

Sunday Worship  
Bulletin  
Fourth Sunday  
In  
LENT

10:00 a.m.

March 30, 2025



## Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

(413)568-1417

Rev. David Riley, Pastor

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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:** "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. 915: "Today Your Mercy Calls"



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.  
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;  
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

### ✠ 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. 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.**

† 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)*

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

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



Glo-ry be to Thee, 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.



☞ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*(Be Seated)*

✠ 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. **571**: “*God Loved the World So That He Gave*”



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made  
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in  
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the  
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.  
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

**5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.**

**6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessèd Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!**

**(Be Seated)**

† SERMON: “*Celebrate the Father's Love*” Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

**(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. Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Give us a proper knowledge of the evil we have done in Your sight. Move us to confess our offenses against You, and justify us with Your holy absolution. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy God, You delight in truth in the inward being and teach us wisdom in the secret heart. Give to our pastors every good gift as Your ambassadors, that we may grow in faith and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Father of mercy, remember Your baptized children who have left Your household and departed from the faith. Call them to repentance according to Your gracious will. Remember parents, grandparents and all who mourn their departure. Sustain them in faithful patience to wait and pray. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty God, in Christ You reconciled the world to Yourself. Watch over our nation and all whom You have placed in authority. Give them wisdom and prudence, that Your people might live in peace and freely make known the message of reconciliation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Everlasting Father, although this world is passing away due to sin, we pray that You would preserve Your creation for our provision until You usher in Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for all who cry out to You for mercy, healing and help. Deliver them according to Your will and, as You have made them a new creation in Christ, keep them mindful of the day when sorrow and sickness will be no more. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, who visits us this day with His body and blood! Give to all who partake of this Holy Communion penitent hearts to receive Christ Jesus as our strength and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together 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, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and 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.



† <sup>C</sup> <sup>A</sup> AGNUS DEI - men.



<sup>C</sup> 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: "How Beautiful" Twila Paris

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. 570: "Just As I Am, without One Plea"



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

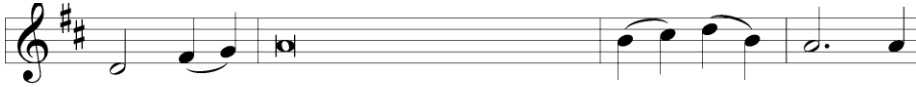
(Please Stand)

† 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,



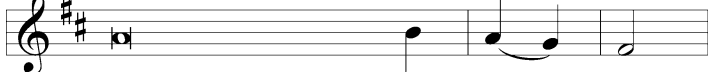
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



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.

† SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



☐ Thanks be to God.

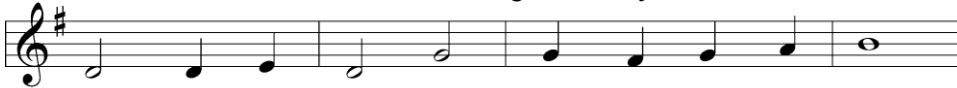
✠ BENEDICTION

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. 917: "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise  
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;  
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.  
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.  
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,  
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.  
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.  
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

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## **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).

**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.

**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.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** If you would like to order flowers for Easter to adorn the altar, please let Jane McClure know as soon as possible. You could also fill out an order form at the church. You can email her at [janemsm88@gmail.com](mailto:janemsm88@gmail.com) with your order or any questions. You could also fill out an order form at the church. Payment is due when placing the order.

The following flowers being offered are

Lilies: Single - \$8.00

Double - \$15.00

Triple - \$22.00

Tulips: 6 inch pot - \$7.00

Daffodils: 6 inch - \$7.00

Hyacinth: 6 inch pot - \$7.00

8” Hydrangea - 20.00

