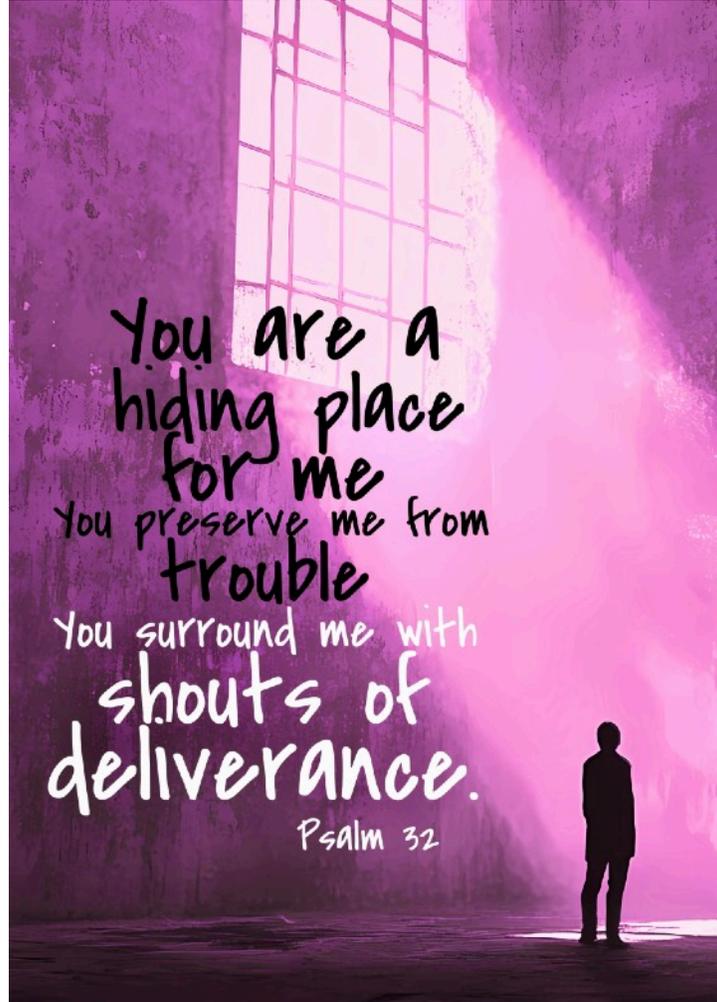


## Lent Midweek 2



March 4, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church

[stjohnslutheranjc.com](http://stjohnslutheranjc.com)

### **Schubert**

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## Ring of the Bell - Prelude - Welcome

### Opening Hymn - TLH 155 "Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing"

Sweet the moments, rich in blessing, Which before the cross we spend,  
Life and health and peace possessing From the sinners' dying Friend.

Here we rest in wonder, viewing All our sins on Jesus laid;  
Here we see redemption flowing From the sacrifice He made.

Here we find the dawn of heaven While upon the cross we gaze,  
See our trespasses forgiven, And our songs of triumph raise.

Oh, that, near the cross abiding, We may to the Savior cleave,  
Naught with Him our hearts dividing, All for Him content to leave!

Lord, in loving contemplation Fix our hearts and eyes on Thee  
Till we taste Thy full salvation And Thine unveiled glory see. Amen.

### Opening Versicles

P: O Lord, open Thou my lips.

**C: And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.**

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**C: Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.**

### Psalm - Psalm 32

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C: Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

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

P: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

**C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;

**C: surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**

P: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**C: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

P: Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.

**C: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.**

P: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

### **Reading – Romans 4:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”

P: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!**

### **Reading – Luke 15:11-32**

<sup>11</sup> And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, <sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

P: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!**

**Sermon Hymn TLH 154 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"**

**Alas! and did my Savior bleed, And did my Sov'reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?**

**Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!**

**Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut his glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died For man the creature's sin.**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.**

**But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do. Amen.**

**The Sermon**

**Offertory Hymn TLH 644 "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"**

**△ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Magnificat**

P: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;

**C: for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**

**For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.**

P: For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;  
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

**C: He has shown strength with His arm;**

**He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

P: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

**C: He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**

P: He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his seed forever.

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.**

**Prayers**

**Kyrie**

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Salutation**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

**Collects**

**The Benedicamus and Benediction**

P: Bless we the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Hymn TLH 145 “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”**

**Jesus, Refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above,  
Oh, how oft Thine eyes, offended, Gaze upon the sinner’s fall!  
Yet, upon the cross extended, Thou didst bear the pain of all.**

**Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,  
Tho’ we see Thee wounded, bleeding, See Thy thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Thy sinless death hath brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Thy grace hath taught us Calms the sinner’s stormy breast.**

**Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for Thee!  
May our eyes be ever turning To thy cross of agony  
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior’s side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified! Amen.**

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**Cover pic artwork:** Allan Forbis

**The Lutheran Hymnal:** St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, © 1941.

Hymn #155: Scripture: 1 John 1:7; Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing; Author: Walter Shirley (1770, ad., alt.); Tune: Ringe recht, Source: “Musikalischer Christenschatz”, Basel (1745).

Hymn #154: Scripture: Luke 23:44-46; Alas And Did My Savior Bleed; Author: Isaac Watts, (1707, ab. and alt); Tune: Martyrdom; Composer: Hugh Wilson († 1824).

Hymn #644: Psalm 150:1; Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow’ Author: Thomas Ken (1695); Tune: Old Hundreth; Source: Geneven Psalter,” 1551.

Hymn #145: Scripture: Mark 15: 29,30; Giesù sommo conforto; Jesus, Refuge of the Weary; Author: Girolamo Savonarola (1563); Translator: Jane F. Wilde (1853); Tune: O du Liebe; Source: “Musikalischer Christenschatz”, Basel (1745).

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