

Sunday Worship Bulletin

First Sunday in LENT

10:00 a.m.
February 18,
A.D. 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Pastor

Cell phone # 870-814-4828

Website: <http://stjohnswestfield.org> e-mail: info@stjohnswestfield.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

The Order of Morning Worship – Setting Three

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

AS WE GATHER

"Here am I." This is the simple, yet faith-filled, response of Abraham as the Lord calls him. Not knowing what the Lord will call him to do, but simply trusting the Word of the Lord, Abraham says, "Here am I." As we look through the pages of Scripture those same three little words, "Here am I," are echoed by others: Jacob, Moses, and Samuel—to name just a few. As people who the Lord has called in Baptism, may we also answer with the same faith-filled response, "Here am I!" We may not always know where God will lead, but we do know that the One who has called us will be with us as we follow where He guides.

✠ ORGAN PRELUDE: Improvised Chorale Partita on '*Ein feste Burg*' LSB 656

✠ OPENING HYMN No. **418**: "*O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*"

Confession and Absolution

p. 184

Service of the Word

p. 186

Gloria Patri

Kyrie

Salutation

✠ PRAYER of the DAY

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

† OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 22:1–18

(Abraham prepares to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.)

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.

Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram[a] caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

† EPISTLE: James 1:12–18 *(God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone.)*

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting

shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15 (*Jesus is tempted by Satan.*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C (Sung): Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (Sung): Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: 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.

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 worshipped 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.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY No. **656**: "*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*"

✠ SERMON: "*Lead Us Not Into Temptation*" James 1:12-18

† OFFERTORY: (Page 192)

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS
Choir Anthem: *'God is Our Refuge'* Allen Pote

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who are ailing and those who grieve, that they may be strengthened in body and spirit, confident of the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194)

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when Pastor comes to you and he will hand you a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray carried by the acolyte. If you are not a member of this congregation or a sister congregation within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it is suggested that you speak to the Pastor before partaking of Holy Communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS No. **602**: *"The Gifts Christ Freely Gives"*

***At the end of the Distribution we stand and continue with
the NUNC DIMITTIS on p. 199***

✠ CLOSING HYMN No. **424**: *"O Christ, You Walked the Road"*

✠ SILENT PRAYER

✠ POSTLUDE: Improvised Fugue on 'Ein feste Burg'

LSB 656

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Assisting Elders – Paul Brose & Bill
Schneeloch

Acolyte – Alex Provost

Lay Reader – Paul Brose

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Meaghan McClure's 23rd Birthday and Alex Minalga's 25th Birthday from Grandma Sally Sienkiewicz.

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (February 18, 2018)

Genesis 22:1–18, James 1:12–18, Mark 1:9–15

Christ Jesus Defeats Our Temptation and Saves Us by His Faithfulness

In faith and the fear of God, Abraham prepared to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. At the Word of the Lord, he "took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son." And "when they came to the place of which God had told him," Abraham bound Isaac "and laid him on the altar" (Genesis 22:6, 9). Then God stayed Abraham's hand and provided "for himself the lamb for a burnt offering" (Genesis 22:8). That Lamb is God's own beloved Son, Jesus, in Whom "all the nations of the earth" are blessed (Genesis 22:18). As the Substitute for all the sons of men, Jesus is driven by the Spirit "into the wilderness" to be "tempted by Satan" (Mark 1:12–13) in order to endure and defeat all temptation. We are tempted by our own desire, which conceives and "gives birth to sin" (James 1:14–15). But this blessed Man, Christ Jesus, remained "steadfast under trial," and He has received "the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:12). His faithfulness, His victory and His life are now given to us by His grace in the Gospel.