



St. John's Lutheran Church

Lenten Worship

March 26, 2025

7:00 pm

The Joy of Lent



Ringing of the Bell

Prelude -

OPENING HYMN TLH 364 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole, And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul And to the weary, rest.

Dear name! The Rock on which I build, My Shield and Hiding-place;
My never-failing Treasury, filled With boundless stores of grace.

By Thee my prayers acceptance gain Although with sin defiled.
Satan accuses me in vain, And I am owned a child.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Guardian, Friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, Accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death! Amen.

OPENING RESPONSE

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice,

People: And you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

Pastor: Be faithful unto death

People: And I will give you the crown of life.

Pastor: For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

People: Therefore we give glory to God who raised him up and gave us the promise of salvation. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Jesus said, "Whoever is of God hears the words of God."



People: Gracious God, we confess our slowness to hear Jesus' words calling us to choose a life of love and service. We often hear the roaring of our own willfulness and ignore the urging of Jesus to follow him. We set our own path, seek our own advantage, cling to the things we have made for ourselves and turn away from the guiding of the Spirit. Forgive us, Lord. Open our ears to hear Jesus' call, our eyes to see the needs he sends us to fill, our mouths to speak the good word to those who need to hear it and our hearts to receive the Spirit's leading. Fire us by your Spirit to be about the life choices you have called us to make. Let us overflow with the doing that proclaims your very presence with us. Amen

Pastor: I have the honor and privilege, by the grace of God, of announcing to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and free—free to share the steadfast love of God with all.

Passion Reading

HYMN - Jesus, Lead Thou On

TLH 410

**Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless, We will follow calm and fearless;
Guide us by Thy hand To our fatherland.**

**If the way be drear, If the Foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us, Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For though many a woe To our home we go.**

**When we seek relief From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring, Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.**

**Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won;
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us, Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand In our fatherland. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Hosea 10:1-8

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:36-46

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN All Depends on Our Possessing

TLH 425

**All depends on our possessing God's abundant grace and blessing,
Tho' all earthly wealth depart. He who trusts with faith unshaken
In his God is not forsaken And e'er keeps a dauntless heart.**

**He who hitherto hath fed me And to many joys hath led me,
Is and ever shall be mine. He who did so gently school me,
He who still doth guide and rule me, Will remain my Help divine.**

**Many spend their lives in fretting Over trifles and in getting
Things that have no solid ground. I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure And that now is seldom found.**

**When with sorrow I am stricken, Hope my heart anew will quicken,
All my longing shall be stilled. To His loving-kindness tender
Soul and body I surrender; For in Him alone I build.**

**Well He knows what best to grant me; All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day. I shall doubt His wisdom never--
As God wills, so be it ever--I to Him commit my way.**

**If on earth my days He lengthen, He my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in Him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in His grace. Amen.**

Some things we would say in thanks before Jesus as He died on the cross

I give thanks that you have chosen to die in my place, so that I would not have to suffer and die forever.

I give thanks for your sorrow, so that I would have joy.

I give thanks for you becoming a person like me. I don't have to be perfect, you make me perfect.

I give thanks for you becoming small, so I do not have to pretend that I am big and superior to anybody.

I give thanks for you taking my sin boldly, so everyone will know you died for me.

I give thanks for you becoming weak, so I do not have to pretend to be strong.

I give thanks for you being willing to suffer, so my hurts will be healed and I will have joy forever.

I give thanks that while I cry for my sin, I am joyful that you have bought a new life for me with your death on a cross.

A TIME OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

Prayer: (spoken together)

Crucified Jesus, I thank you for revealing all these things to me in your resurrection and life. I give thanks as I look to your cross because it brings me joy in knowing the love of the Father, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and the eternal thanksgiving I will have because of your suffering and passion. Amen.

Message: **Don't Cry** – Luke 23:25-31

HYMN – Wondrous King, All Glorious TLH 41 (Offerings are brought forward during Hymn)

**Wondrous King, all glorious, Sov'reign Lord victorious,
Oh, receive our praise with favor!
From Thee welled God's kindness Tho' we in our blindness
Strayed from Thee, our blessed Savior.
Strengthen Thou, Help us now;
Let our tongues be singing, Thee our praises bringing.
Heavens, spread the story Of our Maker's glory,
All the pomp of earth obscuring.
Sun, thy rays be sending, Thy bright beams expending,
Light to all the earth assuring.
Moon and star, Praise afar
Him who glorious made you; The vast heavens aid you.
O my soul, rejoicing, Sing, thy praises voicing,
Sing, with hymns of faith adore Him!
All who here have being, Shout, your voices freeing,
Bow down in the dust before Him.
He is God Sabaoth;
Praise alone the Savior, Here and there forever.
Hallelujahs render To the Lord most tender,
Ye who know and love the Savior.
Hallelujahs sing ye, Ye redeemed, oh, bring ye
Hearts that yield Him glad behavior.
Blest are ye Endlessly;
Sinless there forever, Ye shall laud Him ever. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us bring our prayers and petitions to God who hears and answers the pleas of our hearts... In your mercy,

People: Hear us, Lord.

(After each petition)

Pastor:.... In your mercy,

People: Hear us, Lord.

Pastor: These and all other petitions and requests we bring before you in the name of Jesus.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May our Lord Jesus, who leads us, God the Father who loves us and sent his Son for us, and the Holy Spirit who inspires and enables us to live in service, be with us, bless us and send us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

TLH 428

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.**

**I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy Trusting now.**

**I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy By Thy blood.**

**I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying All my need.**

**I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.**

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever And for all. Amen.**

Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Worship Service 7:00 pm

