

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
Second Sunday
in
LENT

10:00 a.m.

February 25, 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Pastor

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Music Ministry Site: stjohnsmusic.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



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

When it comes to human love, it's fair to say that it comes in different degrees. For instance, even with just a little love for someone, you might be willing to help carry some groceries or get their mail while they're out of town. But if you have a greater love for someone, you might be open to caring for them when they're sick or helping them move into a new home. The greatest demonstration of love, however, is to lay down your life for someone else. There's no greater sacrifice one can make for another. And yet, that's exactly what Jesus did for us, even though so often we are unloving and unlovable people. "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

✠ ORGAN PRELUDE: *"Praeambulum in D No.5"* Heinrich Scheidemann

✠ OPENING HYMN No. **437**: *"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"*

✠ INVOCATION, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of 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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

✠ PRAYER of the DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the 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.

(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16 (God renames Abram and Sarai.)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: Romans 5:1–11 (“We were reconciled to God.”)

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. Not only that, but 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. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 8:27–38 (Take up your cross and follow Me.)

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

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, 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 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.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY No. **563**: *“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”*

✠ SERMON: *“The Christian’s Hope”* Romans 5:1-11

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 [names of synodical and district presidents], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, 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: 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God by heav'nly hosts adored, God of power, Lord of might, In Your glory infinite: Sing hosanna to the Lord; Blest is He, the Coming One. Sing hosanna, one and all; His eternal peace has won.

✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

✠ PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 and you will pick up a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **622**: *Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared*"

✠ POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

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 in 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.

✠ BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

✠ CLOSING HYMN No. **420**: *"Christ, the Life of All the Living"*

✠ SILENT PRAYER

✠ POSTLUDE: *"Fugue in E Minor"* Johann Pachelbel

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Assistants – Richard Conroy & William Schneeloch

Acolyte: Dan Provost

Lay Reader – Erika Slozak

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my husband, John Scully from his wife, Andrea Scully.

Offerings for February 14 & 18:

Needed to meet the Budget	\$3,304.77
Collected	\$2,599.00
Deficit	\$ 805.77

Attendance: Ash Wednesday AM....12 PM....28

Sunday, February 18.....38

Lenten Wednesday AM...11 PM...20

CHOIR & CHIMERS: Reminder rehearsals will resume at their normal times starting on Thursday, March 8: Chime Choir at 6:30 p.m. in the music room and Adult Choir at 7:15 p.m. in the lounge.

INTERESTED IN SINGING WITH THE CHOIR FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER?:

Starting on Thursday, March 1, St. John's Choir will begin to rehearse music for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. No music reading ability required to join ... we are always looking for new singers! If you are interested, speak with Jeff Windoloski following the service or join us this coming Thursday at 7:00 p.m. for our next rehearsal.

JOIN US FOR A HYMN SING & POTLUCK THIS MARCH: It is with great joy and excitement that we announce a Hymn Sing & Potluck on Sunday, March 18 starting at 3:00 p.m. Come prepared with some of the titles of your favorite hymns from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) as we sing through a few verses of each. Following the hymn sing in the sanctuary, we invite everyone to bring an appetizer, hot dish or dessert to share for a time of fellowship downstairs in the fellowship hall!



Praying Right Now: *“So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer”* (Ezra 8:23). Finding Stephen Ministers is the next step for our congregation's Stephen Ministry. Right now, we are praying for the individuals God is calling to serve as caregivers. Please include this need in your prayers. God answers our prayers because he is

faithful. For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Paul & Patti Brose, Dan Provost, or Pastor.

EASTER FLOWERS: Due to a new supplier, orders for Easter flowers need to be handed in as soon as possible. This year we are offering: Lilies: Single - \$8.00; Double - \$14.00; Triple - \$20.00; Tulips: 6 inch pot - \$7.00; Daffodils: 6 inch - \$7.00; Hyacinth: 6 inch pot - \$7.00; 8" Hydrangea - \$20.00 in blue, pink or white

If you would like to order flowers that will adorn the altar on Easter, in honor or in loving memory of a loved one, please fill out a flower form located on the round table.