

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
Fourth Sunday
In
LENT

10:00 a.m.

March 31, A.D. 2019



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
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Rev. David Riley, Pastor
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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 Holy Communion – Setting Two

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: "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift; that's why we call it the present." This short statement speaks volumes about our new life in Christ. Yesterday is history—in Christ, all our sins have been paid for, forgiven, and cast away as far as the east is from the west. Tomorrow is a mystery—not only do we not know the day or hour of Christ's glorious return, but we also have no guarantees about what will happen in our lives mere moments from now. Today is a gift—the present time is indeed a gift, a present, from our gracious Father. He mercifully comes running to His prodigal children and embraces us in His arms. His love picks us up and places us into the nail-scarred hands of His Son, Jesus Christ, who puts to death our old lives, which were once lived without Him, and freely gives to us our new lives, which are now fully lived in and through Him.

✠ OPENING HYMN No. **568**: *"If Your Beloved Son, O God"*

Confession and Absolution

p. 167

Service of the Word

p. 168

Kyrie

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT of the DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning. 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 daily receive Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and live as those You have made new; 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: Isaiah 12:1–6 (*The Lord God has become my salvation.*)

You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known[d] in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

† GRADUAL

C(Sung): **O come, let us fix our eyes on | Jesus,***
 the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
 and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

† EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

(In Christ, the old has passed away, and the new has come.)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand and Sing the Lenten Verse p. 173)

† HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 15:1–3, 11–32 (*The father embraces his prodigal son.*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C (Sung): **Glory to You, O Lord.**

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens

of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (Sung): Praise to You, O Christ.

(Be Seated)

† HYMN of the DAY No. **927**: *“First Song of Isaiah”*

† SERMON: *“Are You Drained?”* Isaiah 12:1-6

(Please Stand)

† 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.

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the blessing of all creation, that our loving and creating Father would preserve and defend all that He has made, working all things together for the good of those who love Him, especially working in the hearts and minds of those who have wandered from His house, that through repentance and faith sinners turn to Him and take refuge in His fatherly care, let us pray to the Lord.

C: You are a hiding place for me!

P: For the blessing of the Church of Jesus, that our gracious Savior guide the hearts, minds, and ministries of all who love Him and seek to make His Gospel known, that we would be defended from our adversaries, strengthened in our discipleship, and emboldened in our witness to a lost and dying world, let us pray to the Lord.

C: You preserve me from trouble!

P: For those who struggle in heart, body, mind, and relationship, that healing would come to those for whom we pray, [including . . .], that the Holy Spirit would bind up the brokenhearted, mend the hurting, heal the sick, strengthen the weak, and grant perfect peace to all who belong to Him, let us pray to the Lord.

C: You surround me with shouts of deliverance!

P: For these and all other prayers we bring before the Father's throne of grace, that through the intercession of His perfect Son and in the company of the eternal Spirit, we take confidence in knowing that our prayers are heard and answered by Him who knows all things and directs all things according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

C: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

P: We pray all these things in the precious name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

✠ SHARE the PEACE

(Please Stand)

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS
CHOIR ANTHEM: “

(Please Stand and Sing the Offertory p. 176)

Service of the Sacrament (p. 177)

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 Lay Assistant 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 HYMN No. **632**: “O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”

***At the end of the Distribution we stand and continue with
the Nunc Dimittis on p. 182***

† CLOSING HYMN No. **571**: “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

† POSTLUDE: “

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Assistants – William Schneeloch & Paul Brose

Lay Reader – Gary Wolfe

Acolyte – Daniel Provost

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Isaiah 12:1–6, 2 Corinthians 5:16–21, Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

Jesus Christ Has Reconciled Us to the Father

God the Father has opened His heart to us in love. While we were “still a long way off,” He saw us and “felt compassion” (Luke 15:20). Therefore, He gave His only begotten Son for us, making “him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). By the ministry of reconciliation, He runs to us, embraces us in mercy and clothes us with His glory as beloved sons in Christ Jesus. And so we give thanks unto the Lord our God, who has taken away our sins and turned His anger from us (Is. 12:1). Because He has become our salvation, our strength and our song, we “will trust, and will not be afraid” (Is. 12:2).

“Ironies of the Passion”

During this year’s midweek Lenten services, Pastor Riley will examine some of the ironic aspects of the passion account (for example, Caiaphas' unintentional prophesy, the Jewish leaders' hypocrisy, etc.) to help us gain a deeper understanding of the unique and lasting significance of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. Divine Services at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Light Luncheon served at 12 noon.

Wednesday, April 3-“We Have No King but Caesar!” John 19:12-16

Wednesday, April 10- “Don’t You Fear God?” Luke 23:39- 43

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

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 Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. for our next rehearsal.

EASTER FLOWERS:

Easter flower forms are available on the round table in the foyer need to be handed in as soon as possible. This year we are offering:

Lilies: Single - \$8.00

Double - \$15.00

Triple - \$20.00

Tulips: 6 inch pot - \$7.00

Daffodils: 6 inch - \$7.00

Hyacinth: 6 inch pot - \$7.00

8” Hydrangea - \$20.00

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 in the church foyer or call Jane McClure (562-0492) to order or for any questions.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: The deadline for submitting Thrivent Choice dollars is March 31. Ideally, this should be done early in March to allow time for processing at Thrivent corporate. If anyone has any questions, contact Jane McClure (562-0492). Reminder, for the Action Team program, benefit members are eligible for two Action Team submissions/awards (\$250 each); associate members are eligible for one Action Team submission/ award for \$250. Please try to be as detailed and specific as possible when submitting a request. This will help to get your application approved quickly.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS are needed each Sunday. Please sign up on the sheet located in the foyer to host a coffee hour after church. This activity is wonderful way to share in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please see Linda Slozak or Erika Slozak if you have any questions.

2019 ALTAR CARE: A sign-up sheet is located in the foyer for those who are willing to volunteer to clean our church altar. If you are unable to do a full month, two weeks would be fine. All are encouraged to help with the task. Training will be provided if needed.

2019 ALTAR FLOWERS: The cost for each bouquet is \$21.00. We can do up to three bouquets per Sunday. If anyone would like to have flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign up in the flower book located in the church foyer or see Jane McClure (562- 0492). Please make checks payable to St. John's Altar Guild.

RADIO MINISTRY: There are many Sundays coming up that are available for sponsorship. Please help in the continuing outreach mission project of our Radio Broadcast of Sunday morning Worship. Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the program is now \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door.