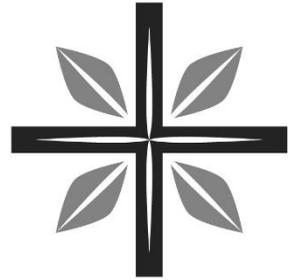


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- 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.
- Large print service folders are available from an usher. Assisted listening devices, including both ear bud and loop receivers for digital hearing aids, are also available from an usher.
- Children's service folders and worship notes are available in the round tract rack in the entry area.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- As the offering is received, members and guests are asked to sign the Friendship Register. Please pass the register to your neighbor and then return it to the center aisle. Visitors are also asked to fill out a guest card and give it to an usher.
- Please join us for Bible class at 9:15 a.m..
The Judges and Their Times: Fellowship Hall, lower level of church
A staffed nursery is available during Bible class.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30 & 31, 2019

Jesus Knew: He would show mercy

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

All Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Christian Worship 236

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Judges 10:6-16

The LORD responds with mercy to his people's desperate pleas.

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD. They served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites and the gods of the Philistines. And because the Israelites forsook the LORD and no longer served him, he became angry with them. He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites, who that year shattered and crushed them. For eighteen years they oppressed all the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan in Gilead, the land of the Amorites. The Ammonites also crossed the Jordan to fight against Judah, Benjamin and the house of Ephraim; and Israel was in great distress. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD, "We have sinned against you, forsaking our God and serving the Baals."

The LORD replied, "When the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines, the Sidonians, the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you and you cried to me for help, did I not save you from their hands? But you have forsaken me and served other gods, so I will no longer save you. Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen. Let them save you when you are in trouble!"

But the Israelites said to the LORD, "We have sinned. Do with us whatever you think best, but please rescue us now." Then they got rid of the foreign gods among them and served the LORD. And he could bear Israel's misery no longer.

The LORD looks on his people with mercy and blesses them.

Refrain

Not un-to us, O Lord, but to your name be the glo - ry.

Psalm Tone

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.

Why do the nations say, “Where is their God?”

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

The LORD remembers us and will bless us:

He will bless the house of Israel,

he will bless those who fear the LORD –

small and great alike. ***Refrain***

May the LORD make you increase,

both you and your children.

May you be blessed by the LORD,

the Maker of heaven and earth.

The highest heavens belong to the LORD,

but the earth he has given to man.

It is not the dead who praise the LORD,

it is we who extol the LORD, both now and forevermore.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain*

Second Lesson

James 4:7-10

When we humble ourselves before the Lord, he will lift us up in mercy.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Verse of the Day

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Please stand

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The prodigal son is shown mercy by his father and welcomed back home.

Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem (Sunday)

Adult Choir

Create in Me

by Michael Burkhardt

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

Cast me not away from your presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with your free Spirit.

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

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Sinners Does Receive
Christian Worship 304

Sermon

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Limitless Grace

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

**C: 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.**

Be seated

Offering

*The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work
in our community and around the world, and our offerings are
a joyful response of our faith. To submit your offering electronically,
scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/giving. If you are a visitor today,
you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.*



Please stand

Prayer of the Church

The minister says the Prayer of the Church.

Lord's Prayer[†]

**C: 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.**

Be seated

Hymn

Lamb of God (see pg. 12)
Christian Worship Supplement 748

Please stand

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† Lord's Prayer: The Lord's Prayer was given by Jesus in response to his disciples' request, "Lord, teach us to pray." This prayer is both one that we should pray often and one that should serve as a model for all our prayers. In this prayer, we pray to "Our Father in heaven," reminding us that we are God's chosen and dearly loved children and members of his family.

M: 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.

C: Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound
Christian Worship 379

Announcements

If you do not wish to take your service folder home, please place it in the basket so it can be reused.

Readings for the Week of Lent 4

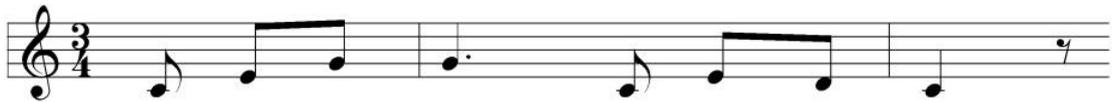
M	John 6:22-29	Exodus 16:2-7a, 13-15
T	1 Kings 19:1-8	John 6:30-35
W	Mark 12:28-34	Mark 12:41-44
R	John 6:47-59	John 6:60-65
F	John 8:21-30	John 11:17-45
S	Hebrews 12:22-29	Revelation 21:9-14, 18-27

Serving at Worship

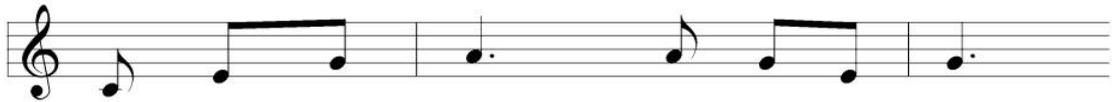
Preacher	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Presiding Minister	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Musicians	Eric Sipe, organ (Saturday) Lisa Eggebrecht, organ (Sunday)
Adult Choir Director	Dr. William Braun
Greeters	Kathryn Hendee, Paul Katzer, Tim & Katie Lesperance (8:00 a.m.) Becky Rehborg, Adam Marley, Herb & Karin Schrank (10:30 a.m.)
Head Ushers	Rick Yahn (Saturday) Tom Wessel (8:00 a.m.) Doug Knuth (10:30 a.m.)
AV Operators	Lezlie Espana (8:00 a.m.) Paul Puglisi (10:30 a.m.)

In Our Prayers

- Sharon Bartlein and Doris Krause, both under hospice care.
- Larry Totsky, who is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on Tuesday.



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide,
 2 Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied.
 3 I was so lost; I should have died,



But you have sent him from your side
 They laughed and scorned him as he died:
 But you have brought me to your side



To walk up - on this guilt - y sod
 The hum - ble King they named a fraud
 To be led by your staff and rod



And to be - come the Lamb of God.
 And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,



I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!

Oh, wash me in his pre - cious blood,
My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, with some beamed eighth notes and a dotted quarter note. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Tune: LAMB OF GOD (88 88 and Refrain)

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“*Psalm 115*” Tune and tone John C. Reim © 2006 Northwestern Publishing House.

“*Create in Me*” Text from Psalm 51:10-12.

“*O Lord, We Praise You*” Text © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Tune © 1982 Concordia Publishing House.

Parents' Preview for April 7

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.

“O Lord, We Praise You” stanza 1 (*Christian Worship 318*)

O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a - dore you,
In thanks-giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your
bod - y and your blood you nour-ish Our weak souls that they may
flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy! May your
bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our sins and sor - rows
did car - ry, And your blood for us plead
In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!

