



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

**OUR
GREATEST
NEEDS**

Welcome to Worship!

To understand our greatest needs, we need to understand our greatest problems. And those greatest problems are universal—they are caused by living under the curse of sin. During this Lenten season, we'll wrestle with our greatest needs. But we'll also be reminded that all of those needs are met in Christ.

One of our greatest problems is entirely ironic: the thought that we don't have many problems at all. This can especially be true when we consider our religious activities—our regular prayer life, our generous offerings, our time dedicated to worship and Bible study. It certainly seems like we're better than most! But if that were true, if we were indeed so good, then why are we slowly turning back to dust? Ash Wednesday teaches that sobering truth in reminding us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. On this first day of Lent, God intends to give us what we badly need: a wholly humbled heart that looks to Christ in contrition and true repentance.

Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in our worship today. Scripture tells us that the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in God's Word and a privilege reserved for those who have publicly confessed their oneness in faith. Therefore, we ask guests who are not members of WELS or ELS congregations to refrain from communion until such oneness can be established. We do not intend to be exclusive and unloving. Rather, we desire to faithfully carry out the teaching of Scripture and further explore God's Word with you in the hope that we may eventually enjoy such "communion fellowship" together. For more information, please speak with one of our pastors.

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

Our Greatest Needs: A Wholly Humbled Heart

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Christian Worship 425

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Instruction for the Beginning of Lent

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me

Psalm 51:1-5

Out of the depths we cry to the LORD and ask him to hear our voice. Therefore let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Please kneel

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

If the LORD kept a record of sins, who could stand? But with him there is forgiveness; therefore he is feared. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Please stand

You, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations.
You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come.

For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear in his glory.
He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; he will not despise their plea.

Let this be written for a future generation,
that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:

“The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth,
to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death.”

So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem,
when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD.

Psalm 102:12-13, 16-22

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 59:12–20

In humility, we understand the multitude of our offenses and look to our Redeemer.

¹²For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us.

Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities:

¹³rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God,
inciting revolt and oppression, uttering lies our hearts have conceived.

¹⁴So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.

¹⁵Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

¹⁶He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him.

¹⁷He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

¹⁸According to what they have done,
so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes;
he will repay the islands their due.

¹⁹From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD,
and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.

For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along.

²⁰“The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day (3:30 p.m.)

Junior Choir

Create in Me
by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

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

Text: Public domain

Psalm of the Day (6:45 p.m.)

Adult Choir

Have Mercy on Me, O God
setting by Thomas Tomkins

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love,
according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

Text: Public domain

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 7:8–13a

Godly sorrow that flows from a wholly humbled heart leads to repentance.

⁸Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹²So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³By all this we are encouraged.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Joel 2:13

Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love.

Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

Jesus teaches his disciples that true piety is born of humility.

¹“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁶“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem (6:45 p.m.)

Adult Choir

From Depths of Woe I Cry to You

setting by Kenneth S. Hill

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

From depths of woe I cry to you.
O Lord, my voice is trying to reach your heart and,
Lord, break through with these my cries and sighing.
If you keep record of our sin and hold against us what we've been,
who then can stand before you?

Your grace and love alone avail to blot out sin with pardon.
In your gaze our best efforts pale, develop pride and harden.
Before your throne no one can boast that he escaped sin's deadly coast.
Our haven is your mercy.

In God I anchor all my trust, discarding my own merit.
His love holds firm; I therefore must His fullest grace inherit.
He tells me, and my heart has heard,
the steadfast promise of his Word,
that he's my help and haven.

Though sins arise like dunes of sand, God's mercy tides submerge them.
Like oceans pouring from his hand, strong flows the grace to purge them.
Our shepherd will his Israel lead to uplands out of every need
and ransom us from sinning.

My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen wait for the morning.
Though help delays until the night or waits till morning waken,
my heart shall never doubt his might nor think itself forsaken.
All you who are God's own indeed born of the Spirit's Gospel seed,
await his promised rescue.

Text: Public domain

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Sinners Does Receive
Christian Worship 654

Sermon

2 Corinthians 7:8–13a

Lent: A Time for Godly Sorrow

Please stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord God, gracious Father, we thank you for setting your Son's sacrifice between us and sin's reward. By your Spirit work in us through the gospel, give us repentant hearts, make our faith firm in Christ, and enliven us to serve you faithfully.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, almighty Father, renew your Church throughout the world that it may constantly look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Bless us with faithful ministers who always proclaim Christ's cross and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, loving Father, in your mercy you abundantly supply our needs of body and soul. Create in us the mind of Christ, that in humility and generosity—considering not only our own interests, but also the interests of others—we may be merciful to those in need. Direct our efforts to help poor, lonely, troubled, and ill people.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, comfort all who are mourning the death of people they loved. Lift their eyes to the cross where your Son defeated death and to the empty tomb where he assured us that we will live with him forever. Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, look with favor upon all sick, injured, and recovering people. If it be your will deliver them from their infirmities. Let them hear of your unfailing love.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, eternal Father, we praise you that you have delivered the Christian souls who have gone before us from this world of dust and ashes to paradise. As their prayers continually ascend before your throne, join our prayers to theirs as fragrant incense. Hear us for the sake of him who was crucified for us and always intercedes on our behalf, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Please stand

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n 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,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

The Scriptures teach us that receiving the Lord's Supper is a public declaration of shared belief. Therefore, we ask our guests who are not members of a WELS or ELS congregation to refrain from receiving the Lord's Supper until they have had the opportunity to talk with one of our pastors about our beliefs and practice.

To receive communion, please proceed down the center aisle and exit via the side aisles. Grape juice is available in the center of the individual cup tray for those unable to receive wine. Personal prayers for communion can be found on pg. 15 of the service folder.

Distribution Hymns

As Surely As I Live, God Said
Christian Worship 656

Lord, to You I Make Confession
Christian Worship 653

Jesus Comes Today with Healing
Christian Worship 668

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
Go + in peace.

Please stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lord God, as we begin another Lenten season, fix before our eyes the cross and our deep need for a Savior. Look with mercy on this your church and grant to us your Holy Spirit that our hearts may be contrite, our faith steadfast and immovable, and our hope built securely upon the willing sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Drawn to the Cross (st. 1)
Christian Worship 808

Announcements

Personal Prayer for Before Communion

Heavenly Father, through this sacrament you invite me to receive your Son's body and blood. I thank you for this gift of grace and for your forgiveness given here. Lead me to your altar with a humble and repentant heart. Strengthen me with your presence through the communion present in this meal. Amen.

Personal Prayer for After Communion

Faithful God, in baptism you have adopted me as your child and made me a member of the body of Christ. I thank you for the forgiveness of sins present in this Sacrament. As I leave the table, empower me by your Spirit to witness and serve in your name. Amen.

Acknowledgments

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Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Joel Leyrer

Presiding Minister

Pastor Joel Schwartz

Musicians

Lynn Kozlowski, organ

Communion Assistants

Brett Kriese & Dan Markgraf (3:30 p.m.)
Ethan Carter & Brian Treichel (6:45 p.m.)

Junior Choir Director

Mandy Treder

Adult Choir Director

Adam Sipe

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer

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Pastor Eric Schroeder

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Pastor Joel Schwartz

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Chinese Outreach

Pastor

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