

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
Third Sunday
In
LENT

10:00 a.m.

March 23, 2025



Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM 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.

The Order of Holy Communion

AS WE GATHER: Someone's always watching. At least it seems that way, doesn't it? In a world full of security cameras and alarm systems, there seem to be millions of ways to keep your property secure and guard your valuables from intruders who would seek to cause trouble. But what are your thoughts about having someone—an actual living, breathing person—to watch over you and your family at all times and in all places? Lest we think that a security detail like that is available only to the rich and the powerful, listen to what the Lord God said to Ezekiel: "Son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel" (Ezekiel 33:7). The entire house of God, which has been watched over by the prophets of old, is now under the authority and care of the Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus Christ. He is your ultimate watchman who guards and protects you from the threats of the evil thief who "comes only to steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10). Place yourself under the watchful eye and merciful care of this watchman today! Watch Him, hear Him, and receive Him as He serves you in His Father's house and fills you with the life that He alone can provide.

† OPENING HYMN NO. 610: "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

† CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with Thy Spirit.

† PRAYER 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. Bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word. 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.

(Be Seated)

† OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 33:7–20

(The prophet serves as a watchman for the house of Israel.)

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the

statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ **EPISTLE:** 1 Corinthians 10:1–13

(Our faithful God provides the way of escape to help us endure our trials and temptations.)

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand and Sing the Lenten Verse)

✠ **THE LENTEN VERSE:**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

† HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9 (*Jesus warns us that we will all perish unless we repent.*)

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



☐ Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ 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 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.

† HYMN of the DAY No. **421**: “*Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing*”



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
 sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
 eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
 is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
 Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, “Christ for me was
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
 wound - ed,” That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
 ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
 pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.

**5 O my God, my rock and tower, Grant that in Your death I trust,
 Knowing death has lost its power Since You crushed it in the dust.
 Savior, let Your agony Ever help and comfort me;
 When I die be my protection, Light and life and resurrection.**

(Be Seated)

† SERMON: “*How Long Will Your Lease Last?*” Luke 13:1-9

(Please Stand)

† DEDICATION of OFFERINGS

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, You order and number our days according to Your wisdom. Give us repentant hearts, lest we perish with this world of violence and suffering. Let us hold fast to Christ for life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they turn from evil and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death. Give all Christians strength to defend that message. Turn sinners to life by the proclamation of Christ, who delivers from all unrighteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, guard Your people against sexual immorality. Grant that our homes would be havens of godly instruction and chastity, and fill marriages with fidelity and love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of all, You establish justice not through the desires of sinners but by Your Law, which is for all. Enlighten the authorities of this and every nation, that they might rule justly for true good. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Faithful God, protect us when we are tempted. Guard us especially from pride that justifies sin and from doubting that You provide the way of escape. Strengthen us with penitent hearts to endure until You deliver us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy God, remember Your people who cry to You for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil. Deliver those in need of healing and comfort, and strengthen them to look to You for help in their time of affliction. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of compassion, through the abundance of Your steadfast love You gather us into Your house and to Your Supper. Give all who commune this day a holy fear of Your wrath and faith in Your promises, that they would receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of life, You have brought us into Your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for Your patience, and grant that we would show Your love and grace in all that we say and do; 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.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



☐ It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, 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 singing:



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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:

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.

† 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."

† PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



☐ A - men.

† AGNUS DEI



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

(Be Seated)

† CHOIR ANTHEM: “*Just As I Am*” Charlotte Elliott/William Bradbury

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **637**: “*Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord*”

1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,

And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow

Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

(Please Stand)

† THE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace and joy.

C: Amen.

† NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

✠ THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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 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.

A - men.

☐ A - men.

† SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



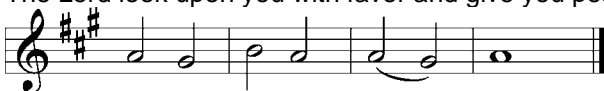
☐ Thanks be to God.

† BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

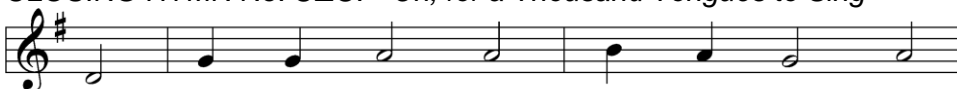
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

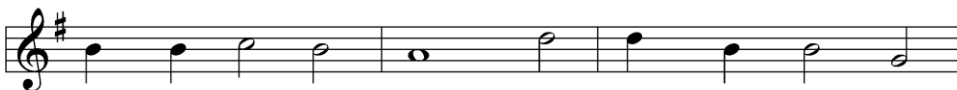


☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

† CLOSING HYMN No. 528: "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing My
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As -
 3 Je - sus! The name that charms our fears, That
 4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; He



great Re - deem - er's praise, The glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, To spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'Tis mu - sic in the
 sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the



God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace!
 earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.
 foul - est clean; His blood a - vails for me.

**5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own
 Your God, ye fallen race.
 Look and be saved through faith alone,
 Be justified by grace.**