



EXODUS

THE GOOD NEWS OF FREEDOM

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERIES + ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026 12:15pm / 6:30pm

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

901 West Jefferson Avenue
Effingham, IL 62401

Phone: (217) 342-4334

Christian Education: Sun. 9:15am

E-mail: office@stjohnsLCMS.net

Website: stjohnsLCMS.net

Preschool Website: eaglesnestpreschool.com

Services: Sat. 5:30pm – Sun. 8:00am & 10:30am

We welcome you to God's Service in worship at St. John's, and extend a special welcome to all guests and visitors with us.

- **All worshipers are requested to complete an attendance card. They will be collected by the acolyte after the sermon. Thank you!**
- Share prayer requests using the yellow cards in the pews.



Holy Communion

Welcome! When the members of St. John's Lutheran Church, (LCMS) celebrate the Lord's Supper we confess the Real Presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. (*1 Cor 10:16 & 1 Cor 11:23-26*) We believe that Christ's Body and Blood are present "*in, with and under*" elements of the Holy Supper. Please register your intent to commune on the pew card after prayerfully reading it. If you are visiting with us and you desire to join with us in communion fellowship in agreement with these beliefs, please speak to our Pastor or the elder on duty before the Service. Thank You.



Enter in quietness

Pray one or more of the “Prayers Before Worship” inside the hymnal cover.

Pray the Psalm

Psalm 51:1–13

- 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.

*Any who desire to receive ashes are welcome
to come forward to the pastors.*

DIVINE SERVICE THREE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Stand

Confession and Absolution

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

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

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

- P Lord, have mercy upon us.
C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Silence for prayer

Collect of the Day

- P Let us pray. 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.
- C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

- ¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
- ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?
- ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.
- ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,

a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for prayer

Sermon

Exodus 2:23–25

²³During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

Hymn #607

From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering Presentation & Card Collection

Service of the Sacrament



Preface

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C **It is meet and right so to do.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Matt 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Cor 11:23–25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

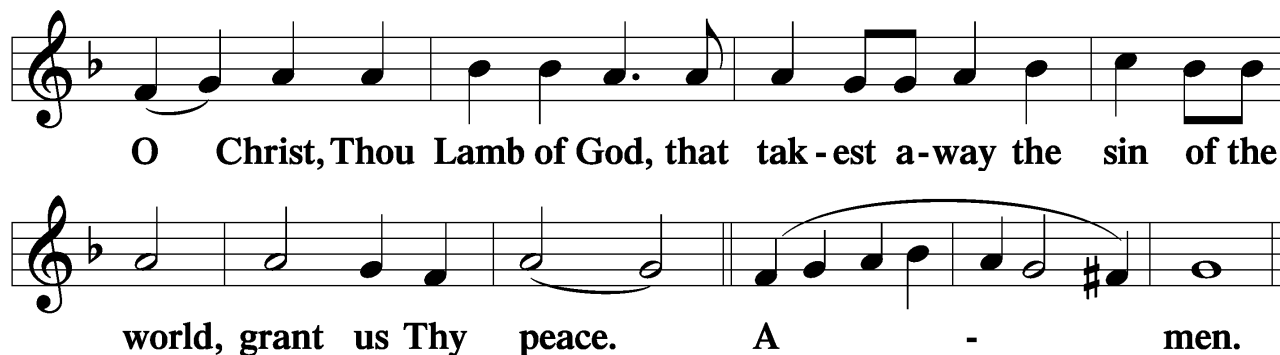
John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

John 1:29 LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



Distribution

Hymn #563

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Hymn #609

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

Blessing

Prayer

P Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn #956

Create in Me

Any who desire to receive ashes as a reminder of repentance are welcome to come forward to the pastors.

Postlude

Our remaining midweek Lenten Services will follow the Service of Prayer and Preaching (page 260).

Those Who Serve Us

Each Member of St. John's The Body of Christ
Rev. Mike Burdick Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp Visitation Pastor
Rev. Trey Dille Pastor
Mrs. Carrie Collier Preschool Director
Mrs. Ruth Bray Organist
Maddux Wyckoff Acolyte
Mr. Dave Worman 12:15pm Elder on Duty
Mr. Greg Perry 6:30pm Elder on Duty
Mr. Gayland Bourland 217-663-3916 Elder on Duty for February 18 - 21
Chatelain School & Baja School Our Schools for feeding in Haiti
Ms. Janet Martins & Pastor Dille (773-463-0617) Stephen Ministry Leader
Mrs. Julie Scott (1-217-343-3047) Prayer Partner Coordinator
State, National & International Missions through our District and Synod

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Lenten devotional booklets available in the Atrium to give to a friend.

