

Divine Service
for the
Fourth Sunday
in
Lent

10:00 a.m.
March 15, 2026 A.D.



Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

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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 is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. For his righteousness' sake, He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus. Jesus turns the darkness before them into light because He is the light of the world. The incarnate Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh while it is day, until that night when no one can work. By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though at one time you were darkness," now "you are light in the Lord. By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

✠ HYMN of INVOCATION NO. **873**: *"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"*



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa-nied by Thee;
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ - teous-ness, a-rise; Tri - umph o'er the shades of night.
 Joy-less is the day's re-turn Till Thy mer-cy's beams I see,
 Fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine, Scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
 Till they in - ward light im-part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
 More and more Thy - self dis-play, Shin - ing to the per - fect day.

✠ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the T 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

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and 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 heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



(Be Seated)

† OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 42:14–21

For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.” Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord?

He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

† GRADUAL: **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 READING: Ephesians 5:8–14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

† HOLY GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

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



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

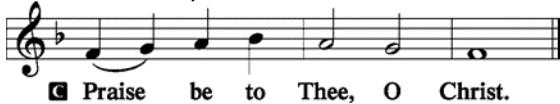
The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and

would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



† 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. 434: "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
 2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
 3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
 Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
 Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
 All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
 Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

† SERMON

† CHOIR ANTHEM: "Let Light Shine Out of Darkness" John A Behnke

(Please Stand)

† OFFERTORY



☐ 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: Great Physician, enlighten our eyes by Your blessed Gospel, and hide us in Your shelter in the day of trouble. Provide a home in Your Church for those cast out by this world, and unite them with us in the pure confession of Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of glory, You have gathered Your Church and sanctified us in Your truth. Guide and direct Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, our Synod president; Rev. Robert Beinke, our district president; and Rev, Christopher Chandler, our circuit visitor. Preserve all vacant congregations, send laborers into Your harvest and sustain those whom You have sent. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty Father, uphold in mercy all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation. Strengthen our homes, and keep families firm in the Christian faith. Preserve us from wickedness, and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord God, You have promised that what we suffer does not condemn us, but instead displays Your glory. Sustain the afflicted in body or soul, that they would take heart, trust You for healing and find You even in the midst of their trials. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed, O Lord, is everyone who is not offended by Your Christ. Give us faith to believe His blessed testament, seek His Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins, and confess Your truth with honest hearts in the communion of this altar. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, those who wait for Your salvation have the promise that You will not forsake them. Lead those who wander in darkness through rough places, that they would find the way of righteousness and not be put to shame. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: All these things, O heavenly Father, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, asking You to grant our prayers not for our sake but for His sake alone. Teach our hearts to be content with Your will and to trust that You will answer with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. 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...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,



bles - ed is He, bles - 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. **704**: "Renew Me, O Eternal Light"



1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, And let my
 2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all
 3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, That glad - ly
 4 Grant that I on - ly You may love And seek those



heart and soul be bright, Il - lu - mined with the
 my im - pu - ri - ty That I may have the
 I o - bey Your Word. Let what You will be
 things which are a - bove Till I be - hold You



light of grace That is - sues from Your ho - ly face.
 strength and will Temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.
 my de - sire, And with new life my soul in - spire.
 face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through Your grace.

(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 - tles 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 with out 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 to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

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



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

† CLOSING HYMN NO. 438: "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The
 3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll
 4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And



guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the
 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther
 bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to
 taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al



sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes
 chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go
 Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O
 robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When



pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -
 forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren
 won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers
 I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall



out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the
 from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and
 up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how
 be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in



stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and
 stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion
 strong You are to save! You lay the One in -
 gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall



yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."
 to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.
 we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.

† POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK:

MONDAY	Church Council	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.

The congregational meeting will be held today 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 – To 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).

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 18: “ The Thief” Luke 23:32–43

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Passion Sunday	Divine Service with the Procession of Palms	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.

