

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026; 9 a.m.



St John's
Lutheran Church

(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

(Acolytes light the candles)

Invocation

We gather in the name of God, who created us,
who was born to be with us, + who guides us still.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

God knows our hearts, the guilt we carry, the heartache that keeps us awake,
the burdens we bear. God knows that “happy are they who are forgiven,”
and so, we confess in confidence of God’s forgiveness.

(A brief silence)

Good and gracious God,

We have sinned

**and fallen short of the good you desire for us
and for all creation.**

**We have seen the earth as resources to extract
and forgotten to marvel at its beauty.**

**We have doubted your ability to provide
and hoarded more than we need.**

**We have ignored the needs of the vulnerable,
and when you called us to follow you to greater wonders,
we remained where we were and clung to control.**

Forgive our sin and our selfishness.

**Draw us out of ourselves,
more deeply into your love,
and more fully into a world in need.**

God knows our sin before we do

and meets every confession with abundant grace.
 In Christ we are alive and completely forgiven.
 God's goodness has the final word.
 May this gift renew our faith and lighten our load
 so we are prepared to care for the world God so loves.
Amen.

Kyrie

From *No Greater Love Mass* by Michael Joncas

(Cantors sing verses)

1 You were sent to heal the contrite. You came to call sinners. You plead
 for us at the right hand of the Father. Kyrie eleison.

Refrain: (All)



1. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 2. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
 3. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e,
 Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste,
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e,



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

2 You raise the dead to life in the Spirit. You bring pardon and peace to the
 sinner. You bring light to those in darkness. Christe eleison. *Refrain*

3 You reconcile us to God and one another. You heal the wounds of sin and
 division. You intercede for us with your Father. Kyrie eleison. *Refrain*

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Awesome God, **cultivate a deep sense of wonder in our hearts. When we have questions, give us even greater curiosity. When we feel ashamed to ask, give us courage. When we come before something too beautiful or too complex to understand, kindle in us a song of praise. May all of our wondering and wandering draw us deeper into relationship with you.**

Amen.

Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 *(please sit)*

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which

we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

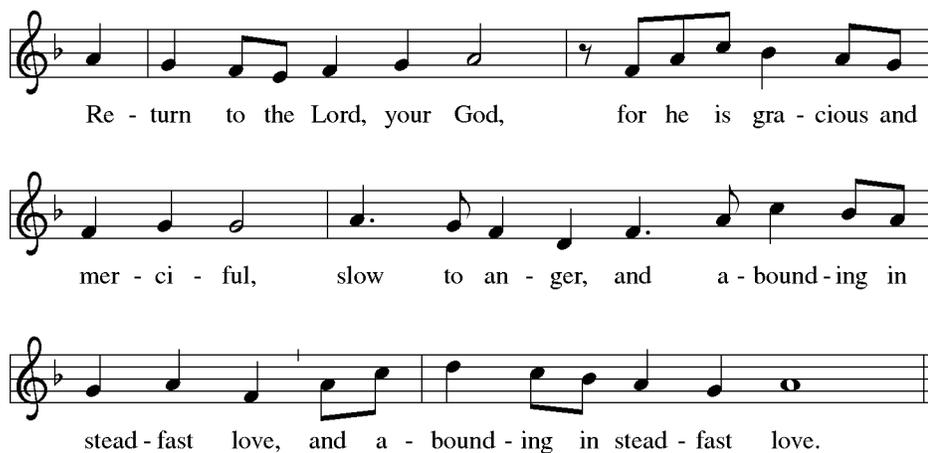
Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

ELW Setting 3



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel: John 4:5-42

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 4th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you

speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *(please sit)*

"Bucket List" Pastor Christine Emerson

Hymn of the Day *(please stand)*

ELW #777; *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty* vs. 1-3

1 "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;
drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer,
you would come to me and live."

Refrain

Jesus, ever flowing fountain,

give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
there is joy no tongue can tell.

2 "Come to me, all trav'lers weary;
come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer;
at this table be my guest." *Refrain*

3 "Come to me, believers burdened;
find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer,
turn to me and seek my face." *Refrain*

Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Petition:
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

Offering

(Ushers take up the collection)

Before the Waters Nourished Earth by Jeanette M. Lindholm
St. John's Choir

Offertory *(please stand)*

(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)

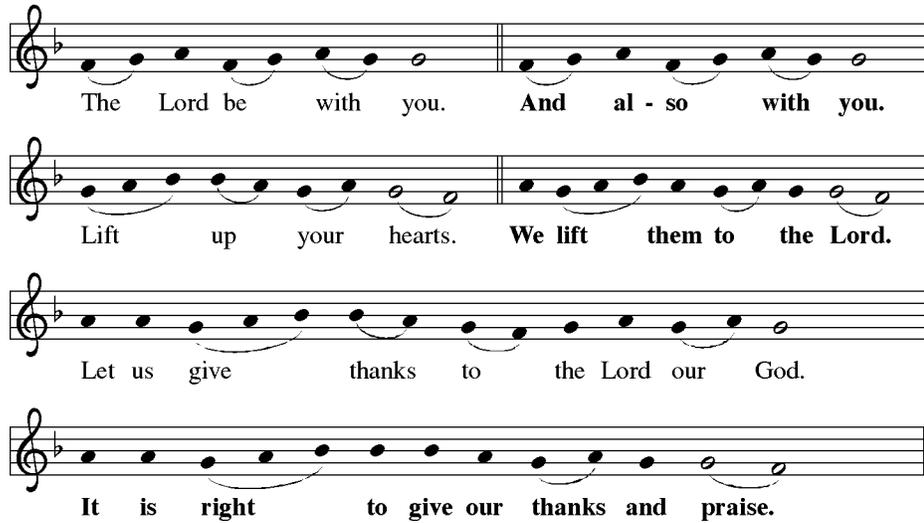
ELW #188; *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God who provides,
we return to you a portion of all that you have given us.
Bless and use these gifts,
our hands, our hearts, our ministry,
to care for the world you so love.
Now prepare us to receive you at this table
and in the world beyond our doors.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

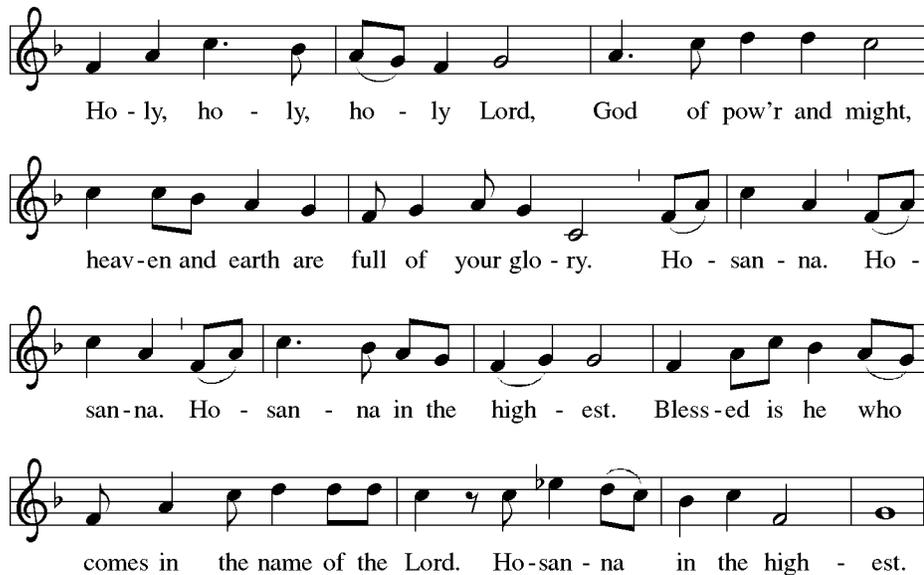
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting 3



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive

us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

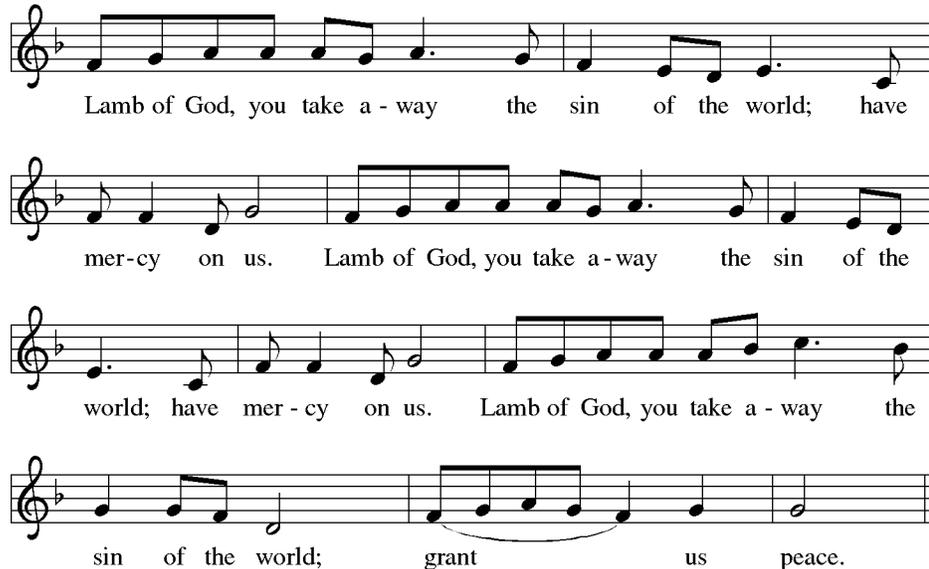
Invitation to the Table

(Acolytes prepare for communion distribution; ushers come forward to invite assembly by pew. Greeters will guide those wishing to receive at the altar: stop at credence table for a cup, then walk up side steps into the chancel)

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

Lamb of God

ELW Setting 3



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.

Communion Hymn

ELW #480; *O Bread of Life from Heaven*

- 1 O bread of life from heaven,
O food to pilgrims given,
O manna from above:
feed with the blessed sweetness
of your divine completeness
the souls that want and need your love.

- 2 O fount of grace redeeming,
O river ever streaming
from Jesus' wounded side:
come now, your love bestowing
on thirsting souls, and flowing
till all are fully satisfied.
- 3 We love you, Jesus, tender,
in all your hidden splendor
within these means of grace.
Oh, let the veil be riven,
and our clear eye in heaven
behold your glory face to face.

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God, **you have revealed yourself to us again in the holy mystery of bread and cup. Strengthen us by your presence, draw us closer to one another as the Body of Christ, and send us to reveal you in our all our words and ways. Amen.**

New Member Welcome

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and + grant you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

(Acolytes extinguish the candles)

ELW #333; *Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land*

Refrain

Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in a time of storm.

1 No one can do like Jesus,
not a mumbling word he said;
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave,
and he raised him from the dead. *Refrain*

2 When Jesus was on earth,
the flesh was very weak;
he took a towel and girded himself
and he washed his disciples' feet. *Refrain*

3 Yonder comes my Savior,
him whom I love so well;
he has the palm of victory
and the keys of death and hell. *Refrain*

Sending

Go in peace. Go all in for wonder.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Linda Ranney

Altar Flowers

In Honor of JuBellation by Bonnie Branham

Chancel Flowers

In Memory of Dick Seng from Cloris Seng

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Eric Nielsen
Lector	Pam Sorebo
Acolytes	Hadley Wolfe, Cassidy Frank
Ushers	Ron Norby, Doug Hayes
Greeters	Larry Krause, Penny Erickson
Communion Servers	Kathy Freitag, Cheryl Stage, Diana Hogenson, Penny Erickson, Pam Sorebo
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Brett Issacson
Musicians	Linda Ranney, piano/organ; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir, Frank Larrabee, instrumentalist

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