

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

With One Voice: Holy Communion, Setting 6



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer before Worship:

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.



Welcome

Pre-Service Music

"My Jesus, I Love Thee" (J. Krug)
(Handbell Choir)

Ringing of the Bells

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,

C 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.


P 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.

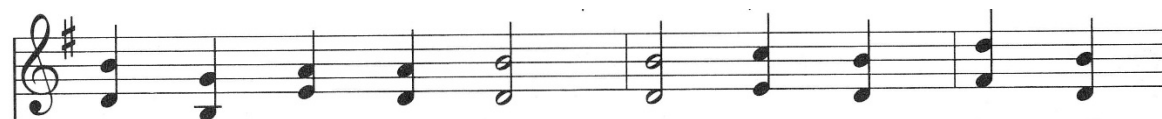
SERVICE OF THE WORD

Processional Hymn

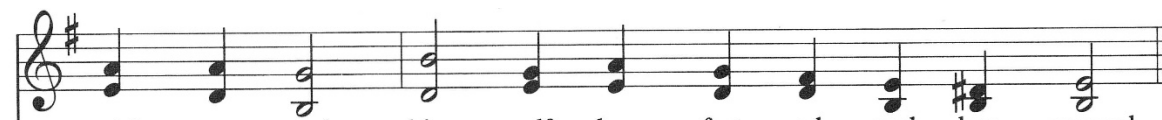
"The Glory of These Forty Days" (WOV 657)



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.
 Music: attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546; *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
 © 1996 Oxford University Press, London

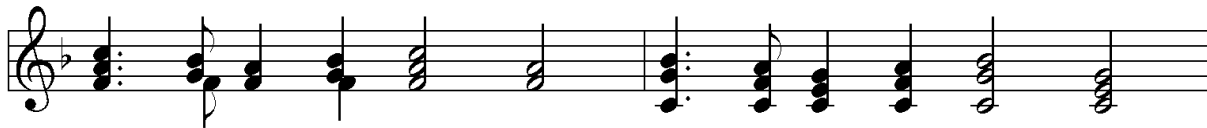
ERHALT UNS, HERR
 L M

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



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray:

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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

Genesis 3:1-21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that

it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." ¹⁷And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

☐ This is the Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 32:1-7

☐ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

☑ **Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

☐ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

☑ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

☐ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

☑ **Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

☐ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Epistle Reading

Romans 5:12-19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Lenten Verse

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is
gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

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

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It

is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰**Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."** ¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon "From Ashes to Alleluia: With Jesus in the Wilderness"

Hymn of the Day "From the River to the Desert" (GIA 54)

unison



1. From the riv - er to the des - ert,
2. If you are the one God choos - es,
3. If you are the one God of - fers,
4. If you are the one God prom - ised,
5. Since we are the ones you gath - er,



For - ty days that give no rest;
You can turn these stones to bread.
Leap in - to the an - gels' hands.
You could still bow down to me.
And from sin and death have freed,



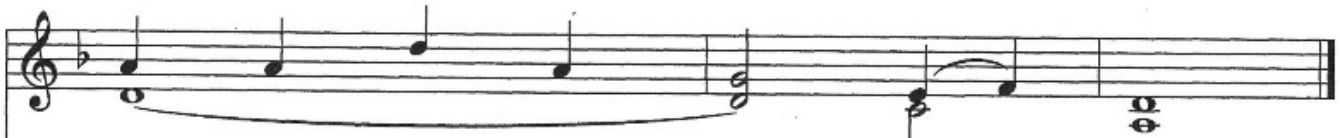
Fast and pray and wait and wres - tle,
 See, the chil - dren yearn and hun - ger,
 Show your pow - er and your glo - ry,
 Look at all the wealth of na - tions,
 Je - sus, know - ing all our weak - ness,



Face the Ad - ver - sar - y's test:
 By your deeds the poor are fed.
 Then be - lief will sweep the land.
 I will give you all you see.
 Now at God's high al - tar plead.



Prince of Peace and Prince of Dark - ness
 "Don't you know that it is writ - ten:
 "Don't you know that it is writ - ten:
 "Don't you know that it is writ - ten:
 For we know that it is writ - ten



Meet in lone - ly wil - der - ness.
 No one lives by bread a - lone."
 Do not tempt the Lord your God."
 Wor - ship God and God a - lone."
 That your grace is all we need.

Text: Sylvia Dunstan, 1955-1993, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: PICARDY, 8 7 8 7 8 7; French Carol; harm. by Richard Proulx, b.1937, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

☩ 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, ✝ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

☩ 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.

Scout Rechartering Ceremony

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L Let us pray. God our provider,

C 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.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

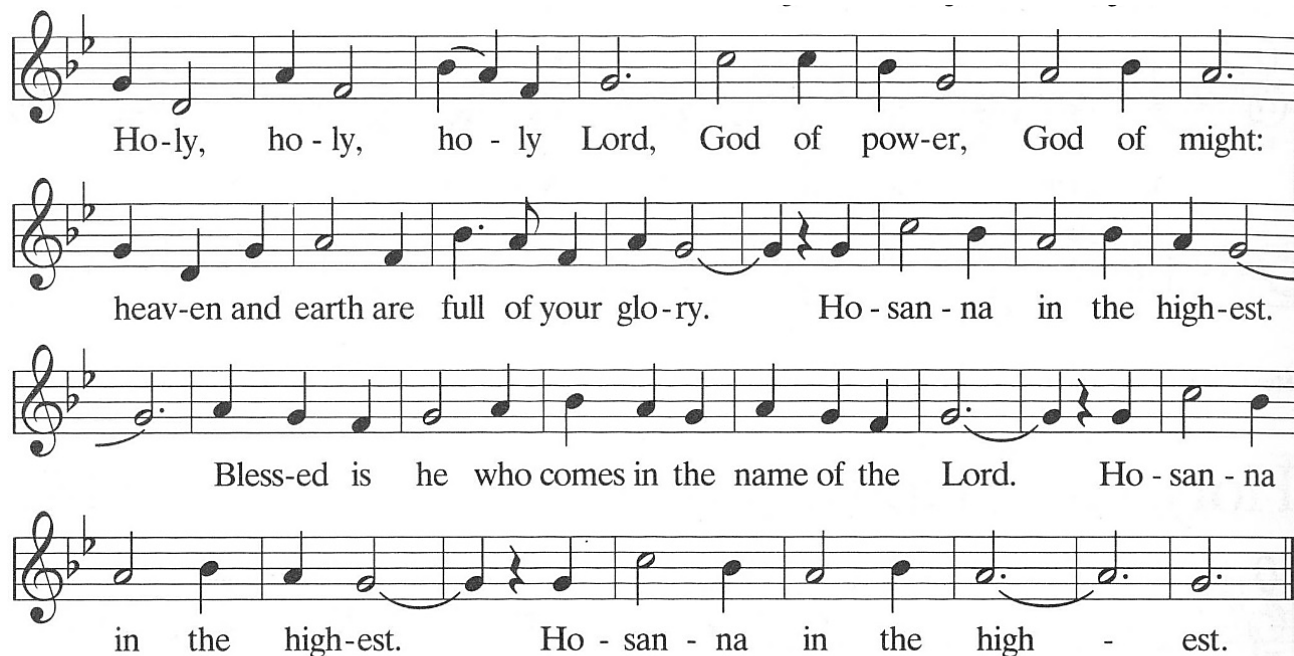
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Preface

P 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



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

Distribution Anthem

"The Power of the Cross" (P. Bettcher)
(Handbell Choir)

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

(WOV 660)

The musical score is written in C minor, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system has three vocal lines. The second system has three vocal lines. The third system has three vocal lines. The fourth system has three vocal lines. Chord symbols are placed above the staff lines.

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

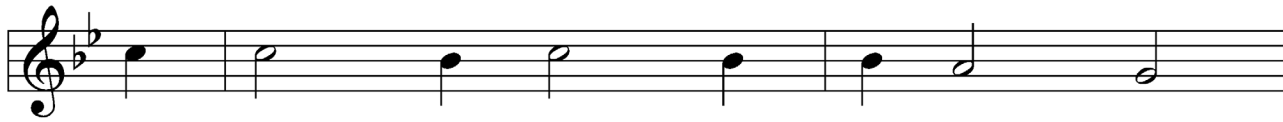
I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

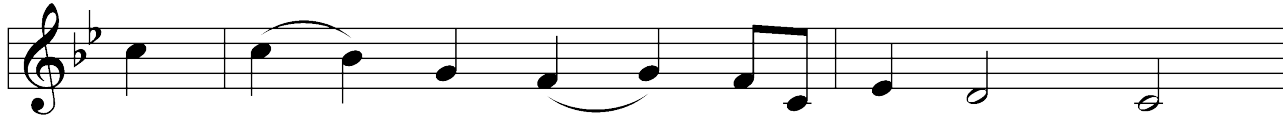
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

"O Love, How Deep"

(LSB 544)



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
Of high - er or of low - er place,
His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,



That God, the Son of God, should take
But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
By words and signs and ac - tions thus



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
And to this world Him - self He came.
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and
death;
For us He gave His dying breath.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to
cheer.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt., Tune: English, 15th cent., Text: Public domain

Dismissal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L Let us pray: Merciful God,

C accompany us on 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

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.

C Amen.

Sending

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

"O Christ, You Walked the Road" (LSB 424)



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swerv-ing love.
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591
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Tune: Public domain

Postlude

"Five-Part Fantasia in C Minor" (J. S. Bach)

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Welcome & Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Trevor Hasset
Communion Lay Assistant	Chuck Fosse
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Jenna Swale
Crucifer	Sophie Wilson
Ushers	Fred Esposito
	Mike Waring
Altar Care	Cathy Long
AV Operators	Greg Auld
	Cynthia Elhers
Welcome Host	Jeffery Crocker
Nursery	Beth Rempe
	Lisa Goodell
	Barbara Gilliland



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

SCAN HERE TO



CONNECT WITH SJLC



Give online

Read/Sign up for newsletters

Register or attend events/classes

Request for prayers

Connect on social media

...AND MORE!

Acknowledgments

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2026 Lenten Worship Schedule

NOTE: livestreaming available for service times with an *

Sundays in Lent

March 1, 8, 15, and 22

10:30AM* - Worship Services with Holy Communion

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday

10:30AM* - Worship Services with Holy Communion

Wednesdays in Lent

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1

12 Noon* - Midweek Lenten Worship with Holy Communion

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday

7:00PM* - Holy Communion and stripping of the altar

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

12 Noon & 7:00PM* - No Communion

Saturday, April 4 - Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter

7:00PM* - Holy Communion

Sunday, April 5 - Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday

8:00AM & 10:30AM* - 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

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Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith

Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff

Director of ECEC	Amanda Parks
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

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