

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 9, 2025

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

Prelude in F minor BWV 881

J. S. Bach

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

GATHERING HYMN

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud



- 1 Source and Sov'-reign, Rock and Cloud, For - tress, Foun-tain, Shel - ter, Light,
- 2 Word and Wis-dom, Root and Vine, Shep-herd, Sav - ior, Ser - vant, Lamb,
- 3 Storm and Still-ness, Breath and Dove, Thun-der, Tem - pest, Whirl-wind, Fire,



Judge, De - fend - er, Mer - cy, Might, Life whose life all life en-dowed:
Well and Wa - ter, Bread and Wine, Way who leads us to I AM:
Com - fort, Coun-s'lor, Pres - ence, Love, En - er - gies that nev - er tire:

Refrain



May the church at prayer re - call that no sin - gle ho - ly name



but the truth be - hind them all is the God whom we pro-claim.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903



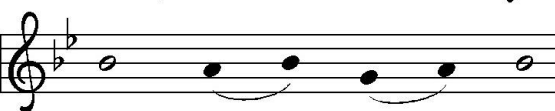



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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

Music: Plainsong

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING I

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹ “When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power,

and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house."

Word of God, word of life.

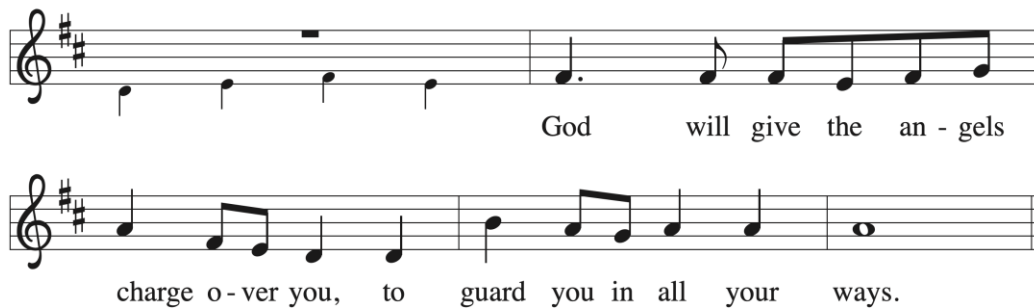
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

The congregation sings the refrain and the verses in bold.

Psalm Refrain



Psalm 91:11

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Psalm Tone



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—
- 2 **you will say to the Lord, "My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust."**

Refrain

- 9 Because you have made the | Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,
- 10 **no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**
- 11 For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.

12 Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.

Refrain

13 You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

14 **I will deliver those who | cling to me;**
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.

15 They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

16 **With long life will I | satisfy them,**
and show them | my salvation.

Refrain

READING II

Romans 10:8b-13

A reading from Romans.

^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

that is, the word of faith that we proclaim; ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

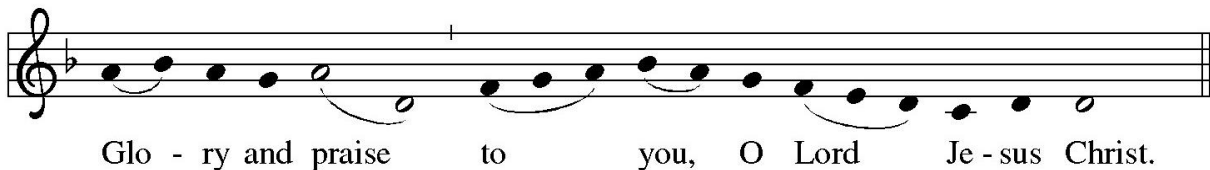
¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand and face the cross.



GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And

the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please." ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here," ¹⁰ for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

¹¹ and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

The congregation may be seated.

Aaron Musser, M. Div.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The congregation may stand.

As Your Spirit in the Desert

1 As your Spir - it in the des - ert led the Christ to
2 As your fire and cloud - y pil - lar Is - rael's tribes to
3 Though wild beasts may lurk in shad - ow, and dire thirst may
4 Through the nar - row gate now draw us, past all em - pire's
5 God of des - ert, God of prom - ise, you have bid us
dust and stone, so in - still our hearts with cour - age now to
Ca - naan led, may your pres - ence be our com - fort, may your
sear and sting, you have prom - ised liv - ing wa - ters wait - ing
pull and strife, where be - yond our fear and cling - ing stands the
jour - ney on through the days of dust and dark - ness to the
cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross in - to the
man - na be our bread. Let us cross in - to the
for us at the spring. Let us cross out of the
thresh - old of new life. Let us cross out of the
ris - ing of the dawn. Let us cross out of the
wil - der - ness so to walk where Christ has gone.
wil - der - ness with God's man - na as our bread.
wil - der - ness to the wa - ters of the spring.
wil - der - ness to the thresh - old of new life.
wil - der - ness to the ris - ing of the dawn.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: ROSEVILLE, Michael D. Costello, b. 1979

Text © 2012 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 2015 Augsburg Fortress

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's creed...

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Creator,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holding onto God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the world God loves. You are invited to pray through standing, kneeling, or sitting. You may share your prayers aloud or in the silence of your own heart. Let us pray. . . *pause*

As we journey through the 40 days, guide us to seek new missions for the church. Pray for the work of God's people... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Through the wilderness of this earth, you have called us to discipleship.

Pray for God's creation... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

We live together in our own towns, yet we are a people of your divine dominion. Pray for our communities... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

O God, we often fail to see your image in one another causing us to fall into sins of racism, sexism, hate, and all that we do to separate us from each other. Pray for transformation... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

For those who hurt in mind, body, spirit, we pray for your hand. Pray for the healing of one another... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Pray for what you wish to share today...

pause

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Trusting God who raises us out of death, we give thanks for the people who have gone before us into your embrace. Pray for our beloved dead... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERING MUSIC

“Quia respexit” from Mass in B minor

J. S. Bach

OFFERTORY VERSE

The congregation may stand.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

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 your pres - ence, and take not your
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: *River of Life*, Tillis Butler, d. 2002
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

Gracious Provider,

**you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.**

**As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

“... we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:”

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

... with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

INVITATION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Come, for Christ first welcomed us.

LAMB OF GOD

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

COMMUNION HYMN

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days (ELW 319)

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and
prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal
for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

**Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

As the Sun with Longer Journey (ELW 329)



1 As the sun with long-er jour-ney melts the win-ter's snow and ice,
2 Through the days of wait-ing, watch-ing, in the des-ert of our sin,
3 Praise be giv-en to the mak-er of the sea-sons' year-ly round:



with its slow-ly grow-ing ra-diance warms the seed be-neath the earth,
search-ing on the far ho-ri-zon for a sign of cloud or wind,
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it—Source, Sus-tain-er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up-ris-ing gent-ly bring our hearts to life.
we a-wait the heal-ing wa-ters of our Sav-ior's vic-to-ry.
as the ev-er turn-ing a-ges roll to their e-ter-nal rest.

Text: John Patrick Earls, OSB, b. 1935

Music: NAGEL, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praeludium in D minor

Johann Pachelbel

Worship materials adapted this day from multiple ecumenical partners including the Episcopal Church, USA, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2023).

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- Scripture readings from the NRSV

SERVING TODAY

Interim Pastor:

Vicar Alex W. Linn

Guest Preacher:

Aaron Musser, M. Div.

Interim Director of Music:

Leo Radosavljevic

Director of Youth & Families

Evergreen Edwards

Cantor:

Angela De Venuto

Worship Assistant:

Jan Wendel

Reader:

Mae Loesel

Usher:

Peter Hauser

Livestream Camera:

Michel Hauser

Altar Guild:

Cindi Rachowicz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Aaron Musser

This morning we welcome Aaron Musser as our guest preacher. He is the Director of Programs and Engagement at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center of Oregon, IL. Aaron recently graduated from seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2024, and is an alumni of St. Olaf College of Northfield, MN. He was deeply formed by outdoor ministries as a kid, and worked as a summer camp counselor at Good Earth Village (2016-2018) and as a church musician in Milwaukee and Chicago. He enjoys nonfiction books and mint chip ice cream.

Wednesdays in Lent

On Wednesday afternoons during the season of Lent, from 5-6:00 PM, we will gather for a contemplative style of worship in our fellowship hall. This year we will be using some of the curriculum from Sanctified Art titled "Everything [in] Between." We will hear passages from the Gospel of Luke, then take time to sit in silence and reflect on these ancient stories. This worship is a vespers and a wonderful way to press pause on the noise that surrounds our busy lives. Please join us during Lent for worship at 5PM in the fellowship hall, followed by a light supper. (March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9)

Youth & Family Potluck

Families of youth and supporters of Youth & Family ministries are welcome to join Evergreen for a potluck, and engage in games and activities to promote the importance of safe driving on **Saturday, March 15**. Every family is encouraged to bring a dish to share for the potluck, if you wish you are welcome to prepare their dishes in the Church's industrial kitchen. Drinks and dessert (ice cream) will be provided. Time: 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Financial Update

Only one month into 2025 and we are off to a good start. We have revenues from all sources at \$24,850 vs. budgeted at \$23,063. Total expenses year to date are \$22,852 vs. budgeted of \$24,498. The surplus at the end of January was \$1,999.

Call Committee Update

We now have a slate of candidates to review and interview in the coming weeks. It may take several months to complete the interview process. After we interview the candidates will either have found a new pastor, or we will begin the process again with a new slate of candidates. The Synod has told us to take our time and prayerfully consider what is right for St. John's. As we move through the process, we will provide the congregation with regular updates; however, we will not be able to share details on the individual candidates or our specific impressions. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Chad Johnson.

Love Your Neighbor

St. John's, in partnership with six other local Wilmette congregations, is selling yard signs as a fundraiser for the Wilmette Food Pantry. The message is intentional, "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself," from a pretty familiar piece of scripture ([Luke 10:25-37](#)). These signs were the brain-child of your local Wilmette ecumenical clergy group and grew as a response to the tumultuous election year we had in our country. "People have gotten mean," was the response from village workers at city hall when one congregation asked how their faith community can better support the larger village of Wilmette. St. John's has a limited number of signs for sale at \$20.00 each and you can pay First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette directly

on their website through their giving link in the top right hand corner. \$6.00 pays for the cost of the sign, and the rest goes to the Wilmette Food Pantry at Trinity UMC.

Welcome the Stranger

St. John's is joining Trinity Wilmette as a cooperating organization for their 2025 multi-week series exploring the complex dynamics of immigration through diverse perspectives. Join is as experts, scholars, and community leaders help us understand immigration challenges and inspire informed action. You can RSVP on our website (stjohnswilmette.org/justice-team) or on Trinity's website (trinitywilmette.com/immigration/)

IN OUR PRAYERS

- Family & friends of Skip Cordts, brother of Rachel Cordts, who passed away on February 21.
- Family & friends of Ann Wagner, who passed away on February 10.
- Mike Yurkonis, husband of Candace Witt Yurkonis, undergoing cancer treatment.
- Family & friends of Jean Genovese, mother of Courtney Radde, who passed away 12/18/24.
- Family & friends of Marie Louise Williams, mother of Christi Wise, who passed away 12/11/24.
- Marlene Leonard, recovering from throat cancer, 9/25/24.
- Family and friends of Rena Leinberger, wife of Karl and mother of Shayna, Brandon and Jordon, who passed away 4/26/24
- Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Braun, recovering from spinal cord injury.