



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

**OUR
GREATEST
NEEDS**

Welcome to Worship!

When two ancient armies gathered to fight, sometimes they would each pick a mighty soldier. These elite warriors, these champions, met in the middle of the field and represented their people in battle. With everyone watching, they would fight to the death. In our Gospel reading today, we hear about such a fight: a continuation of the ancient war that began in the Garden of Eden. There, Adam's sin plunged the human race into darkness and death. But God promised to send a mighty warrior. And so we see our champion, Jesus Christ, battle with the devil and do what Adam could not: win.

This morning, we also kick off our capital campaign worship emphasis. Through Jesus' defeat of the devil, we have received the promise of an eternity in heaven. As we carry out our calling to share this certainty of heaven, we can properly view the material blessings we have been given—not as earthly blessings to be accumulated and eventually lost, but rather as treasures to be invested in Gospel ministry.

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.

Bible Study

"Who do you say I am?" The question Jesus posed to his disciples remains critical today. Many in our world laud Jesus as a great teacher, a wise man, and a model of love and acceptance. While they're not wrong to describe him that way, those descriptions fall short of what the Scriptures reveal about Jesus, the Christ. Our new six-week Bible study, led by Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary President Earle Treptow, will focus on what the Bible teaches about Jesus' person; the relationship between his divine nature and his human nature; his work as the Savior of the world; and his threefold office of Prophet, Priest, and King—a most fitting study for the season of Lent.

The First Sunday in Lent

February 25 & 26, 2023

Our Greatest Needs: A Champion for the Defeated

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

Christian Worship 556

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

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; 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

Genesis 3:1–15

God promised to send a champion who would defeat our greatest enemy.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ”

⁴“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 46 (see pg. 13)

Second Reading

Romans 5:12–19

Adam's defeat meant death for all. Christ's victory brings life for all.

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

¹³To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

¹⁸Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 4:15

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

We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses;

we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

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

Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

In every battle between Jesus and the devil, our Savior emerges as the champion.

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.
⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ ”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem (Sunday)

Adult Handbell Choir

Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain

arranged by Janet Linker and Jane McFadden

Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
here a pure and healing fountain flows to you, to me, to all,
in a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.

Come in poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within;
from infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,
wash your robes and make them white; you shall walk with God in light.

Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; they that drink shall thirst no more.

They that drink shall live forever; ‘tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.

Text: Public domain

Hymn of the Day

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Christian Worship 863

Sermon

Matthew 13:44-46

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Heavenly Father, from whom all blessings flow, we praise you for everything you provide to sustain our lives. Lead us every day to be thankful for your gifts and content with what you have given.

Guide us to manage our blessings wisely and use them for the good of your kingdom.

Before your Son ascended into heaven, he called us to make disciples of all nations. Impress upon us the importance of the task you have given us to proclaim your Word to the world.

By our words and through our offerings, direct us to be faithful witnesses of your grace.

Every day, the work of the Gospel continues in places near and far. Teach us to give as an ongoing part of life, and forgive us for giving that reacts only to urgent pleas or crises.

Show us the wisdom of expressing our faith through regularly planned and routinely given offerings.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Precious Lord, all our blessings come from you. As we strive to live every day in thankfulness for these blessings, move us to be wise and faithful stewards of your gifts.

Bring the news of Jesus and his love to souls both here and far away through our gifts and offerings. 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.



Hymn

My Worth Is Not in What I Own
Christian Worship 753

Please stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.**

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

Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You (st. 1)

Christian Worship 871

Announcements

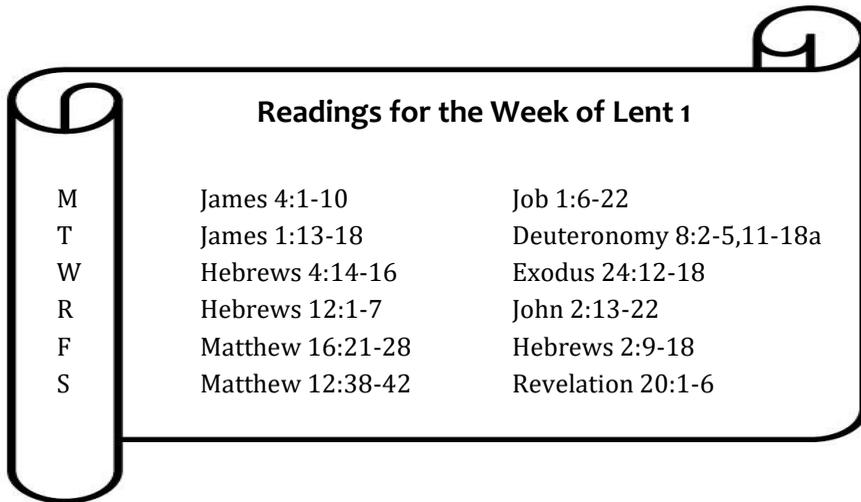
Declaring His Praises Update Video

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Readings for the Week of Lent 1		
M	James 4:1-10	Job 1:6-22
T	James 1:13-18	Deuteronomy 8:2-5,11-18a
W	Hebrews 4:14-16	Exodus 24:12-18
R	Hebrews 12:1-7	John 2:13-22
F	Matthew 16:21-28	Hebrews 2:9-18
S	Matthew 12:38-42	Revelation 20:1-6

Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Joel Schwartz

Presiding Minister

Seminary Student Caleb Kuether (Saturday)

Pastor Eric Schroeder (Sunday)

Musicians

Carmen Rupprecht, piano (Saturday)

Lisa Eggebrecht, organ (Sunday)

Adult Handbell Choir Director

Kristi Meyer

Worship Notes

- The flowers are placed by Jes and Susan Mariscal in celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary and by David and Colleen Todor in memory of Zachary's birthday.

In Our Prayers

- Sue McTavish, who is recovering from surgery and whose biopsies came back benign.

Psalm 46

Refrain



The LORD Al - might - y is
with us; the God of Ja - cob is our for - tress.

Tone



God is our ref- / uge and strength,
an ever-present help in / trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea,
though its waters / roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their / surging. *Refrain*

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- / y of God,
the holy place where the Most / High dwells.
God is within her, she / will not fall;
God will help her at / break of day.
"Be still, and know that / I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth."

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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Parents' Preview for March 5

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

There Is a Redeemer (*Christian Worship 519*)



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in___ that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

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Sunday Morning Bible Study

A new Sunday morning Bible study begins
today at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Christology 101

Taught by Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary President Earle Treptow

“Who do you say I am?” The question Jesus posed to his disciples remains critical today. Many in our world laud Jesus as a great teacher, a wise man, and a model of love and acceptance. While they’re not wrong to describe him that way, those descriptions fall short of what the Scriptures reveal about Jesus, the Christ. This six-week series on Christology will focus on what the Bible teaches about Jesus’ person; the relationship between his divine nature and his human nature; his work as the Savior of the world; and his threefold office of Prophet, Priest, and King. There could hardly be a more fitting study during the season of Lent than a course centered on what the Scriptures teach about the One who offered himself into death for the sins of the world.

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
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org

Pastor Eric Schroeder
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org

Pastor Joel Schwartz
joel.schwartz@sjtosa.org

Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
joshua.yu@sjtosa.org

School Principal

Mr. Dan Markgraf
dan.markgraf@sjtosa.org

Church Office

7809 Harwood Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7831
church@sjtosa.org

School Office

1278 Dewey Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-4214
school@sjtosa.org

sjtosa.org