

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022  
**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
ST/JOHN'S



# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, April 3, 2022

9:30 am

## INTRODUCTION

*Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of suffering and sin.*

## PRELUDE

"O God, Our Faithful God"

Johannes Brahms

## + Gathering +

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another, that we may turn towards you and begin the work of repentance.

**Relational God, we confess before you our sin in the ways we have valued getting things done immediately over attending to relationships. We have not loved you and all in whom you are reflected with our whole heart. We confess that in our desire to get things done quickly and conveniently, we neglect the needs and concerns of those with less power. We sacrifice the interests of marginalized communities for a sense of victory. We have not valued all the ways that communication and relationships develop, but have prioritized the written word. Our perception has been narrow and our timing self-centered. We are sorry, and we humbly repent.**

**We ask for your forgiveness. Help us to honor your timing and to follow the word you write in our hearts.**

Hear the promise of God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist: you are saved by grace and your sin is forgiven. Through God's love, mercy, and justice, and by God's choosing, you have been set free from sin.

Now, with renewed hearts, let us serve others and honor the world God made, knowing the good news we have received is for all people.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW 587



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows  
in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands  
ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row  
through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place  
of new worlds as great as this; there is room for  
by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -  
let us take you at your word, and our lives will



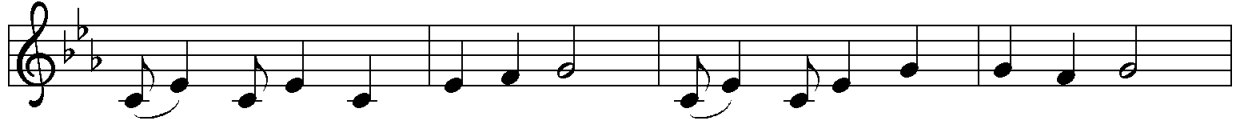
where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
be thanks-giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.  
Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938–1984  
Music © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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



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

For the times we prize our self-interest and individuality  
over the well-being of others.

*Verse 1 is sung.*

For the ways in which we treat others as less than based on what we see instead of seeing through  
the eyes of Christ.

*Verse 2 is sung.*

For the ways in which progress, perfection, and fear of conflict  
get in the way of love.

*Verse 3 is sung.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**Eternal God, you wrote your law and placed your guiding Word in our hearts, through the Holy Spirit. You promise us abundant life, freeing us from the need to do it all right now. Help us to be present to the many ways you communicate with us and we communicate with one another. Give us the patience to pause and examine our sense of urgency, placing faith in your eternal nature.  
Amen.**

+ Word +

READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD,  
    who makes a way in the sea,  
    a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup>who brings out chariot and horse,  
    army and warrior;  
    they lie down, they cannot rise,  
    they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things,  
    or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing;  
    now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
    I will make a way in the wilderness  
    and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me,  
    the jackals and the ostriches;  
    for I give water in the wilderness,  
    rivers in the desert,  
    to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself  
    so that they might declare my praise.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 126



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

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
    then were we like | those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue**  
    **with | shouts of joy.**  
    **Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done**  
    **great | things for them.”**  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great | things for us,  
    and we are | glad indeed.  
<sup>4</sup>**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,**  
    **like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**  
<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears  
    will reap with | songs of joy.

**<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carry-<sup>1</sup>ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder-<sup>1</sup>ing their sheaves.**

READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians.

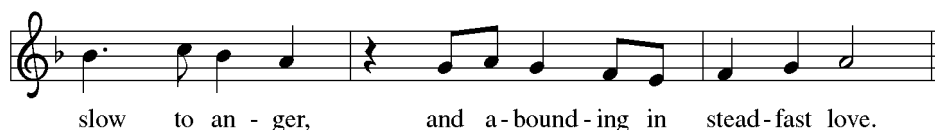
<sup>4</sup>If they think they have the right to put their trust in external evidence, I have even more right! <sup>5</sup> I was circumcised on the eighth day, being of the stock of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrew origins; in legal observance I was a Pharisee, <sup>6</sup> and so zealous that I persecuted the church. I was above reproach when it came to justice based on the Law. <sup>7</sup> But those things I used to consider gain, I now count as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss in light of the surpassing knowledge of my Savior Jesus Christ, for whose sake I have forfeited everything. I count everything else as garbage, so that Christ may be my wealth—<sup>9</sup> indeed, that I may be found in Christ, not having any justice of my own based on observance of the Law. The justice I possess is that which comes through faith in Christ. It has its origin in God and is based on faith. <sup>10</sup> All I want is to know Christ, and the power of the resurrection, and how to share in Christ's sufferings by being formed into the pattern of Jesus' death—<sup>11</sup>perhaps even to arrive at the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> It's not that I have reached it yet, or have already finished my course; but I'm running the race in order to grab hold of the prize if possible, since Christ Jesus has grabbed hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Siblings, I don't think of myself as having reached the finish line. I give no thought to what lies behind, but I push on to what is ahead. <sup>14</sup> My entire attention is on the finish line as I run toward the prize—the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 2476-2477). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days before Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the village of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a banquet in Jesus' honor, at which Martha served. Lazarus was one of those at the table. <sup>3</sup> Mary brought a pound of costly ointment, pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. The house was full of the scent of the ointment. <sup>4</sup> Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples—the one who was to betray Jesus—protested, <sup>5</sup> “Why wasn't this ointment sold? It could have brought nearly a year's wages, and the money been given to poor

people!”<sup>6</sup> Judas didn’t say this because he was concerned for poor people, but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the common fund and would help himself to it.<sup>7</sup> So Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial.”<sup>8</sup> You have poor people with you always. But you won’t always have me.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 2317). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

SERMON


Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY


Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

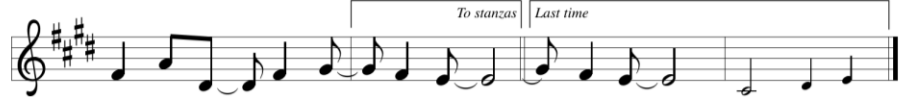
*Refrain/Estribillo*



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,




da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;




y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.




1 Que mi vi - da en te - ra es - té  
 1 Take my hands and let them move  
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
 4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
 at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 not a mite would I with - hold;  
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
 take my feet and let them be swift and  
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
 take my lips and let them be filled with  
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



*Refrain/Estribillo*

pul - so de tu a - mor.  
 beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
 mes - sag - es from thee.  
 be thy roy - al throne.

- 2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos de lo santo puedan ir, y que a ti, Señor, mi voz, se complazca en bendecir.* Estribillo
- 3 *Que mis labios al hablar hablen sólo de tu amor; que mis bienes dedicar yo los quiera a ti, Señor.* Estribillo

- 4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté consagrado a tu loor; que mi mente y su poder sean usados en tu honor.* Estribillo

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955  
 Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956  
 Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn them upward; close your eyes or lift them to the altar.

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms that no longer serve the gospel and bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage in the face of change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing in our world. Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all. Make a way for peace and collaboration among the nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing for those who suffer. Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle with money. Comfort those who grieve and restore those who are sick. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued. Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers.*)

Merciful God, *or*  
**receive our prayer.**

Lord, we praise you,  
**Thanks be to God.**

Do a new thing in our death. Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection as we give thanks for all the saints who have attained the prize of their heavenly call. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of 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 +

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our ancestors in faith gathered together long ago to remember, to be restored, to be renewed. They shared their story, prayed together, and made an offering to God as they prepared to set out on the long journey to freedom in the Promised Land. Today we gather to remember and to pray together, to be restored and renewed, and we bring our own offerings so the ministry of this church will continue to participate in the saving works of God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

### OFFERING

*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 at [stjohnswilmette.org/give](http://stjohnswilmette.org/give). Thank you for your generosity!*

### OFFERTORY SOLO

“Hear My Prayer, O Lord”

*Sung by cantor.  
Antonin Dvorak*

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear unto my cry.  
Thou art my refuge and my hope,  
Thou shalt tread down my enemies.

I will dwell forever in Thy tents, and hide me in the shadow of Thy wings.

Lord! Thou art indeed my God, yea, I will seek Thee early.  
My soul is faint, my body longeth after Thee  
in a barren desert where there is no water.

Now I will bless Thee daily and lift my hands in prayer and adoration, yea, my lips shall praise  
Thee all my life long.

### OFFERTORY VERSE

Restore in Us, O God, verses 1 & 2



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Holy Provider, we thank you for the ways you have provided for us. Help us to know the difference between the things given to us by you and the things that come to us as a result of privilege. By your grace, develop in us a spirit of generosity with our talents, possessions, and energy, that we might bear witness to your abundance.**

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

God is here.

**All is not lost.**

May our hearts be open.

**And able to receive.**

Let us give thanks for grace unending.

**That our world might one day be restored.**

## PREFACE

We lift up our praise to you, Holy God...praising you and singing:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*Those worshipping online are invited to raise their bread and wine along with the pastor to be blessed.*

God, our Creator...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

With this bread...O God, now and forever.



### LORD'S PRAYER

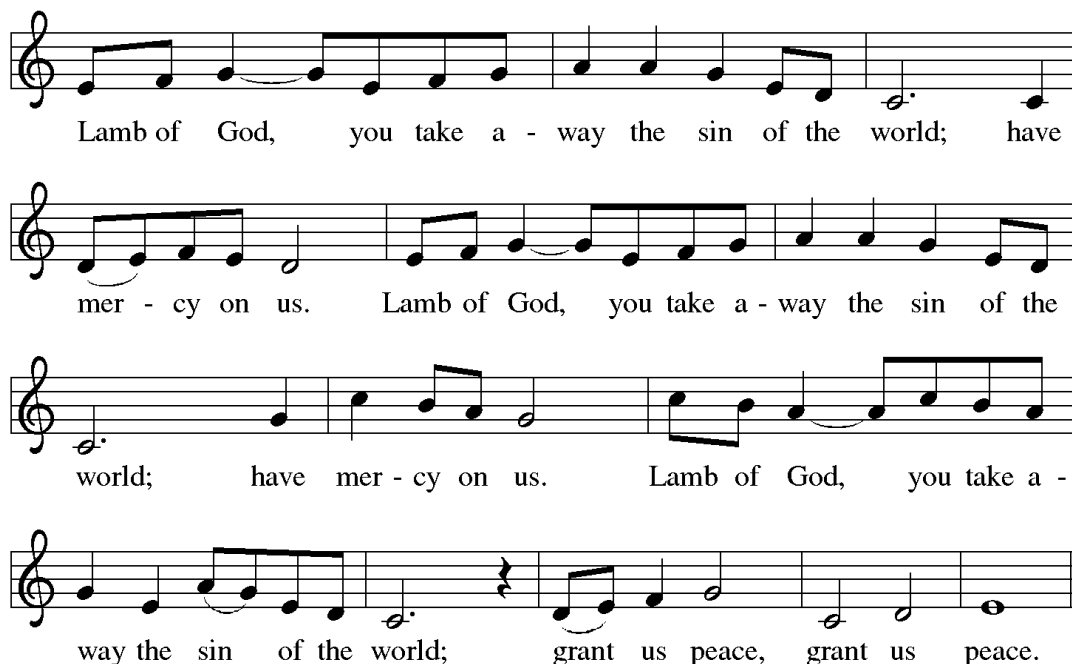
**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kin-dom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

### INVITATION

### COMMUNION

*All are welcome to commune at Christ's table! 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, maintaining social distancing. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. Please step forward and then remove your mask to eat in front of the altar. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table next to you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). You may drink and then place the empty glass in the basket. Please put your mask back on before returning to your seat. 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 elements will be brought to you.*

### LAMB OF GOD



## COMMUNION MUSIC

### Seed That in Earth Is Dying

ELW 330

Seed that in earth is dying  
grows into ears of grain.  
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel  
turn into golden wine.  
God, through this mystery grant us  
faith in our deepest darkness,  
life in our night and death.

We were baptized in Jesus,  
into his death and grave,  
to resurrection's promise:  
praise and eternal life.  
Heaven's own praises begin here  
where you yourself are near us,  
deep in our night and death.

Seed that in earth is dying  
rises to bear much fruit.  
Christ, as we meet at your table,  
give us the bread of life.  
Lord, we do thank and adore you!  
Unceasing praise of the ages  
rises from night and death.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929  
English text © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, admin. Augsburg Fortre

### 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  
Text © 1981 Order of Saint Benedict, admin. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN 56321. www.litpress.org. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**Holy One-in-Three, through your death,  
we are fed with the bread of life.**

**Let us follow your way to the cross,  
to be for others a sign of your compassion and life.**

**As you have fed us, let us go out to be part of feeding the world.**

**Amen.**

**+ Sending +**

## BENEDICTION

May God lead you to openness that grants understanding.

May God guide you to accountability that begins restoration.

May God inspire you to transforming love  
that celebrates all people and all creation.

In the name of ✠ the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit,

**Amen.**

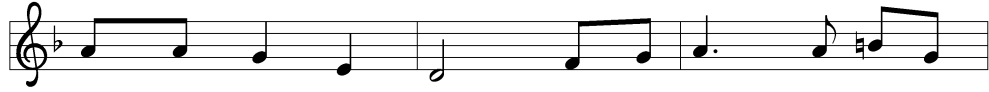
SENDING HYMN

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (verses 1-3, 5)

ELW 334



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

*One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.*

*General*

Light of life beyond conceiving,  
mighty Spirit of our Lord;  
give new strength to our believing,  
give us faith to live your word

*Lent 3*

Living Water of salvation,  
be the fountain of each soul;  
springing up in new creation,  
flow in us and make us whole.

*Lent 1*

From the dawning of creation  
you have loved us as your own;  
stay with us through all temptation,  
make us turn to you alone.

*Lent 4*

Give us eyes to see you clearly;  
make us children of your light.  
Give us hearts to live more nearly  
as your gospel shining bright.

*Lent 2*

In our call to be a blessing,  
may we be a blessing true;  
may we live and die confessing  
Christ as Lord of all we do.

*Lent 5*

God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death,  
hold us close through each tomorrow,  
love as near as every breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: Marty Haugen  
Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

“Christ, the Life of all the Living”

J.S. Bach

Liturgical elements from Disrupt Worship Project, adapted by Pr. Bengfort, and from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #3706.

## SERVING TODAY

<i>Preaching &amp; Presiding Minister:</i>	The Rev. Allison Bengfort
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	Alan Swanson
<i>Interim Music Director &amp; Organist:</i>	Christine Kraemer
<i>Cantor:</i>	Stephanie Chee
<i>Carillon Ringer:</i>	Jan Wendel
<i>Minister of the Word:</i>	Emma Radde
<i>Children’s Church:</i>	Student Pastor Derek Stienmetz
<i>Usher:</i>	Peter Hauser
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Susan Crist
<i>Livestream Camera Operator:</i>	Luke Rasmussen
<i>Zoom Host:</i>	Luke Rasmussen
<i>Coffee Hour Host:</i>	Jan Wendel
<i>Cover Art:</i>	Wayne Forte



## IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Stephanie Gonder, recovery from oral surgery 3/28/22
- † Craig Gonder, recovery from hernia surgery on 3/23/22
- † Mindy Davis, seeking permanent housing (2/23/22)
- † Tyler MacAvoy, daughter of Bill & Medwin Kaspar, in need of healing (2/22/22)
- † Laurel Malhotra, in need of healing (2/23/22)
- † Larry Wood, recovering from successful surgery 2/10/22
- † Frank Ziegler, recovering from knee replacement
- † The family and friends of Sylvia Cushing, cousin of Olga Domchenko, who died 11/17/21
- † The family and friends of Ed Price, friend of Sarah Rink, who died 11/21/21
- † Carolyn Groves, mother of Mary Kastman, in need of healing
- † The family & friends of Joyce Rank, grandmother of Luke Rasmussen, who died 8/29/21
- † Sarah Rink, for recovery from chronic pain
- † The family & friends of Ed Woltman, who died 4/2/21
- † The family & friends of Gilbert & Eleanor Basnik, father and stepmother of Linda Basnik, who died on 8/5/21 & 8/6/21
- † Amy Kohler, for safety and mental health (2/16/22)
- † Joanni Kric, recovering from hospitalization in Aug. 2021
- † Mark Voosen
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Art Garcia, friend of Chad Johnson, recovering from a heart attack and pneumonia
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing
- † Alan Williams, stepfather of Christi Wise, recovering from surgery
- † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Mission & Vision Small Group Discussions**

For four weeks during Lent, our Mission & Vision Team has been hosting small group discussions after worship from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm. The purpose of these conversations has been to receive input from the congregation (both members and non-members) on our draft Strategic Plan, which includes a new vision statement, mission statement, core values, and goals. Today is the final meeting, which will take place in the lower level conference room (or via Zoom if needed), and you are encouraged to bring your coffee hour treats! If you have not attended a meeting yet, you are invited to join today's small group discussion. We are very interested in your perspective and feedback!

### **Easter Lily Orders**

Easter lilies may be ordered in memory of a loved one, in celebration of an occasion or a person, or in thanksgiving for the abundance of God's blessings. These beautiful plants will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday for all to enjoy, and they may be taken home by their donors following the service that day. Please complete the insert in today's bulletin and place it in the offering plate with your payment, or you may pay online at [stjohnswilmette.org/give](http://stjohnswilmette.org/give) using the "Lilies" category. The cost of each plant is \$12, and the deadline for ordering is today.

### **Family Easter Vigil**

People of all ages are welcome to join the Family Easter Vigil in person on **Saturday, April 16th** at 5 pm. Our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Team will host this worship. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the service, email Student Pastor Derek at [derek@stjohnswilmette.com](mailto:derek@stjohnswilmette.com).

### **First Communion/Thanksgiving for Communion Classes**

Student Pastor Derek will be leading a three-week First Communion/Thanksgiving for Communion class with children and youth beginning after Easter. The class will meet during Children's Church time on April 24th, May 1st, and May 8th, in person only. We will celebrate and receive first communion on **May 15th** during the 9:30 am service. All children are welcome and encouraged to participate regardless of whether they've received communion previously. If you'd like to volunteer to assist or have questions, please email [derek@stjohnswilmette.com](mailto:derek@stjohnswilmette.com).

### **Final Lenten Wednesday Service**

This Wednesday will be our final gathering for Holden Evening Prayer at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary, followed by a soup supper in the Fellowship Hall. The service will also be streamed online for those who would like to participate on Zoom.

### **Visitors for Sarah**

Sarah Rink, a regular participant at the Saturday service and now a participant in Sunday morning services, is looking for folks who would be willing to visit her in her home (1900 Wilmette Ave. #2F). She is experiencing chronic pain, and having visitors would be a great blessing in her life. She is open to hosting visitors at 4 pm or 5 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Sarah is fully vaccinated and happy to wear a mask if that is preferred. Please give her a call at 847-251-2758 to let her know when you can stop by!

### **Mask Update**

In light of new CDC and Metro Chicago Synod guidelines, masks are now optional for activities at St. John's with the important exceptions of worship and youth programming. Worship leaders, including cantors/song leaders, may now remove masks while leading, but the congregation will remain masked and

socially distanced from leaders. If you have any questions or concerns about our current policy, please contact our Re-Entry Team (Pastor Allison, Michel Hauser, Al Swanson, Christi Wise).

**Bible Study Remains Online Only**

Weekly Bible Study will remain meeting online from 11:00 am-12:00 pm on Tuesdays. Bible Study can be accessed via our worship Zoom link.

**From Holy Family Ministries: You are invited to A Hope and A Future 2022!**

Each year, Holy Family Ministries raises funds to enable west side children to attend our programs through our Spring Benefit. Through the generosity of friends like you, we raise funds to support the more than 600 children who excel academically, grow spiritually, become effective leaders and expand their life experiences through Holy Family programs. You are invited to Holy Family Ministries' annual Spring Benefit in celebration and support of the children of Holy Family. Join us online from the comfort of your own home and share with us in a very special evening Saturday, April 30, 2022. "Virtual Doors" open at 6:45 pm. Program begins at 7:00 pm. Use the link in this week's eNews to register for free.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TODAY

9:30 AM Hybrid Worship with  
Hybrid Children's Church  
10:30 AM Coffee Hour  
10:45 AM Hybrid Mission & Vision Discussion

### TUESDAY

11:00 AM Zoom-only Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM Hybrid Lenten Worship  
6:30 PM Soup Supper  
6:30 PM Confirmation Class

### THURSDAY

12:00 PM Zoom-only Men's Lunch

### FRIDAY

2:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

### SUNDAY, APRIL 10

9:30 AM PALM SUNDAY  
Hybrid Worship with  
Hybrid Children's Church  
10:30 AM Coffee Hour

# ST/JOHN'S

1235 Wilmette Avenue • Wilmette, Illinois 60091 • (847) 251-1730  
stjohnswilmette.com • Facebook: St. John's Wilmette