

Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 15, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Churches

stjohnslutheranjc.com

Schubert

4409 Saint Johns Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Babtown

7075 Highway P
Westphalia, MO 65085

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Groh
groh.stjohns@gmail.com

About This Service: The heart of Christianity is not what we do for God but what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We call our service the "Divine Service" because the Divine One, our Lord Jesus, promises to be present to serve us by His Word and with His body and blood.

Are My Children Welcome? Our Lord says, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). Yes, your little ones are more than welcome! We are delighted to have them with us in the service!

Visitors: Welcome to St. John's! If you have not already done so, please fill out the visitor's book outside of the sanctuary. If you don't yet have a church home, or have any questions about what we believe, teach, and confess, feel free to speak with Pastor; he would be happy to talk with you!

Communion: We ask that all visitors speak with Pastor before the service and prior to coming up for communion. We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us. If you are not a communicant member of the LC-MS, please cross your arms when you come up to the communion rail to receive a blessing.

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn TLH 158 "Glory Be to Jesus"

**Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins!**

**Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!**

**Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem!**

**Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.**

**Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.**

**Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood,
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood! Amen.**

The Order of Worship, Page 15 TLH

Invocation: *TLH Page 15 [Responses Sung]*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Confession of Sins *TLH Page 16*

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution *TLH Page 16*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: [Sung] Amen.

Introit (P: Pastor **C: Congregation**) *Psalm 27:4-6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15*

P: My eyes are ever toward the Lord,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**C: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.**

P: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

**C: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

P: I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Gloria Patri: *TLH Page 16 [Sung]*

**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.**

The Kyrie: *TLH Page 17 [Sung]*

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

During Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted

Salutation and Collect

TLH Page 19

P: The Lord be with you! **C: And with thy spirit!**

(prayed together) – **Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Response: [Sung] Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

The Gospel ended, the congregation sings...`

C: PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST!

The Nicene Creed

TLH Page 22

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn TLH 132 "O God of God, O Light of Light"

**O God of God, O Light of Light, Thou Prince of Peace, Thou King of kings!
To Thee where angels know no night The song of praise forever rings.
To Him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain for sinful men,
Be honor, might, all by Him won, Glory and praise! Amen, Amen.**

**Deep in the prophets' sacred page, Grand in the poets' winged word,
Slowly in type, from age to age, Nations beheld their coming Lord,
Till through the deep Judean night Rang out the song "Good will to men!"
Hymned by the first-born sons of light, Reechoed now, "Good will!" Amen.**

**That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death of pain, mid hate and scorn,
These all are past, and now above He reigns our King, once crowned with thorn.
Lift up your heads, ye heavenly gates; So sang His hosts, unheard by men;
Lift up your heads, for you He waits. We lift them up. Amen, Amen.**

**Nations afar, in ignorance deep, Isles of the sea, where darkness lay,
These hear His voice, they wake from sleep, And throng with joy the upward way.
They cry with us, "Send forth Thy light, O Lamb, once slain for sinful men;
Burst Satan's bonds, O God of might; Set all men free!" Amen, Amen.**

**Sing to the Lord a glorious song, Sing to His name, His love forthtell;
Sing on, heaven's host, His praise prolong; Sing, ye who now on earth do dwell:
Worthy the Lamb for sinners slain; From angels praise and thanks from men;
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign, Glory and power! Amen, Amen.**

The Sermon

Offertory

TLH Pages 22-23 [Sung]

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayers

TLH Pages 23-24

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Preface: TLH Page 24 [Responses Sung]

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

C: It is meet and right so to do.

**P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee,
holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the
company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:**

The Sanctus: TLH Page 26 [Sung]

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He,

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer: TLH Page 27

**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;**

[Sung] **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution: TLH Page 27

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini: TLH Page 27

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *[Sung]* **A - - - - men.**

The Agnus Dei: TLH Page 28 [Sung]

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A - - - - men.**

The Distribution *(We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us.)*

Distribution Hymns TLH 148 "Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light"

**Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, my Light, My Strength by day, my Trust by night,
On earth I'm but a passing guest And sorely by my sins opprest.**

**Far off I see my fatherland, Where thro' Thy blood I hope to stand.
But ere I reach that Paradise, A weary way before me lies.**

**My heart sinks at the journey's length, My wasted flesh has little strength;
My soul alone still cries in me: "Lord, take me home, take me to Thee!"**

**Oh let Thy suff'rings give me pow'r To meet the last and darkest hour!
Thy blood refresh and comfort me; Thy bonds and fetters make me free.**

**Oh, let Thy holy wounds for me Clefts in the rock forever be
Where as a dove my soul can hide And safe from Satan's rage abide.**

**And when my spirit flies away, The dying words shall be my stay.
Thy cross shall be my staff in life, Thy holy grave my rest from strife.**

**Lord, in Thy nail-prints let me read That Thou to save me hast decreed
And grant that in Thine opened side My troubled soul may ever hide.**

**Since Thou hast died, the Pure, the Just, I take my homeward way in trust.
The gates of heaven, Lord, open wide When here I may no more abide.**

And when the last Great Day shall come And Thou, our Judge, shalt speak the doom,
Let me with joy behold the light And set me then upon Thy right.

Renew this wasted flesh of mine That like the sun it there may shine
Among the angels pure and bright, Yea, like Thyself in glorious light.

Ah, then I'll have my hearts' desire, When, singing with the angels' choir,
Among the ransomed of Thy grace, Forever I'll behold Thy face. Amen.

TLH 151 "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe,--
Thro' thy suff'rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit:
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee, Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee. All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne
That as Thine Thou mightest own me And with heavenly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee,--Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

TLH Pages 29-30 [Sung]

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the Face of all people,
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
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.

The Thanksgiving: TLH Page 30

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: [Sung] **And His mercy endureth forever.**

The Thanksgiving Prayer: TLH Pages 30-31

P: ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

C: [Sung] **A- - - - men.**

The Benedicamus: TLH Page 31

P: The Lord be with you.

C: [Sung] **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: [Sung] **Thanks be to God.**

The Benediction: TLH Page 31

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: [Sung] **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Closing Hymn TLH 359 "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Thou, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit, then, this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiance Divine, Scatter all my unbelief.**

More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

* * * * *

Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

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

Hymn #158: Scripture: 1 Peter 1:19; Viva! viva! Gesù; Glory Be to Jesus; Scripture: Italian (18th century, cento); Translator: Edward Caswall (1857); Tune: Wem in Leidenstagen; Composer: Friedrich Filitz (1847)

Hymn #132: Scripture: Psalm 43:3; O God of God, O Light of Light; Author: John Julian (1883); Tune: O grosser Gott; Source: "Gesang-und Notenbuch", Stuttgart, 1744.

Hymn #148: Scripture: Luke 23:33; German Title: O Jesu Christ, mein's Lieben licht; Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light; Author: Martin Behm (1610, cento.) Tran.: Catherine Winkworth (1858, 1863, alt.); O Jesu Christ, Mein's; Source: "Nurnbergeisches Gesangbuch, 1676.

Hymn # 151: Scripture: Matthew 26:64-67; Jesu, meines Lebens Leben; Christ The Life Of All The Living; Author: Ernst C. Homburg (1659 ab.); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1863, alt.); Tune: Jesu Meines Lebens Leben; Source: "Kirchengesangbuch," Darmstadt, 1687.

Hymn #359: Text: Luke 1:78; Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies; Author: Charles Wesley (1740); Tune: Ratisbon; Source: "Saechsisches Choralbuch," Leipzig, 1815.

Bible Readings: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

* * * * *

Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, Mar. 16th**: Hebrews 9
- **Tuesday, Mar. 17th**: Hebrews 10
- **Wednesday, Mar. 18th**: Hebrews 11
- **Thursday, Mar. 19th**: Hebrews 12
- **Friday, Mar. 20th**: Hebrews 13
- **Saturday, Mar. 21st**: 1 Corinthians 1
- **Sunday, Mar. 22nd**: 1 Corinthians 2

Catechism Recitation for the Week:

Baptism: What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesday, March 18th @ 7:00pm

Join us as we meditate on Psalm 102!

“But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever. . .”

* * * * *