

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025, 8:30 A.M.
St. John's Lutheran Church**

Announcements

Prelude

Aria

Richard Horn

Ringling of the Church Bell

Confession and Forgiveness

page 116-117

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #807

Greeting and Kyrie

"In peace, let us pray..."

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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.

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord. **C: Amen**

Psalm 32:1-6

L: ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

C: ² **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

L: ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

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

L: ⁵ 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.

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

Prayer of the Day: L: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: **Amen.**

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Anthem

For You Alone, O God, I Wait
Senior Choir

Andrew Birling

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation *"Return to the Lord, your God,...."*

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Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

Sermon

Pastor Bryan Robertson

Confession of Faith

Apostles’ Creed

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I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator 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 Father, 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.

The Offering Hymn

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW #779

The Offering Prayer: L: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

Prayers of the Church:

L: God, in your mercy,... C: ...receive our prayer.

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymns:

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me ELW #767;

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways ELW #772

Benediction: L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood, strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace. Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW #763

Postlude

Dialogue

Francis Couperin

Activities this Week at St. John's

Sun, Mar 30	8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am 5:30pm 7pm
Wed, Apr 2	9am-noon 5:30pm-7pm 6pm 7pm 7:45pm
Sat, Apr 5	all day
Sun, Apr 6	8:30 & 10:30am 9:30am 9:40am 5:30pm 7pm

Mar 30, 2025 to Apr 6, 2025

Worship services w/comm
Sr Choir
Sr Bell Choir
Men's Choir
Quilting
Casserole Supper
Youth Bells
Lenten Service
Confirmation
Cluster 8 Mtg Highland Lutheran
Worship services w/comm
Sunday School & Sr Choir
Congregational Mtg-Trust Fund
Sr Bell Choir
Men's Choir

General Funds (undesignated)**Jan 1 – Mar 25, 2025**

Actual Income	\$ 53,882
Actual Expenses	42,465

Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2025

Budget Expenses	53,332
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Attendance

Last Sunday	63
2025 Average	81
2024 Average	90

Mar 19 No Worship

Greeters	8:30am 10:30am	Marilyn Henkels
Ushers	8:30am 10:30am	Lee & Chris Ellickson family
Readers	8:30am 10:30am	Mary Jo Meyer Linda Groe
Comm Prep	8:30am 10:30am	Altar Guild Altar Guild
Comm Asst	8:30am 10:30am	Jens & Jane Kallevang, Rhonda Barr Jill Kistler
Secretary		Rhonda Barr
Custodians		John & Sharon Roe
Organist/Director of Music		James H. Bieber
Pastor		Bryan Robertson

Radio Broadcast Ministry –Today's radio broadcast is given with Church Funds. Thank you for your continuing support of this outreach ministry. Join us on Sunday mornings on KNEI 103.5 at 8:30am.

Note: you have the option of selecting a hymn of your choice for the service you sponsor.

Easter Food Baskets: we are currently in need of these food donations or cash for the baskets: 4 jars of mayo, 4 jars of jelly, 3 bags of 5# flour, 4 bags of 4# sugar, 7 cans of mixed vegetables, 6 cans of green beans, 5 cans of corn and 4 packs of fruit cups. Food donations can be left in the cart in the Narthex, or donations left in the Office. **Thank You**

Our heartfelt sympathies to Linda & Dennis DeBuhr in the passing of Linda's sister Jan Helgeson recently.

Troop 64 Boy Scout Omelet Breakfast on Sunday, April 13, at the Waukon Event Center. Dine In or Carry Out. Made to order omelets, hashbrowns, cinnamon rolls, and coffee, juice or milk. \$10 advance ticket sales and \$12 at the door.

We are accepting pledges toward the Solar Project. Pledges may be made by calling the Church Office or talking to Pastor Bryan.

Please join the LYO for casserole suppers during Lent: April 2 & 9.

Newsletters are available for pickup for those who requested printed correspondence from the Church.

Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church Norwegian Meatball Supper on Thursday, April 24, 2025 from 4pm – 7pm or until food runs out. **Drive Thru-Carry Out Only**. Suggested donation: \$15 per meal. Menu includes: meatballs, mashed potatoes/gravy, glazed carrots, celebration salad, rolls and Norwegian baked goods. *Plan to attend*

Greens Sugarbush Maple Festival Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 30 and Sunday, April 6. Serving from 10am-2pm rain or shine. Adults \$10, 12 and under \$5, preschool free. All you can eat pancakes & sausage. 1434 111th Ave, Castalia IA