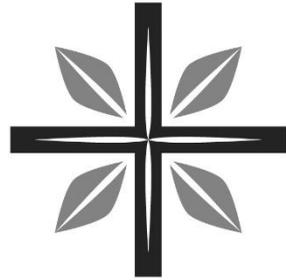




# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



## 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 AM.  
*Exodus: The Gospel in the Old Testament:* Fellowship Hall, lower level of church  
*Bible Information Class:* St. Matthew's Room, lower level of church  
A staffed nursery is available during Bible class.

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10 & 11, 2018

Jesus Carries Our Cross: Salvation

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## Prelude

### Opening Hymn

*Please stand to sing the final stanza*

### Salvation Unto Us Has Come

*Christian Worship 390*

**M:** The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

**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 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Be seated*

## THE WORD

### First Lesson

**Numbers 21:4-9<sup>+</sup>**

*Everyone who looked to the bronze snake did not die but was saved.*

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

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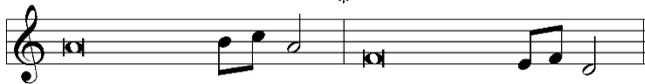
**† Numbers:** The book of Numbers receives its name from the two census lists it provides: lists of Israelite men twenty years of age or older who were able to serve in the army. The Hebrew title of the book – *Bemidbar*, or “In the desert” – is much more descriptive of its contents. Numbers recounts the story of Israel’s journey through the desert from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab on the border of Canaan. For more information on Numbers, see pg. 40 of *Understanding Lutheran Worship*, found in the hymnal rack.

*The believer despairs of his own righteousness and turns to God his Savior for salvation.*

*Refrain*



*Psalm tone*



O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger  
or discipline me in your wrath.

For your arrows have pierced me,  
and your hand has come down upon me.

My guilt has overwhelmed me  
like a burden too heavy to bear. *Refrain*

All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;  
my sighing is not hidden from you.

I wait for you, O LORD;  
you will answer, O Lord my God.

Come quickly to help me,  
O Lord my Savior.

**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***

*We are saved by grace through faith, not by works.*

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Verse of the Day**

**M:** 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*

**Gospel**

**John 3:14-21**

*God sent Jesus for the salvation of the world.*

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

“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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”



*Be seated*

**Anthem (Sunday)**  
*Junior Choir*

**God So Loved the World**  
*by John D. Horman*

God so loved the world that to us a Son was giv'n.  
And whosoever believes in him shall live forevermore.

**Hymn of the Day**

**God Loved the World So that He Gave**  
*Christian Worship 391*

**Sermon**

You Are God's Workmanship

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

*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*

## THANKSGIVING

### 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. If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.*

*Please stand*

### Prayer of the Church for Lent

- M:** Dearest Lord Jesus, accept our humble thanks for becoming one of us: the Word made flesh who fulfilled all that was necessary for our eternal redemption.
- C:** **You lived a holy life that your perfect obedience might be credited to us.**
- M:** Bearing our sins, you willingly traveled the agonizing path to the cross where God laid on you the iniquity of us all.
- C:** **You died an innocent death that we might live forever in heaven.**
- M:** Keep this message of pardon granted and salvation won always on our hearts and lips, that we may tell those around us of your grace and mercy.
- C:** **Remind us daily of the depths of your love, and provide us with opportunities to live out this love in our lives.**
- M:** On those days when trials and temptations threaten to overshadow your love for us, cause us to remember your promise to never leave us or forsake us.
- C:** **Even in our darkest hours, give us the strength to bear our crosses and remain firm in our faith.**
- Special prayers and intercessions may follow*
- M:** As we continue our journey in this fallen world, remind us that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
- C:** **Bring us quickly to the day when we will exchange our crosses for a crown of glory. Amen.**

## 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

**The Tree of Life (see pg. 12)**  
*Christian Worship Supplement 754*

*Please stand*

**M:** 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.



**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



*Be seated*

Announcements

WELS Connection

Teacher Recruitment

Postlude

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

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*Service of the Word* © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House.

“*Psalm 38*” Tune Patricia Craig © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Tone Paul Bunjes © 1982 Concordia Publishing House.

“*God So Loved the World*” Text based on John 3:16

“*The Lamb*” Text and tune © 1987 Birnamwood Publications.

**Readings for the Week of Lent 4**

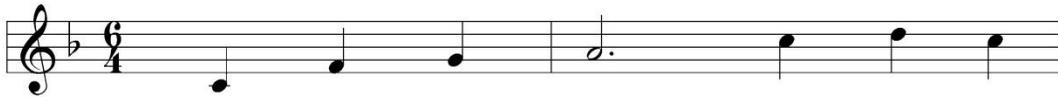
M	John 6:22-29.....	Exodus 16:2-7a, 13-15
T	1 Kings 19:1-8.....	John 6:30-35
W	Mark 12:28-34.....	Mark 12:41-44
TH	John 6:47-59.....	John 6:60-65
F	John 8:21-30.....	John 11:17-45
S	Hebrews 12:22-29.....	Revelation 21:9-14, 18-27

## Serving at Worship

<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Kyle Bitter
<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Eric Schroeder
<b>Musicians</b>	Lisa Eggebrecht, piano (Saturday) Dan Baker, organ (Sunday) Lynn Kozlowski, piano (Sunday) Hannah Braun, violin (Sunday)
<b>Junior Choir Director</b>	Mandy Treder
<b>Head Ushers</b>	Michael Schneider (Saturday) Mark Naumann (8:00 AM) Matt Bahr (10:30 AM)
<b>Greeters</b>	Tim & Katie Lesperance, Dave & Dana Leyrer (8:00 AM) Bruce & Kari Ailey, Matt & Jenny Bahr (10:30 AM)

## In Our Prayers

- Pastor Bitter, who declined his most recent divine call to St. John's in Bay City, MI and Megan Leverage, who has accepted the divine call to serve as our grade 5 teacher; Terry Buske, who continues to deliberate her divine call.
- Jim Hahm, teacher at WLHS and former St. John's member, hospitalized after a heart attack.



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry  
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred  
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our  
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus'



good In E - den's ho - ly or - chard  
 grove Was bro - ken as the ser - pent  
 race, A plan of res - cue by his  
 shame Flows life e - ter - nal in his



stood, And of its fruit so pure and  
 strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
 grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's  
 name; For all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an  
 guile And Ad - am to by sin de -  
 seed, The One to fill our great - est  
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re -



eat. Yet in this gar - den al - so  
 file. Oh, day of sad - ness when the  
 need— For on a tree up - lift - ed  
 ceive. And of this fruit so pure and



grew An - oth - er tree, of which they  
breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and  
high His on - ly Son for sin would  
sweet The Lord in - vites the world to



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -  
death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -  
die, Would drink the cup of scorn and  
eat, To find with - in this cross of



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
played With - in the world so new - ly made.  
dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!  
wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

*God's first promise to send a Savior, offered in the shadow of Eden, finds its fulfillment on the tree of Calvary, Jesus' cross.*

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Tune: TREE OF LIFE (88 88 88 88) Bruce W. Becker, b. 1952 © 1995 Bruce W. Becker. All rights reserved.  
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## Lenten Worship Opportunities

St. John's midweek Lenten services are held on **Wednesdays at 3:30 PM and 6:45 PM**.  
Lenten fellowship meals will be served between services beginning at 4:30 PM.

### **March 14 – Midweek Lent 5**

Theme: Jesus Is Our Self-Sacrificing High Priest  
Preacher: Pastor Joel Leyrer  
Menu: Pulled pork

### **March 21 – Midweek Lent 6**

Theme: Jesus Our Great High Priest Serves at a Great Altar  
Preacher: Pastor James Wilcox  
Menu: Sloppy joes

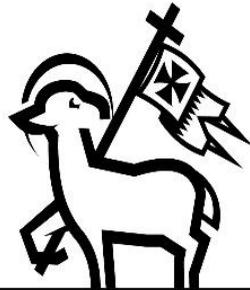
**March 29 – Maundy Thursday (3:30 PM and 6:45 PM Communion Services)**

**March 30 – Good Friday (1:00 PM Communion Service)**

**March 30 – Good Friday (6:45 PM Tenebrae Service)**

**April 1 – Easter Sunday (6:00 AM Sunrise Service)**

**April 1 – Easter Sunday (8:30 AM and 10:30 AM Festival Services)**



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JESUS CHRIST  
IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

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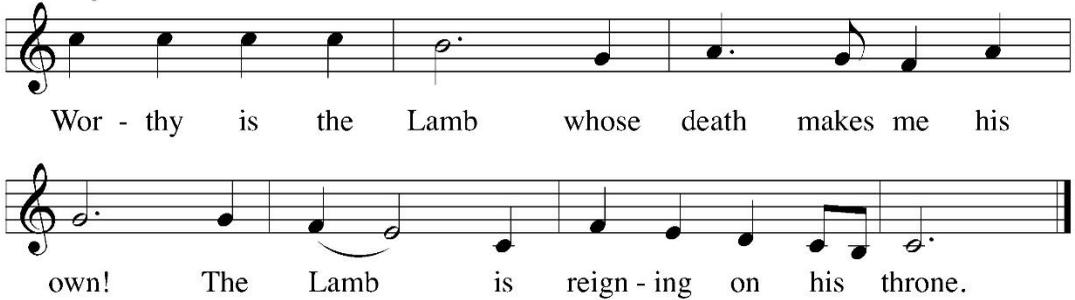
## Parents' Preview for March 18

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.

### **"The Lamb" Refrain**

*Christian Worship Supplement 714*

#### *Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his  
own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

