



SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 21, 2021 † 9:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances.

We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.



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 — “God Alone Be Praised”

AD LUCEM, arr. John Helgen

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — “There in God’s Garden” (#342)

SHADES MOUNTAIN



There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom, whose leaves hold
Its name is Je - sus, name that says, “Our Sav - ior!” There on its
Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage; our greed has
See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come; hear what the
This is my end - ing, this my res - ur - rec - tion; in - to your



forth the heal - ing of the na - tions: Tree of all knowl - edge,
branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring; see there the ten - drils
starved it, our de - spite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its
Voice says, “Come to me, ye wea - ry! Give me your sick - ness,
hands, Lord, I com - mit my spir - it. This have I searched for;



Tree of all com - pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
of our hu - man self - hood feed on its life - blood.
grief has not de - stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
give me all your sor - row, I will give bless - ing.”
now I can pos - sess it. This ground is ho - ly.

Text: Király Imre von Pécslyi, tr. Erik Routley © 1976 Hinshaw Music; Music: K. Lee Scott, © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers


*A Litany of Sorrows and Sins

- ☐ Hear our lament, tenderhearted God.
Receive our petitions, benevolent God.
Forgive us our sins, preserve us from evil,
and protect us in death.
- ☑ Support us, mighty God.

*Kyrie — from *All Creation Sings*, setting 11


Ana Hernandez

Cantor



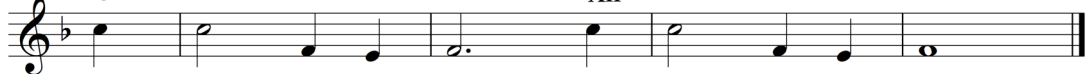
O Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.
Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.

All




O Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.
Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.

Cantor



All



Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.
Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.

P We have honored false gods,
desecrated your name, devalued worship,
disdained our elders, harmed both neighbors and nature,
misused sexuality, cheated and stolen, lied and slandered,
and coveted what you have given to others.

C **Forgive us, loving God.**

P From plague and disease,
from hunger and thirst, from injury and infirmity,
from unemployment and homelessness,
from ignorance and despair,
from loneliness and fear,
and from early or painful death,

C **Protect us, compassionate God.**

P Loving God, merciful, gracious, compassionate,
remember your promise to save:
remember Cain, saved from revenge;
remember Noah, saved from the flood;
remember Sarah, saved from childlessness;
remember Hagar, saved from thirst;
remember the Israelites, saved from slavery;
remember Ruth, saved from starvation;
and remember Naaman, saved from disease.

C **Remember your promise, O God.**

- Ⓟ We implore you, faithful God, to receive our petitions, as you hear the prayers of your Son, as you heed the groaning of your Spirit.
- ☩ **Have mercy, O God. Amen.**

*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

- Ⓟ O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☩ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

- 📖 The word of the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Antiphon: Create in me a clean heart, O God.



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- ²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.
- ³**For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.**
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.** *Antiphon*
- ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother’s womb.
- ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.
- ⁷**Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.**
- ⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

Antiphon: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Second Reading — Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

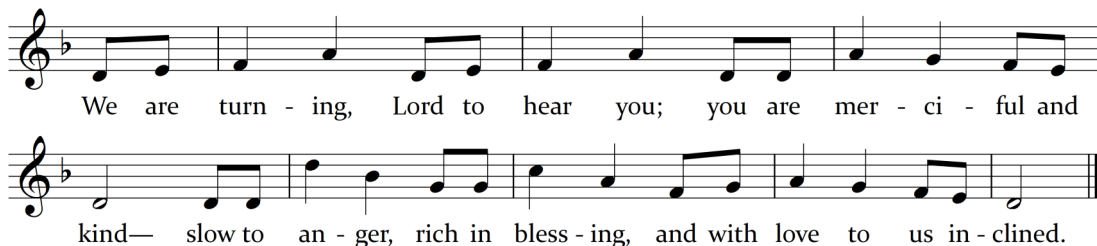
⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L The word of the Lord.

C 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 12:20-33

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. John Gorder

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “God Alone Be Praised” (ACS #1023)

AD LUCEM



O - ceans rise, the coast-land trem-bles; moun-tains melt and dry earth
Na - tions rage, the em - pire fal - ters; seek - ing ref - uge, ex - iles
Come and see; God's mer - cy gath - ers all that sin and grief have



crum - bles. All the world with long - ing groans. Love a -
wan - der. Walls and weap - ons rise from fear. Through this
shat - tered. Life from fields of death is raised. Peace, be



bides, this gra - cious prom - ise is our help, our hope and
wil - der - ness a riv - er flows to heal and bless us
still; let pride - ful thun - der yield to songs of joy and



so - lace. God's strong word is sol - id ground.
ev - er. God the cru - ci - fied dwells here.
won - der. God and God a - lone be praised.

Text: Susan Briehl © 2016 admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Zebulon Highben, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*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:

- L** Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

***Peace**

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

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

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“Mothering God”

Tom Trenney

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun. Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace. Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close, so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

—Jean Janzen

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

- P** Gracious God, we have heard your Word of Life today.
While our sin is great, your determination to save has proven greater.
Thank you for Jesus who leads us out of the wilderness and into the community declaring, “The kingdom of God has come near.” Embolden us with the gift of your Holy Spirit that we may share your love and salvation with all creation, through Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.
- C** **Amen.**

*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.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

☐ Amen.

*Sending Hymn — "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" (#759)

OLIVET



My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
When ends life's tran - sient dream when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer; Music: Lowell Mason

***Dismissal**

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

🎵 **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude — on OLIVET

Karl Osterland



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching	Rev. John Gorder
Assisting Ministers	Arielle and Adam Loy
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantors	David Sims, Kristin Partlo, Nathan Proctor

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday

Radio and livestream service at 9:00 a.m.

Palms will be available to pick up outside the church building along with bulletins.

Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday

Radio and livestream service at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 2 - Good Friday

Radio and livestream service at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 3 - Holy Saturday

Stop by the columbarium for a time of prayer and candle lighting
between 6:30-8:30 p.m. as we prepare for Easter.

A brief devotion will be held every 30 minutes.

Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday

Radio and livestream service at 9:00 a.m. with communion via Zoom to immediately follow.

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Jon Rondestvedt by Jeanette Rondestvedt and the members of the St. John's Elizabeth Circle. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863. Next available dates: April 1 & 2 and July 4 & 25. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

St. John's has accepted the Southeastern Synod's invitation to participate in 40 Together: 1 Body, 1 Dollar, 40 Days. This Lenten financial commitment will directly support education, healthcare, and hunger relief in the lives of the synod's global partners, namely Colombia, Tanzania, and along the southern border. COVID-19 has created a variety of complications and uncertainties for these siblings in Christ and this offering allows us to do what we can to share our support. Videos are available for download from the following link: <http://semnsynod.org/events/40together/>

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Each March members of St. John's send letters urging our Congress people and Senators to support legislation aimed at ending hunger. Here's how you can take action this year:

- Write and mail a letter to our Senator or Representatives. For a sample letter to help guide you and the addresses to mail the letters to, you can find the information attached to the weekly E-Voice, or you can pick up a copy of a sample letter at church from the Bread for the World bin placed by the Commons doors. Envelopes, the addresses, and paper are also available in the bin for you to take with you. Visit bread.org to learn more about the issues Bread for the World advocates for. For any questions, contact Dawn Tommerdahl at dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com.

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

Join in supporting Minnesota's hunger-relief network while also advocating for and supporting long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty in Minnesota. This year's campaign goes from March 1 to April 11. Please consider a donation to our local food shelf via check or online giving. If donating by check, please note Minnesota FoodShare/CAC on the memo line. Thank you!

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolates and Thistle Farms Hand Soaps

Contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to place your order for contactless delivery.

Announcements (continued)

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Project 2021

With a significant gift of \$40,000 provided by St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield, Rice County Habitat for Humanity is embarking on its first Faith Build. A Faith Build happens when funds and volunteers are provided by the faith community to build a home with a family in need. Building a Habitat home provides the church an outlet for missions, fellowship, and putting faith into action. To prepare for this build, Habitat is forming crews. To sign up to be part of a crew, complete the form found on the website: <https://habitatricecounty.org/>.

Youth Evening of Outdoor Socializing (Grades 6-12)

Wednesday, March 31, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Dress for the weather as we will gather in the parking lot of St. John's Church. We will catch up with each other, enjoy pizza, and work on a community outreach project to brighten the days of other youth in our community.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Were you someone who took home coin collection jars for the Fellowship of the Least Coin? If so, that jar might be pretty heavy by now, as we were unable to collect them last May! If you have a jarful of coins, please count them up and donate the total to St. John's Women. This can be done by mailing a check to the church office, with "WELCA Least Coin" in the memo or via PayPal on the church's women's page with "WELCA Least Coin" in the note section.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update from our Parish Nurse, Sally Lindell

As vaccine supply increases and doses become more widely available, opportunities to get vaccinated will expand. The Minnesota Department of Health has launched the Vaccine Connector: <https://vaccineconnector.mn.gov>. It is a great resource to make sure you are notified when you are eligible and where to receive your vaccine. You can go to the website to fill out the questionnaire that signs you up to receive this notification.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 28):

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a † Psalm 31:9-16 † Philippians 2:5-11 † Mark 14:1—15:47

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

Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Susan Rudser

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marlene Engstrom, Elvin Heiberg, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson,
Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson,
Howard Thorsheim, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Elaine Feroe, Tom Fjelde, Lois Pearson

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;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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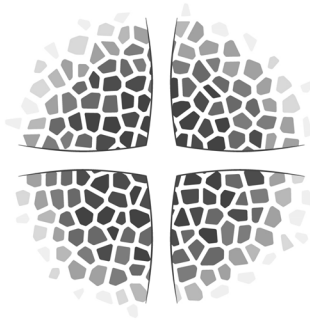
This Week At-a-Glance

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

Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).

Monday, Mar. 22	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Mar. 23	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council via Zoom
Wednesday, Mar. 24		No Scheduled Activities
Thursday, Mar. 25	12:00 p.m.	“Jesus Sees Women,” a Lenten Bible Study via Zoom
	1:30 p.m.	Book Buddies via Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom
Friday, Mar. 26		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Mar. 27		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, Mar. 28	9:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream
	10:00 a.m.	Virtual Sunday School via Zoom Virtual Youth Group via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour via Zoom





St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry

Tim Byers, Facility Manager

Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager

Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator

Christy Hall-Holt, Welcome Ministry Coordinator

Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse

Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir

Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants

Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

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