



St. John Lutheran Church

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Lake Dr
Houghton Lake,
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March 5, 2025

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service.

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn, Share, and Serve'

Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of Christian faith in our community, to all generations, wherever they may be'

As We Gather

Service - Vespers

The word *Lent* comes from an old English word for spring. The Lenten season, like the spring season, is a time for reflection and renewal. Our midweek Lenten services this year will prepare us to consider our identity and connection with a life in Christ as the baptized children of God. This Lenten season, we will walk through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7. Jesus' desire was for his original hearers to gain a deeper understanding of the counter-cultural life Christians are to live. To do this, we must first consider our lives and the distance our sins have removed us from our Creator. Once we have a realistic awareness of our standing before a holy God, we can then seek the power of his Holy Spirit to reverse our current path and come before him as repentant sinners. May God move in your hearts and lives during this time of reflection and renewal.

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

The Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

P Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good according to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

C **Hide not Your face from Your servant; for I am in distress; make haste to answer me. Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

As the Opening Song is sung, the people come forward to receive the ashes and then return to their place.

Opening Song

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee” *LSB 419*

Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the_adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour Of the_insulting tempter’s pow’r,
Turn, O turn a fav’ring eye;
Hear our penitential cry!

By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies O’er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh;
Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav’n restored, Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.

Text: Public domain

Invocation

LSB 203

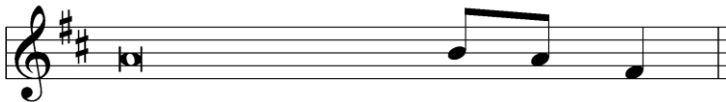
P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G **Amen.**

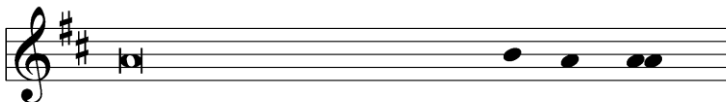
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

Psalm

- L** Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
- C** **nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**
- L** but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
- C** **and on his law he meditates day and night.**
- L** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.
- C** **In all that he does, he prospers.**

- Ⓘ The wicked are not so,
- ☛ **but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**
- Ⓘ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
- ☛ **nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**
- Ⓘ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
- ☛ **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Hymn

“O Christ, Who Called the Twelve” *LSB 856*

O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and follow You,
 Forsaking old, familiar ways For ventures bold and new:
 Grant us to hear Your call To risk security
 And, bound in heart and will to You,
 Find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for ages sealed,
 Whose words and works awakened faith, The ways of God revealed:
 Instruct us now, we pray, By Your empow'ring Word.
 True teacher, be for all who seek
 Their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who led the Twelve Among the desolate
 And broke as bread of life for all Your love compassionate:
 Lead us along the ways Where hope has nearly died
 And help us climb the lonely hills
 Where love is crucified.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd never trod
 To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God:
 Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity,
 Where love informs and hope sustains
 Both life and ministry.

O Christ, the apostles' Lord, The martyrs' strength and song,
 The crucified and risen King To whom the saints belong:
 Though generations pass, Our tribute still we bring,
 Our hymns a sacrifice of praise,
 Our lives an offering.

First Reading

Psalm 51:1-19

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew the fifth chapter

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

- 1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.
- 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G **Thanks be to God**



L 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.

2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

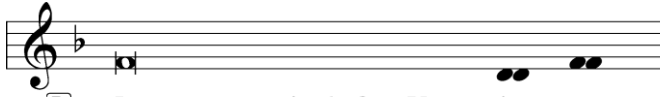
3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.



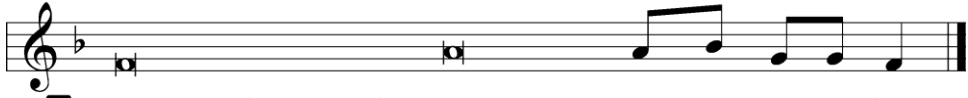
G Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

Message

"An Alternate Approach"



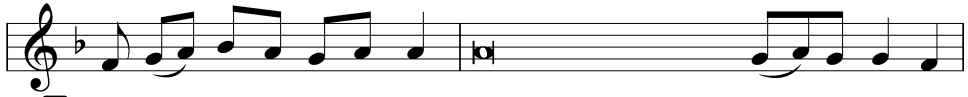
L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



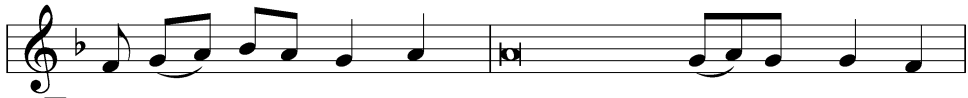
G and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat

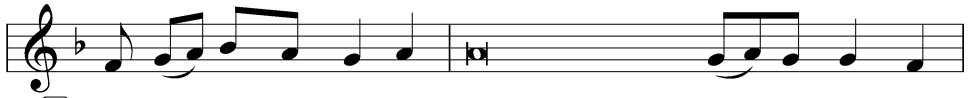
LSB 231



G My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



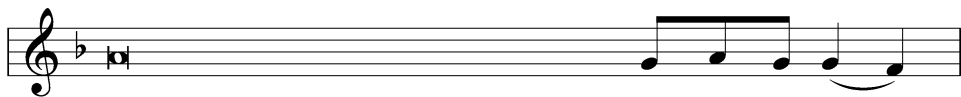
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



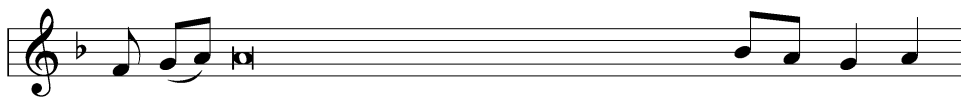
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



III Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Offering

Kyrie

LSB 233



IV Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

IV Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who

trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Prayer of the Day

- L** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Prayer for Peace

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and proper... To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Lamb of God (sung)

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
- 2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
- 3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
- 4. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
- 5. Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
- 6. Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.

Distribution Song

“Lamb of God” *LSB 550*

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

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Amazing Grace

LSB 744

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;

His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790,
Richmond Text: Public domain

Blessing



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn

“Just as I Am, without one Plea” *LSB 570 vs 1,2,5,6*

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.³

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev’ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

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Acknowledgments

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