# **Third Sunday in Lent**

March 3, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

With One Voice: Holy Communion, Setting 6



## **Prayer of preparation:**

Lord Jesus, walk with us during these 40 days of Lent. Be near to us in our struggles against temptation, and let us find our strength in you. Bless this time of worship for your Name's sake. Amen.

+ + +

Pre-Service Music Ringing of the Bells Welcome "Fantasia" (Orlando Gibbon)

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- **P** Gracious God,
- **G** we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

We are not worthy to be called your children.

Have mercy on us and turn us from our sinful ways.

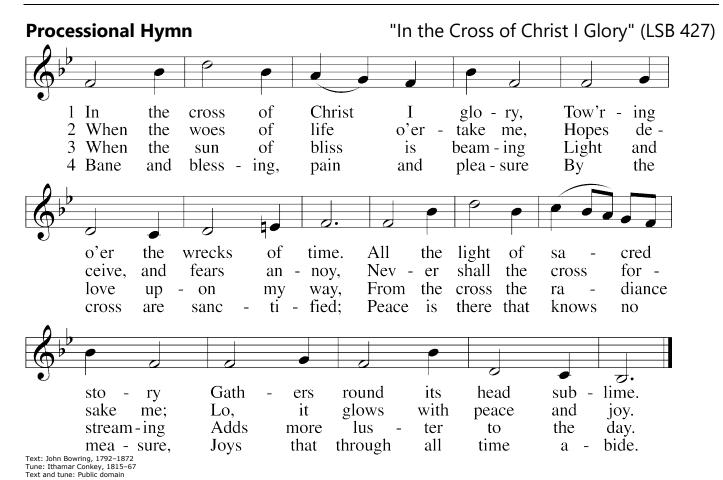
Forgive us and bring us back to you,

For we once were dead but now have life, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

- The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives life, freedom from the power of sin, and resurrection from the dead. In the name of 

  → Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Live in newness of life.
- C Amen.

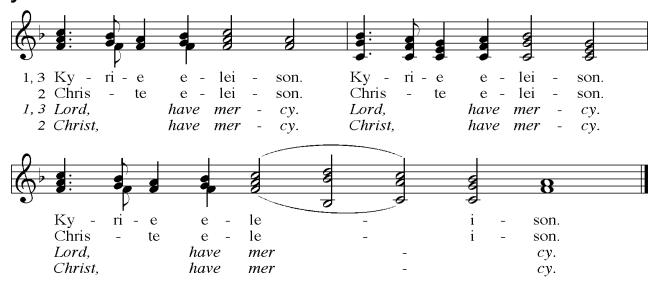
#### **SERVICE OF THE WORD**



## Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **C** And also with you.

## **Kyrie**



## **Prayer of the Day**

- P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

## **Children's Message**

### **Old Testament Reading**

Exodus 20:1-17

¹And God spoke all these words, saying,²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.³"You shall have no other gods before me.⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.⁵"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

<sup>8</sup>"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. <sup>12</sup>"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Thanks be to God.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>"You shall not murder.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>"You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>"You shall not steal.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

**I** This is the Word of the Lord.

## **Psalm** (read responsively)

- **I** The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,\* and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.
- Day to day | pours out speech,\* and night to night reveals | knowledge.
- **I** There is no speech, nor | are there words,\* whose voice | is not heard.
- Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end | of the world.\*

  In them he has set a tent | for the sun,
- L which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,\* and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.
- ☑ Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,\* and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.
- I The law of the LORD is perfect, reviv- | ing the soul;\* the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the | simple;
- The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing | the heart;\* the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening | the eyes;
- L the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for- | ever;\* the just decrees of the LORD are true, and righteous alto- | gether.
- More to be desired are they than gold, even | much fine gold;\* sweeter also than honey and drippings of the | honeycomb.
- L Moreover, by them is your | servant warned;\* in keeping them there is | great reward.
- **⚠** Who can dis- | cern his errors?\*

  Declare me innocent from | hidden faults.

- L Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion | over me!\*

  Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great trans- | gression.
- Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,\*
   O LORD, my rock and my re- | deemer.

## **Epistle Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture And consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

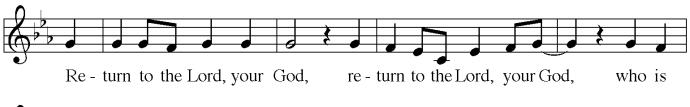
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
  - Thanks be to God.

#### **Lenten Verse**





gra-cious and mer-ci-ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

## **Holy Gospel**

John 2:13-22

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

# **G** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup>And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

"Journey to Joy: Spring Cleaning"

### **Hymn of the Day**



**Profession of Faith** The Nicene Creed

**@** We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, ⅓ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# **Prayer of the Church**

P Gathered by the Spirit, let us return to the Lord our God and pray for the church, the world, and all who yearn for new life.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. During the season of Lent each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy."

Please respond by saying: "Hear our prayer."

## The prayers end with the words:

- P Almighty God, you have commanded us to pray, and you promise to hear us. Hear the prayers of your people and grant us all that we need, for the sake of the One in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

#### **Announcements**

## **Offertory Prayer**

- L Let us pray. God our provider,
- you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.

  Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through
  Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them up to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

#### **Preface**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of the grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### Sanctus



## **Eucharistic Prayer**

### **Lord's Prayer**

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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,

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

but deliver us from evil.



Please be seated

#### **Distribution**

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

#### Music at the Distribution

Choir Anthem

"Bless Now, O God, the journey" (A. K. Organ) Choir of St. John's

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make, the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take. The trail is found in desert and winds, the mountain round, then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

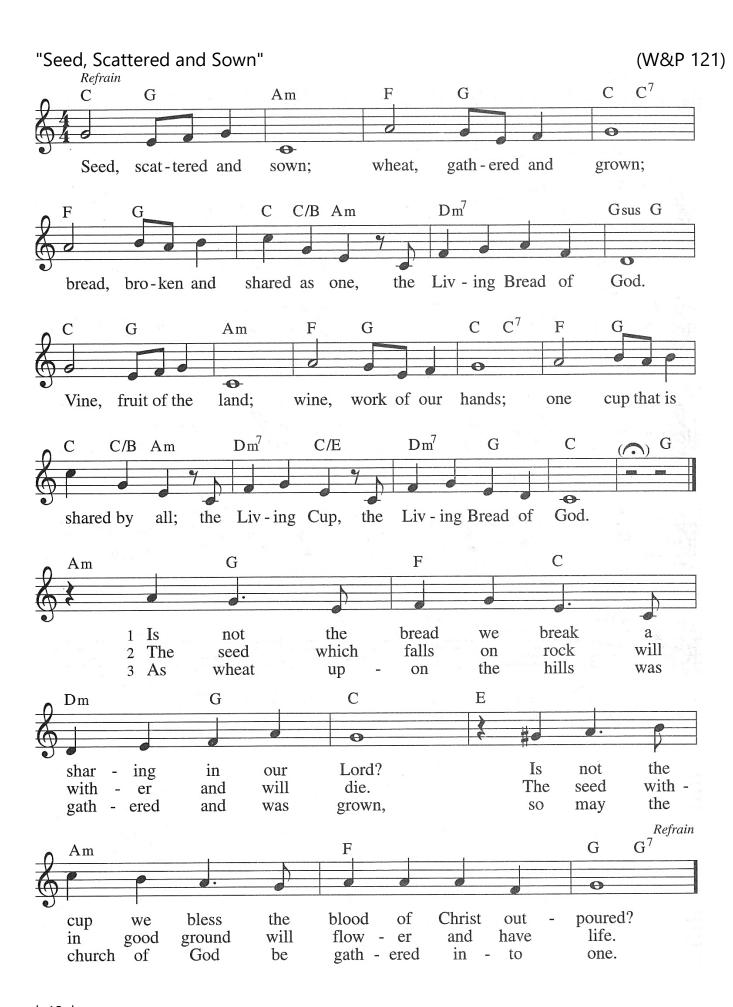
Christe eleison, Christe eleison.

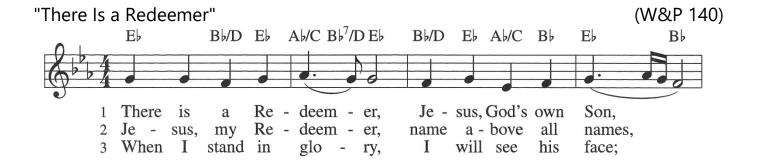
Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way, whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day. We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound. Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

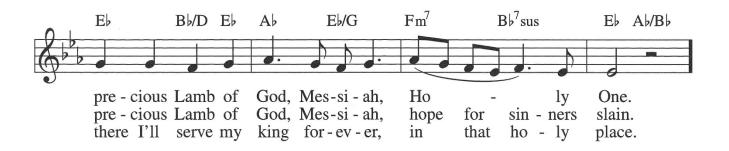
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road. We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow. But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.

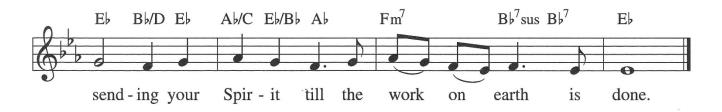
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found. Amen.











#### **Dismissal**

# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- L Let us pray: Merciful God,
- accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of Baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **Blessing**

- C Amen.

## Sending

- **L** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" (LSB 707)



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat utes still!
- 2 Or der my foot-steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin-cere;
- 3 As sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in Thy com-mands—'Tis a de-light-ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will! Let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear. And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re-store Thy wan-d'ring sheep. Nor let my head or heart or hands Of-fend a-gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

### **Postlude**

"Invention I" (Joseph Callaerts)

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## **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

Welcome & Children's Message Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Tish Nordvall Communion Lay Assistant Rich Keppers

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Breanna Tillman
Ushers Benjamin May
Michelle May

Altar Care Pat Wangeman
AV Operators Greg Auld

Welcome Host Denise Canter
Nursery Andi Hassett

+ + +

To **Give** to St. John's Lutheran Church scan this QR Code



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This weekend's **altar flowers** are given in donation to the flower fund.



To download our SJLC app text: "APP" or "App" or "app" to (877) 776-1304

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To **view** the current edition of our electronic weekly newsletter,

**Midweek Update**, scan this QR Code



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## **2024 Lenten Worship Schedule**

NOTE: livestreaming available for service times with an \*

## **Sundays, Lenten Worship Services**

10:30AM\* - Holy Communion March 3, 10, 17, and 24

## Wednesdays, Midweek Lenten Worship

Noon\* - Holy Communion March 6, 13, 20, and 27

## **Thursdays, Lenten Bible Study with Compline**

7:45PM - Zoom Class online ONLY (not recorded) March 7, 14, and 21

## Sunday, March 24

10:30AM\* - Palm/Passion Sunday (Holy Communion)

## **Thursday, March 28**

7:30PM\* - Maundy Thursday (Holy Communion and stripping of the altar)

## Friday, March 29

Noon\* & 7:30PM - Good Friday (No Communion)

## Saturday, March 30

7:30PM - Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter (Holy Communion)

# Sunday, March 31

8:00AM & 10:30AM\* - Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday (Holy Communion)

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt between worship services



# St. John's Lutheran Church 5952 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

### St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor Rev. John Meehan

Director of Discipleship Jennifer Hills, DCE

Director of Music David Leahey

Office Administrator Michelle May

Finance Administrator Jennifer Smith

Communication Specialist Jacqueline Fuller

## **Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff**

Director of ECEC Amanda Parks

ECEC Administrator Kari Wells

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