the dead are coming back to life.
I'm back to life.
Hear the song awaken
All creation singing, “We're alive
'Cause You're alive!”

You called me out of the grave.
You called me into the light.
You called my name and then, my heart came alive.
Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me. *(repeat)*

(3x) And what a love we've found.
Death can't hold us down.
We shout it out:
“We're alive 'cause You're alive!”

(4x) Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.

Your love awakens me.
Your love is greater.
Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.

Announcements

Lenten Supper

Wednesday, March 25th, 5:00 – 6:30

Serving applewood-smoked pulled pork sandwiches, mac-n-cheese, veggies, fruit, and desserts.

Lydia's Guild

The next **LYDIA GUILD** meeting is on **Monday, March 23 at 6:30 pm** in the lounge. The guest speaker will be the Board of Elders Chairperson, Dan Theimer, who will share the responsibilities and focus of the St. John's Board of Elders. All are welcome to join us.

COMMUNICATION MEETING for March 22 has been CANCELED. The next congregational meeting will be a **VOTER'S MEETING** on Sunday, May 17, which will include voting on the next fiscal-year budget.

*Altar flowers are given in memory of Sharon
– a loved daughter and sister*

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



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