



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2026 † 8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning!

*All are invited to **sign the welcome sheets** in the black folders at the end of the pews.*

*Please pass them to the center and then back
so you can greet those worshipping around you.*

Ushers will gather these following worship.

*In the red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), or purple hymnal
(All Creation Sings), hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section,
and page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section.*

An asterisk () invites you to stand as you are able.*

P Pastor, **L** Leader (Assisting Minister), **C** Congregation

Children are welcome to participate throughout our
worship service, including at Holy Communion.

*Parents, please assist children when they come forward for communion
to extend their hands if they are to receive the bread and wine.*

Children's Bibles and activity bags

*are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary
and scribble cards are available in the pews.*

Hearing assistance devices are available outside the Sanctuary or from an usher.

For those with hearing aids, the Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop.

Large print bulletins and hymns are available for worship services.



*St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace
and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as
we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance,
sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or
relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement,
political affiliation, or religious background.*

*While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together,
believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.*

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — ON SLANE

Raymond Chenault

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 793

“Be Thou My Vision”

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Front of ELW hymnal, page 94

***Greeting**

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day**

- ☐ Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.
By your gracious life and death for us, open our eyes, soften our hearts,
and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Psalmody — Psalm 23

arr. Bobby McFerrin

The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need, she makes me lie down in green meadows, beside the still waters, she will lead. She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs, she leads me in a path of good things, and fills my heart with songs. Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land, there is nothing that can shake me, she has said, she won't forsake me, I'm in her hand. She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes, she anoints my head with oil, and my cup overflows. Surely goodness and kindness will follow me, all the days of my life, and I will live in her house, forever. Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter, and to the Holy of Holies, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(8:30) St. John's Chorale

First Reading — Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

KAS DZIEDĀJA

We are turn - ing, Lord to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and
kind— slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel — John 9:1-41

Spark Story Bible, page 432; Pew Bible, page 871

Before the reading:

📖 The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

🎤 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎤 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 603

“God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”

***Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

- ☒ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☒ **hear our prayer.**

*Peace

- ☒ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☒ **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

(8:30) "Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping"

arr. David Cherwien

*Sometimes our only song is weeping; our only sound is gasping breath.
Sometimes it seems that God is sleeping while our brief lives are bound in death.
Who hears the song our sorrows swallow and offers hope to calm our fears?
When all our words seem frail and hollow, God heeds the prayers within our tears.
Sometimes we catch the faintest humming, a far-off tune our hearts know well.
Sometimes we sense the Spirit coming. Our song returns; our voices swell.
The Spirit sings though we are shaken, and Christ has shared our heartfelt cries.
Restored, our weary souls awaken to join God's song that never dies.*

– Adam M. L. Tice

*Robert Shaw, baritone
Gerrit Vanderschoot, cello*

(10:45) "Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping"

arr. Brenda Portman

*Offering Hymn — “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

FRANCKE

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal -
va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen

*Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray.

☑ **Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children’s Message

“Wonders of Worship”

I won - der. I won - der. The won - ders of wor - ship, what does it mean? I won - der. I
won - der. The won - ders of wor - ship, what does it mean? Come and see! Come now and see!

Text and Music: Anne Krentz Organ



SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

- 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 our thanks and praise.

- P** It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sung first in English, then Spanish.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.
San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next two lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and moving lines.

Text and music: Argentine traditional

*Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

**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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*Communion will be received standing at stations in the front of sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the center. After you have been served the bread you will be offered wine or grape juice. The grape juice is white and is located in the center of the tray. **If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.***

Music during Communion

"Holy Lamb of God" *Ya hamalallah*

Yusuf Khill

Ho-ly Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

Ho-ly Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

Ho - ly Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace; grant us your peace; grant us your peace.

Music: © 2003 Yusuf Khill

Hymn — ELW No. 782

"My Shepherd, You Supply My Need"

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Sending of Communion to the Sick and Homebound

*Prayer after Communion

- ☞ God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

- ☞ Amen.

*Sending Hymn — ELW No. 779

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

*Dismissal

- ☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- ☞ Thanks be to God!

Postlude — Fugue in C Minor, BWV 537

J. S. Bach



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Dawn Tommerdahl and Rob Quanbeck (10:45) Ruthie Neuger
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Anthem Soloist	(8:30) Robert Shaw, Church Music Intern
Cello	(8:30) Gerrit Vanderschoot
Psalms Quartet	(10:45) Nancy Ordahl Kmoch, Ruth Smestad-Anglin Nathan Proctor, David Sims
Livestream	Mark Gleason
Communion Prep	Jill Enestvedt
Communion Cleanup	Brenda Nelson
Greeters	(8:30) Christy Hall-Holt, Gerri Licke (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Jon and Cindy McBroom
Treats	Deb Christensen, Rhonda Reece
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Judd Lohmann, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	(8:30) Larry Enfield, Olaf and Christy Hall-Holt, John Ophaug (10:45) Ruth Dahl, Susan Immel, Scott and Elaine Nesbit

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: *WHEN HAVE YOU FELT CALLED?*

When people speak of a calling, it is often in large-scale, life-altering terms, like a career or a decades-long responsibility. But God calls in many ways, sometimes to actions that are smaller and less noticed by the world, and sometimes in the midst of circumstances we never would choose. This Lenten season we are inviting five members of St. John's to reflect on the notion of calling and to share how they have felt called in their lives.

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from February 25 through March 25.

- March 18: Susan Lohmann
- March 25: Anika Rychner

Announcements

Additional announcements can be found in the weekly E-Voice.

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Ken Struss and Elmer & Cora Schultz by Marie Struss and family. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), contact the church office at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Next available dates: April 2, 3 & 26.

Today at the 10:45 a.m. worship service, 3rd Graders are invited to take communion from the pottery cups they created at our Communion Retreat earlier this year. We will also be serving the communion bread they made at the retreat!

St. John's Forum: A Public Palm Sunday

Today, 9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall

Local ISIAH MN leaders will describe in detail the planned events at the State Capitol on Palm Sunday afternoon, March 29, when thousands of Christians will gather to process, sing, pray, and worship together. The focus will be on Jesus' teachings to love and care for our neighbors. At this forum we will discuss the political meaning of Jesus' ride into Jerusalem and the parallels to today. We will also practice singing some of the music we will share at the event, which will be a powerful way to worship as one, across denominations. Finally, we will clarify our transportation plans (bus or carpool). Please join us. For more information go to www.palmsunday2026.com.

Pub Theology: Good Questions!

Monday, March 16, 6:00–7:15 p.m., Flaherty's Lanes

Pub Theology this week will mix it up with a game of "Wild Card," inspired by the NPR interview show. What questions have helped you get insight into others? Into yourself? We'll play a few rounds of Wild Card and see what we learn about each other and about pondering deeper questions about our experiences, values, and beliefs.

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board is supporting the CAC's Month of Meals Themed Food Drive by encouraging and collecting grocery donations at St. John's. Donations can be placed in the grocery cart in the Commons and information about weekly food requests is in the Commons. This week, the theme is "*Good Mornings*"—cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, pancake mix, peanut butter. Of course, monetary donations are very welcome. You may use the St. John's special offering envelope for the CAC Food Shelf. Please write your check to St. John's and indicate CAC Food Shelf on the memo line. You can also give online through the St. John's website.

- St. John's 3–5 graders invite you to join them in a Minnesota FoodShare Mac'n Cheese Challenge! Donate standard classic Mac'n Cheese (or same size) boxes, or \$20 for 18 boxes. Our goal is to fill the St. John's Labyrinth by Wednesday, April 1, for a joyful Mac'n Cheese domino celebration. Donate boxes to the shopping cart in the Commons, or direct a check to St. John's with Mac'n Cheese Challenge in the memo line.

Announcements (continued)

St. John's Is Hiring: Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Our Director of Ministry with Youth & Families, Kristin Partlo, will be leaving her position at St. John's this July in order to continue her seminary education through Pastoral Internship at United Lutheran Church in Red Wing. This means we are looking to find our next Director of Ministry with Youth & Families! Please go to our website (<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/about/employment/>) to read the job description and to see how to apply.

Weekend Quilting Bee

Celebrate National Quilting Day on **Saturday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.–Noon in the Fellowship Hall**. St. Olaf students will be joining us! This is a chance for those who can't attend the quilting on Thursday mornings to have a chance to join in on the fun. We will be cutting out squares, sewing quilt tops, tying the quilts, and sewing on the bindings. Refreshments will be provided.

St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 9:30 a.m.

Children, up to grade 5, are invited to St. John's for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Remember to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs. Friends are welcome too! Can you help? We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill over 1,000 eggs. A donation basket is in the Commons. If you can volunteer to help hide eggs on the day of the hunt, please contact Julie at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Easter Lily Orders 2026

If you would like to order an Easter lily to decorate the Sanctuary in memory or honor of a loved one or in celebration of Easter, the order form is available in the Commons or by scanning the QR code. The last day to place your order is Sunday, March 29.



Scan Me

CPR and First Aid Class

Thursday, April 9, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Would you know what to do in an emergency? St. John's is offering a CPR and First Aid class for staff, ushers, and members of the congregation. Sign up in the office if you're interested.

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (March 15)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Sunday School: Preschool–Grade 5 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

Sunday Youth Gathering: Grades 6–12 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Youth Room)

Lenten Book Read (9:45–10:30 a.m., Fireside Room)

Accompany (9:45–10:40 a.m., Undercroft)

St. John's Forum: *A Public Palm Sunday* (9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

Fred Huemoeller, Avis Reed

Those with ongoing health concerns

David Halsor, Greta Matzner-Gore, Dagfinn Moe, Dolores Nelson, David Norman,
Alice Rickert, Ruth Smestad Anglin, Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff),
Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard), Ingrid Alberding

All who are homebound, including

Carolyn Jennings, Laila Burns Hedstrom

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;
Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania; Katie Larson, ELCA missionary in Colombia

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 22):

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 † Psalm 130 † Romans 8:6-11 † John 11:1-45



**Served from 5:15–6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall**

Menu for Wednesday, March 18:
Sausage Bean Chowder
Rosemary Garlic White Bean

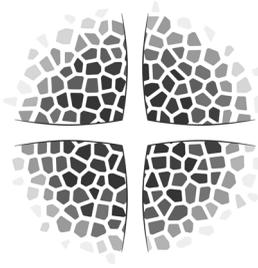
All are welcome!

Soup Suppers are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.

This Week At-a-Glance

*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

Monday, Mar. 16	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology, Flaherty's Northfield Lanes
Tuesday, Mar. 17	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Inspired Pens Writing Group, St. John's Library Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room ESG Meeting, Fireside Room Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room
Wednesday, Mar. 18	11:30 a.m. 3:45 p.m. 4:15 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Gathering of Contemplation and Prayer, Fireside Room Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Lenten Book Read, Fireside Room Lenten Soup Supper, St. John's Hall Wellspring Craft & Conversation, Fireside Room Lenten Vespers, Sanctuary Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall High School Youth Group, Youth Room St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Mar. 19	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Executive Committee via Zoom Suzuki Kids, Fellowship Hall / Room 19 Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary New Moms Network, St. John's Library Open Door Preschool Book Club, Fireside Room
Friday, Mar. 20	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Mar. 21	9:00 a.m.	Weekend Quilting Bee, Fellowship Hall Women's Breakfast Group, Fireside Room



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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office@StJohnsNorthfield.org
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Sally Lindell, *Faith Community Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*
Kristin Partlo, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
Arturo Rosas, *Custodial Associate*
David Sims, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the
ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation.
We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.*