

# **First Sunday in Lent**

**February 22, 2026**

**9 am**



**Saint John Lutheran Church**

**Fairfield, Pennsylvania**

**Rev. Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor**

**Carol Garman, Organist/ Music Director**

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Office Hours  
Monday – Thursday 8:30am-12:00pm

***Our Mission is to make Christ known.***

We welcome all guests this morning.  
We are very pleased to have you worship with us.  
All are welcome to receive communion.

Sunday School for all ages meets at 10:15.  
Everyone is welcome! Grab some refreshments and join us!

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CARING CONVERSATION:

**PRELUDE:    Let There Be Peace on Earth    (Miller/Jackson)                      Hand Bells**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of Almighty God, the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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 us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN    A Mighty Fortress is Our God**

**ELW 504**

### INVOCATION

P: May 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

P: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

How Firm a Foundation (arr. Wagner)

Hand Bells

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." <sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So 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. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. *The Word of the Lord...Thanks be to God*

PSALM 32 (Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of

deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding, who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## SECOND READING:

## Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup>for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. *"The Word of the Lord...Thanks be to God.*

**\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ *please stand if able***



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew....**Glory to you O Lord**

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. *"The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**"*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **THE MESSAGE**

**Pastor Wayne Gallipo**

### **HYMN**

**O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days**

**ELW 319**

### **APOSTLES CREED**

(inside back cover of hymnal)

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Response: Hear Us O God... **Your mercy is great.**

### **PEACE**

## **RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**C: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.     **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.     **C: We lift them unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right....

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: On the night in which he was betrayed ... for as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes again.

## LORD'S PRAYER

## THE FRACTION AND INVITATION

## 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, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

*We practice “open communion” at St. John. ALL are invited to come forward as ushered to receive this life-giving sacrament. Those not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing. As you are given the bread and wine an appropriate response is “Amen.” Please be respectful of this meditative time within our worship.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

**Give Me Jesus**

**ELW 770**

**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

**ELW 618**

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through 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. **Amen**

## SENDING HYMN    I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

**ELW 325**

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 3 When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I’m in trouble Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE: Guide Me, O, Thou Great Jehovah

**arr. Hustad**