

Divine Service  
for the  
**Second Sunday  
in  
Lent**

10:00 a.m.  
March 1, 2026 A.D.



## Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

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

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**Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM**

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**WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD and SAVIOR,  
JESUS CHRIST!**

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.

AS WE GATHER: The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram a great nation, to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to all the families of the earth. Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and in Canaan he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. He believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. Here the grace of God is manifested, that He justifies the ungodly, not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord's promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which gives life to the dead. It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

† HYMN of INVOCATION NO. **616**: *“Baptismal Waters Cover Me”*



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -  
 2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y  
 3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing  
 4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd  
 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy  
 bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him  
 to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can  
 speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now  
 hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.  
 all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.  
 form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.  
 stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.  
 strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

† 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.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

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.**

† INTROIT

P: He remembers his covenant for- | ever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.  
Seek the Lord | and his strength;  
seek his presence con- | tinually!

**C: Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,**

P: O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,  
children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!

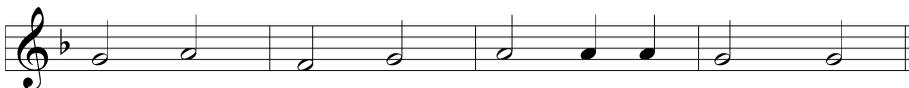
**C: He is the | Lord our God;  
his judgments are in | all the earth.  
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

P: He remembers his covenant for- | ever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

† KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

† HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.



☩ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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.

(Be Seated)

† CHILDREN'S SERMON

† SERMON HYMN 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 blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

† SERMON: “Born From Above” John 3:1-17

† CHOIR ANTHEM: “In Christ Alone” Getty/Townsend

(Please Stand)

† OFFERTORY

**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: O God, You have graciously given us a new birth in the waters of Holy Baptism. Sustain our faith in You and turn us from the old things of the flesh, that we would fix our eyes on the Son of Man through faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, Your Son, Jesus, came to teach us the way of truth. Sustain all pastors in this sacred calling. Give them patience to teach the faith to all who question the way of salvation, and raise up teachers of righteousness in every generation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, You made Your servant Abraham the father of us all through faith, and You have given all fathers the calling of Abraham to hand down the Gospel of Christ. Fill their hearts with the words of Christ, and remember them according to Your great mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty God, You sent forth Your own Son to heal and give everlasting life. By Your Word and Spirit, lift up Your people from their sorrows. Heal them according to Your gracious will, and deliver them from the pain of death to eternal life. Sustain them in their afflictions, comfort them in the hour of death and raise up the dead according to Your gracious promise. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Righteous Lord, Nicodemus was led by the word of Jesus to the cross, and from the cross he received the body of Jesus. Grant us faith like his to trust Your Word and receive Christ's body and blood in the Holy Sacrament for forgiveness, life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, You gave Abraham the promise of many descendants. Give us faith, that we may delight in this promise, delivered through the ages and kept in Christ, our Savior. Equip us with Your Spirit to be bold and unwavering witnesses, carrying Your name and Your Gospel to every place and people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**C: Amen.**

## ***Service of the Sacrament***

P: The Lord be with you.



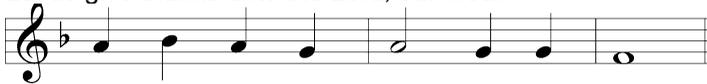
**C** And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



**C** 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...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: Lord, 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)**

Regarding the Reception of the Lord's Supper

*At Saint John's we believe, teach, and confess according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that in the Lord's Supper we receive not merely bread and wine, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This Holy Supper is not only a gift of Christ, but also a confession of the faith and doctrine confessed at this altar. Because Holy Scripture warns that those who eat and drink unworthily do so to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and because communing together is also an expression of unity in doctrine and confession, we joyfully invite to the Lord's Table all confirmed members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who are in good standing with their home congregation, who have been instructed and who publicly confess this faith. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation, we are thankful for your presence today and warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor approaches. Following the service and in the coming week, our pastors would be glad to speak with you about the Lord's Supper and to share more about what we believe, teach, and confess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **620**: "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my  
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and  
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the  
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.  
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,  
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,  
 me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His  
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the  
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter  
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."  
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.  
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.  
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

**5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
 Whose own feast of love I savor,  
 Bidden by His gracious call.  
 Wedding garments He provides me,  
 With a robe of white He hides me,  
 Fits me for the royal hall.**

**6 Now have I found consolation,  
 Comfort in my tribulation,  
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
 Cleanses me from sin and error,  
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.**

(Please Stand)

† 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



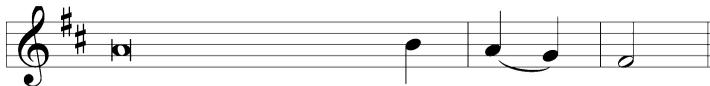
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



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.



**C** A - men.

† SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

† BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

† CLOSING HYMN NO 708: "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from  
 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun-ty gave My bod - y, soul, and  
 3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om



me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth  
 all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,  
 bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And



has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were  
 grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy  
 in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in



void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my  
 lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false  
 peace - ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from



heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.  
 doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.  
 death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious  
 Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my  
 O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
 cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
 and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -



Lord, my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust Thy Word.  
 Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy com - fort still af - ford.  
 tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

† POSTLUDE

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**THIS WEEK:**

THIS SUNDAY	Church Anniversary Committee Meeting	After Service
MONDAY	Elders' Meeting	6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	Choir Practice	4:45 p.m.
	Mid-Week Lenten Service	6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	Pastor Riley's Bible Study	10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
	Hand Chimes	4:45 p.m.
NEXT SUNDAY	8:30 AM Bible Study - Led by Herb Greenspan ( <i>In the Lounge</i> )	
	9:00 AM Bible Study - Led by Pastor Windoloski	
	( <i>In last room on the left - the WINGS room</i> )	
	Divine Service	10:00 a.m.
	LCEF Presentation and Coffee Hour	

**THANK YOU** to Austin Shuttleworth for joining us for service this morning and sharing information about Thrivent Financial. Austin will be available during the coffee hour to discuss Thrivent Choice Dollars, Action Teams, and any other questions you may have.

**CHURCH 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING:** After church service this morning, anyone who would like to be involved with planning a 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. John's Celebration in October is invited to attend in the church lounge. If you are unable to attend but would like to be involved, please speak to Jane McClure or Linda Slozak.

**2026 Lenten Series:** "Truly, This Is the Son of God!"

When we look at the Passion of our Lord, we find numerous characters who are hostile to the Word in human flesh and others who are friendly. All of these reactions to Jesus of Nazareth leave historical impressions that this man was not just a man or even a superman, but none other than the divine Son of God. On this year's Lenten journey, we will hear and see the witnesses of their lives. They will lead us back to the cross and the Man crucified there. The cross and the empty tomb spoke to them at that time and continued to speak to us today. Here is the evidence of the lives touched by the Word. We hear and see the evidence. May the Holy Spirit Who works faith in our hearts each day through the inspired Word strengthen us in the sure and certain knowledge of faith to believe and confess, with the Centurion at the cross, that Jesus of Nazareth truly is the Son of God.

Wednesday, March 4: "Pilate" Matthew 27:11-14, 24-26

Wednesday, March 11: "Simon of Cyrene" Mark 15:16-26

Wednesday, March 18: "The Thief" Luke 23:32-43

Wednesday, March 25: "The Centurion" Matthew 27:45-54

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** The congregational meeting will be held on March 15 after the church service in the fellowship hall. Reports are available in the church foyer. There will be an election of officers that will take place. The Church Council Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month. If you would like to run for an office position or have any questions, please speak to Jane McClure.

The positions available are

President - To serve as the chief executive of the congregation and exercise general administrative responsibility for the entire organization of the congregation and be responsible for ensuring that all elected or appointed officers, boards and committees' function and carry out their duties and responsibilities.

Vice President – To serve as the second-level executive of the congregation and work with all elected and appointed officers, boards and committees to assist them in carrying out their assigned duties and responsibilities

Treasurer –To oversee the financial affairs of the congregation.

Secretary - To keep accurate minutes of the congregation's meetings and voters' assemblies, or other meetings as needed.

Financial Secretary – receive, record, and deposits all congregational monies. The financial secretary provides weekly reports to the treasurer and monthly reports to the council.

Trustees (3) – To be responsible for all real and personal property of the congregation.

Auditors (2) - Audit the books of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer at least once a year and make a report to the congregation. (Not required to attend church council meetings).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

### **Passion Sunday with the Procession of Palms**

Divine Service 10:00 a.m.

**Holy Thursday** Divine Service with the Stripping of the Altar 6:00 p.m.

**Good Friday** Tenebrae Vespers 6:00 p.m.

**The Vigil of Easter** 6:00 p.m.

### **The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday**

Sunrise Service (Park Square Green) 6:00 a.m.

Divine Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 a.m.