



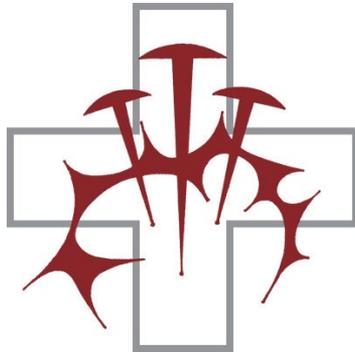
St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 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.

Come to the Water

On this Third Sunday in Lent, we continue our journey with Jesus toward the cross, listening for His voice that calls us from dryness into life. Lent invites us to be honest about our thirst—our longing for meaning, forgiveness, and renewal—and to trust that Christ meets us there with living water. As we worship, may God soften our hearts, deepen our repentance, and draw us again to the grace that never runs dry.

♪ “Living Waters”

Words and Music by Kristyn Getty and Ed Cash CCLI #1367966

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Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, peace unspoken,
Rest beside these living waters.

Christ is calling, find refreshing
At the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, all the old gone,
Rise up in these living waters.

Chorus: There’s a river that flows with mercy and love,
Bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
Praise the Lord of living waters.

Spirit moving, mercy washing;
Healing in these living waters.
Lead Your children to the shoreline,
Life is in these living waters. (*Chorus*)

Instrumental

Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless,
Christ, He is our living waters. (*Chorus*)

Ending: There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore,
Praise the Lord of living waters.

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 Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart, we confess that our hearts have been enslaved by selfish passion and base desires. We have sought after many things and have neglected the one thing needful. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; help us to turn to you and find forgiveness. Lead us home, that we may again find in You our life and joy and peace. Amen

P Jesus Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed. Your sins are forgiven.

C Amen.

Introit

Ps. 84:1-4; antiphon: Ps. 84:5

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!**

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!

**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.**

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray:

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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

Exodus 17:1-8

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 4:5-26

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

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

So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth

hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

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.**

Children's Message

Pastor Kempin

♪ “Living Hope”

Words and Music by Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson CCLI #1367966
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How great the chasm that lay between us.
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night.
Then through the darkness Your loving kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope. (*Repeat*)

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.

Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.
Jesus, Yours is the victory!

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope. (*Repeat*)

Jesus Christ, my living hope.
O God, You are my living hope.

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 God give His angels charge over you; may their hands bear you up
and keep you from falling.
C Amen.
P Go in peace, serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

♪ “Battle Belongs”

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When all I see is the battle, You see my victory.
When all I see is the mountain, You see a mountain moved.
And as I walk through the shadow, Your love surrounds me.
There's nothing to fear now for I am safe with You.

Chorus: So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees
 With my hands lifted high,
 O God the battle belongs to You.
 And every fear I lay at Your feet,
 I'll sing through the night,
 O God the battle belongs to You.

And if You are for me who can be against me?
For, Jesus there's nothing impossible for You.

When all I see are the ashes, You see the beauty.
When all I see is a cross, God You see the empty tomb. *(Chorus)*

Bridge (3x): (An) Almighty Fortress You go before us.
 Nothing can stand against the power of our God.
 You shine in the shadows, You win every battle.
 Nothing can stand against the power of our God.

Chorus

Ending: O God, the battle belongs to You.

Announcements

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.

Lenten Supper

Wednesday, March 11th, 5:00 – 6:30.
Hosted by St. John's Lydia Guild.

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.

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

You're invited to explore the hymn **Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted** through scripture, music/lyrics, devotion and adding color to illustrations by Visual Faith artists. Our Visual Faith Experiment will be based upon the "Great Exchange".

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.

Easter Lilies

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!

Welcome, Stephanie!

Our new Director of Young Family Ministry, Stephanie Davis, has officially moved to Midland. She starts in the office this week. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome!