

## Midday Lenten Worship

March 25, 2026 – 12 Noon



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Prayer before Worship

*Lord Jesus Christ, draw our hearts and minds to you that we may come before you, and worship you in spirit and in truth. Help us to follow where you are leading in this Lenten season: to the cross and to resurrection. Amen.*



### Carillon

Selections for the Lenten Season

### Welcome

**P** Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,

**G** have mercy and hear us.

**G** 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.

**G** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C** **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents over disaster.**

*(Joel 2:13)*

**P** Jesus said: If anyone would come after me,

**C** **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** *(Matthew 16:24)*

**P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.

**C** **He was bruised for our iniquities.**

*(Isaiah 53:5)*

**P** Let us pray:

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading: Jesus Before Pontius Pilate**

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26

<sup>1</sup>When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. <sup>2</sup>And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." <sup>12</sup>But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" <sup>14</sup>But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup>Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" <sup>18</sup>For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. <sup>19</sup>Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." <sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup>And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

<sup>24</sup>So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup>And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup>Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" (LSB 440)



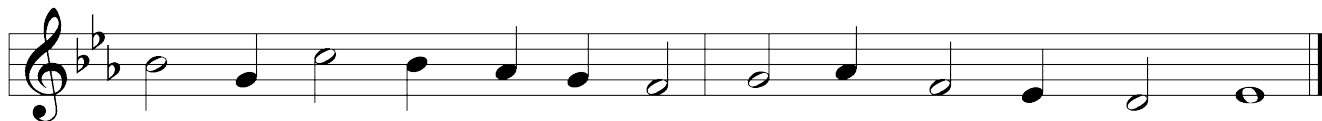
1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;  
 4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.  
 6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; Help me bear my cross - es,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.  
 Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.  
 Learn - ing hum - ble - ness from You, Peace mid pain and loss - es.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish  
 How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure  
 May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.  
 Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?  
 That I may in heav'n a - bove Sing Your praise for - ev - er.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.  
 Tune: Melchior Vulpinus, c. 1570-1615  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Meditation

## Prayer

*Other petitions may be offered, concluding with this prayer:*

**P** Gracious Lord Jesus, who at this hour bore our sins in your own body on the tree of the cross so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness, have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death. Grant to us, your servants, with all others who devoutly remember your blessed Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and by your grace eternal glory in the life to come, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

- 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."
- P** 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."
- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## **Distribution of the Lord's Supper**

### **Dismissal**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

- L** Let us pray:  
Merciful God, we thank you for feeding us with your Son's Body and Blood in this holy Supper. Accompany our journey through these forty days of Lent. Renew in us 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 Lord.

**G Amen.**

### **Blessing**

- L** Let us bless the Lord

**G Thanks be to God.**

- 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.

**G Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

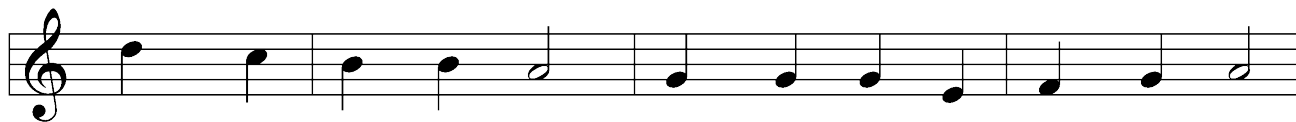
"Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing" (LSB 421)



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly  
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,  
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of  
is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing  
death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in  
new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet  
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from  
Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing  
Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.  
pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.  
tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. composite, alt.  
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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## **Lent 2026 Worship Schedule**

***NOTE: livestreaming available for service times with a \****

### **Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday**

10:30AM\* - Holy Communion

### **Wednesdays, Midweek Lenten Worship**

12 Noon\* - Holy Communion

April 1

### **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**

Pastor	Rev. John Meehan
Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office/Facilities Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith

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

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ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

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