



**St. John  
Lutheran  
Church**

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**March 12, 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*

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***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

#### Opening Song

**"O Christ, You Walked the Road" LSB 424**

O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand'ring feet must go.  
You faced with us temptation's pow'r  
And fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone  
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.  
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,  
The food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask,  
No wonder from above.  
Lord, help us place our trust alone  
In Your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain  
With promise brightly shine,  
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;  
Our wills with Yours align.

O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand'ring feet must go.  
Stay with us through temptation's hour  
To fight our ancient foe.

## Invocation

LSB 203

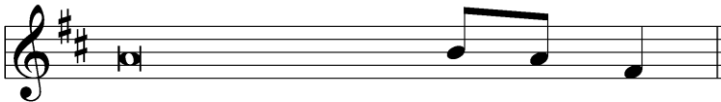
**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\times$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

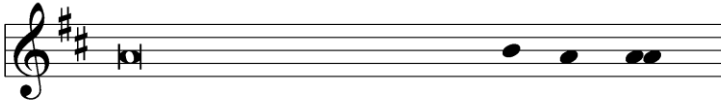
*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*



**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** Fret not yourself because of evil-doers;

**C** be not envious of wrong-doers!

**L** For they will soon fade like the grass  
**C and wither like the green herb.**  
**L** Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
**C dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.**  
**L** Delight yourself in the LORD,  
**C and he will give you the desires of your heart.**  
**L** Commit your way to the LORD;  
**C trust in him, and he will act.**  
**L** He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
**C and your justice as the noonday.**  
**L** Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
**C fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,  
over the man who carries out evil devices!**  
**L** Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!  
**C Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.**  
**L** For the evildoers shall be cut off,  
**C but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.**  
**L** In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;  
**C though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.**  
**L** But the meek shall inherit the land  
**C and delight themselves in abundant peace.**  
**L** The wicked plots against the righteous  
**C and gnashes his teeth at him,**  
**L** but the Lord laughs at the wicked,  
**C for he sees that his day is coming.**  
**L** The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows  
**C to bring down the poor and needy,  
to slay those whose way is upright;**  
**L** their sword shall enter their own heart,  
**C and their bows shall be broken.**  
**L** Better is the little that the righteous has  
**C than the abundance of many wicked.**  
**L** For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,

**☞ but the LORD upholds the righteous.**

☞ The LORD knows the days of the blameless,

**☞ and their heritage will remain forever;**

☞ they are not put to shame in evil times;

**☞ in the days of famine they have abundance.**

☞ But the wicked will perish;

**☞ the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the pastures;  
they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.**

☞ The wicked borrows but does not pay back,

**☞ but the righteous is generous and gives;**

☞ for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land,

**☞ but those cursed by him shall be cut off.**

☞ The steps of a man are established by the LORD,

**☞ when he delights in his way;**

☞ though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong,

**☞ for the LORD upholds his hand.**

☞ I have been young, and now am old,

**☞ yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken  
or his children begging for bread.**

☞ He is ever lending generously,

**☞ and his children become a blessing.**

☞ Turn away from evil and do good;

**☞ so shall you dwell forever.**

☞ For the LORD loves justice;

**☞ he will not forsake his saints.**

☞ They are preserved forever,

**☞ but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.**

☞ The righteous shall inherit the land

**☞ and dwell upon it forever.**

☞ The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,

**☞ and his tongue speaks justice.**

☞ The law of his God is in his heart;

**☞ his steps do not slip.**

- L** The wicked watches for the righteous  
**C** and seeks to put him to death.  
**L** The LORD will not abandon him to his power  
**C** or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.  
**L** Wait for the LORD and keep his way,  
**C** and he will exalt you to inherit the land;  
 you will look on when the wicked are cut off.  
**L** I have seen a wicked, ruthless man,  
**C** spreading himself like a green laurel tree.  
**L** But he passed away, and behold, he was no more;  
**C** though I sought him, he could not be found.  
**L** Mark the blameless and behold the upright,  
**C** for there is a future for the man of peace.  
**L** But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;  
**C** the future of the wicked shall be cut off.  
**L** The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;  
**C** he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.  
**L** The LORD helps them and delivers them;  
**C** he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,  
 because they take refuge in him.

## Hymn

## “Take My Life and Let it Be” *LSB 783*

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
 Take my moments and my days,  
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;  
 Take my feet and let them be  
 Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;  
 Take my lips and let them be  
 Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;  
 Take my intellect and use

Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Text: Public domain

## Reading

Matthew 6:1-4, 19-24

<sup>1</sup>"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. <sup>2</sup>"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22</sup>"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup>but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! <sup>24</sup>"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*Verse* *To Refrain*

- 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.

*Refrain*

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

## Message

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

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

## Magnificat

*LSB 231*

- C** 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;





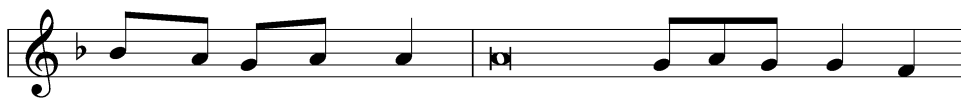
II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



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



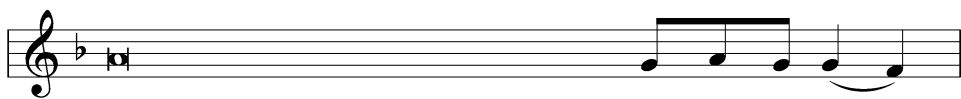
imagination of their hearts. II He has cast down the



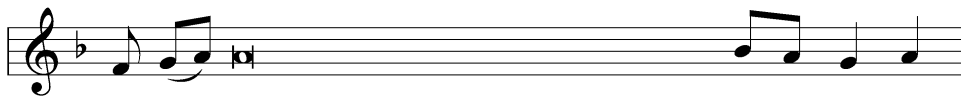
migh - ty from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



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*



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 209*

**C** 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 God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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.

## 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

## “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” *LSB 685*

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us  
And to sin our spirits lure.

Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love,

Let us do the Father's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy  
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction,  
Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in  
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken.  
Jesus, You are now our head.  
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly,  
Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
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#### Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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