



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 23, 2025 † 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 SEELENBRÄUTIGAM

Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Front of ELW hymnal, page 94

*Gathering Hymn — ELW No. 624

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

arr. John Ferguson

Stanza 1 — all

Stanza 2 — bass voices

Stanza 3 — treble voices

Stanza 4 — all

*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

☐ Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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 — Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- L** The Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 63:1-8

Antiphon: Joseph Gelineau, SJ

Antiphon: My soul is thirsting for the Lord: when shall I see God face to face?



¹O God, you are my God; eager-^{ly} I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land
where there^{is} no water.

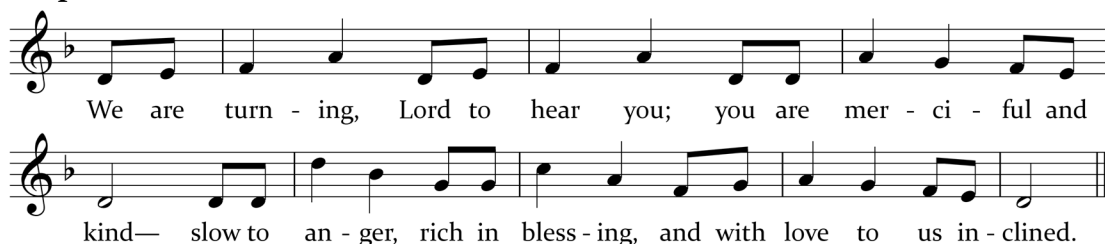
²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your ¹ holy place,
that I might behold your power ¹ and your glory.

**³For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
my lips shall | give you praise.**

**⁴So will I bless you as long[†] as I live
and lift up my hands[†] in your name. *Antiphon***

⁵My spirit is content, as with the rich-¹est of foods,
 and my mouth praises you with¹ joyful lips,
⁶when I remember you up-¹on my bed,
 and meditate on you in¹ the night watches.
⁷For you have¹ been my helper,
 and under the shadow of your wings I¹ will rejoice.
⁸My whole being¹ clings to you;
 your right hand¹ holds me fast. *Antiphon*

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel — Luke 13:1-9**

Spark Story Bible, page 372

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

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

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 447

“O Blessed Spring”

*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

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

(8:30) "Christ the Apple Tree"

Stanford Scriven

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green; the trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the apple tree. This beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know, but never can tell the glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought; I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree. I'm wearied with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile; under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

– Joshua Smith, 1784

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "O Blessed Spring"

Anne Krentz Organ

*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.

*Offering Prayer

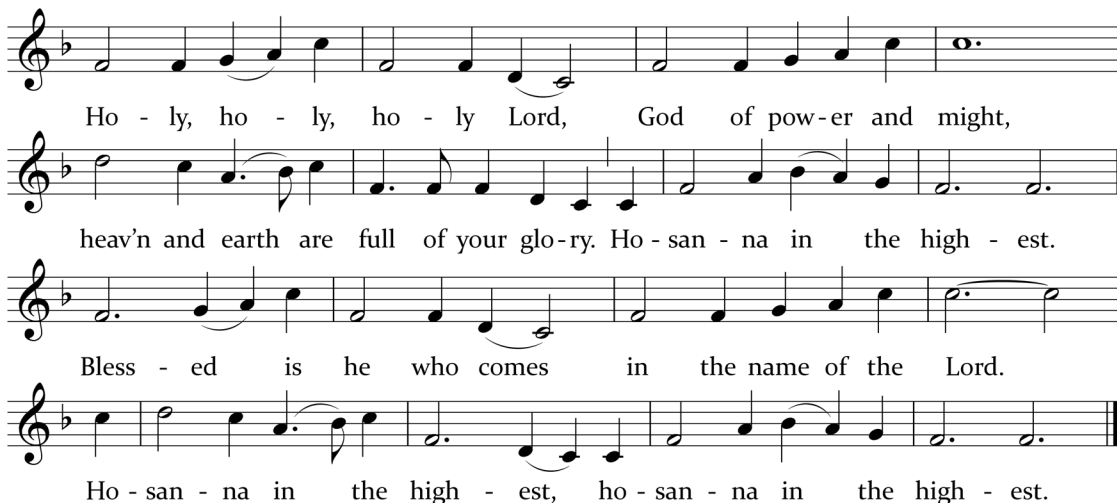
- L** Let us pray.
- C** Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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

"Lamb of God"



The musical notation for "Lamb of God" is presented in three parts, each on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Solo — "Elms" from *Views from the Oldest House*

Ned Rorem

Hymn — ACS No. 924

"As the Winter Days Grow Longer"

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Sending of Communion to the Sick and Homebound

***Prayer after Communion**

- ☞ Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

- ☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 542

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — Andante from *Sonata VI*

Felix Mendelssohn



Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 30):

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12 † Psalm 32 † 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 † Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenschner
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Julie Zdenek (10:45) Michelle Kramer-Prevost
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Flute	(8:30) Ruth Bretheim Aaseng
Piano	(10:45) David Sims
Communion Prep	Angie Gehring
Communion Cleanup	Beth Cox
Greeters	(8:30) Doug Johnson (10:45) Sandra Nyvall, Craig Schultz
Coffee Service	Bob and Pat Tabery
Refreshments	Rhonda Reece, Pat Tabery
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Marilyn Calcutt, David Nitz
Ushers	(8:30) Leif Knecht, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert (10:45) Todd Menssen, Bob Nyvall, Mark Rydberg, Eric Sponheim

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by John Maakestad.

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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (March 23)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

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

Next Week (March 30)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

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

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Sharon Bishop. 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), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.

Spring Break! During Northfield School's Spring Break, St. John's also takes a break. Sunday school will not be meeting today or next Sunday. Wednesday youth programs will not meet on March 26.

Easter Lilies 2025

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, please complete the paper form available in the Commons, or contact the church office at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. The cost is \$10.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent members can benefit St. John's at no cost to them by designating their Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's. 2024 funds need to be directed by March 31. Log in to your account at thrivent.com to direct funds.

What's New at Holden Village?

Mark Bach, one of Holden's Executive Directors, will be in Northfield next Thursday, March 27. A gathering will take place at 7:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church for anyone interested in hearing more about what is new at Holden Village, why you might want to visit, and how to support the Village's mission.

Women's Day at Good Earth Village: "Crafting Wellness: Pathway to Self Care"

Saturday, March 29, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., \$40 per person (pre-registration is requested)

The day will include devotions, presentations, hands-on activities, lunch, snacks, and fellowship. More information at www.goodearthvillage.org.

St. John's Forum on Immigration Newcomer Welcome: Our Current Reality and the Future

Sunday, April 6, 9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall

Jon Buuck, Director of Development at Global Refugee (formerly Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Services), will draw on his border immersion trip at the end of February to describe the current situation at the US southern border.

Announcements (continued)

Courageous Conversations

“Songs to Meet the Moment” with Sarina Partridge, Musician, Song Leader, Educator, and Activist
Thursday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

Based in the Twin Cities, Sarina has a passion for connecting people with their own creativity and with the community, using singing to help people develop a sense of wonder for this wild world around us. She will share songs of activism and spirituality: connecting with song as a potent medicine to help us meet the challenges of these times.

It’s Kid’s Night Out at St. John’s!

Friday, April 5, 5:30–8:30 p.m., St. John’s Hall

Kids in grades 1–5 are invited for games, pizza, crafts, along with more games and a movie! Please bring a snack to share with the group. Friends are welcome! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery by Sunday, March 30. Email Julie if you have questions: children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) Minnesota FoodShare Campaign is underway through April 6. Minnesota FoodShare envisions a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. You are invited to join its efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity. 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.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: *WORDS OF FAITH*

*“So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”*

– Isaiah 55:11

The Word of God has an incredible capacity to speak to us again and again, to work on us over time and to speak into different moments of our lives. For this year’s Lenten Wednesdays, our speakers have been asked to tell us about a Bible text, hymn text, or worship experience that has led them deeper into their faith.

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. through April 9.

- March 26: Brett Norgaard
- April 2: Nancy Simpson-Younger
- April 9: Christine Engstrom

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, Jo Kleber, Kent Rommereim,
Carol Schoen, Jenn Cohorst (Family of Angie Gehring)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Bill Carlson, Greta Matzner-Gore, Dolores Nelson, Scott Quinnell, Alice Rickert, Kathy Vang,
Ruth Smestad Anglin, Ingrid Alberding, Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff)

All who are homebound, including

David Halsor, Bob Flaten

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.



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

Menu for Wednesday, March 26:
Spring Break - No Soup Supper
Lenten Soup Supper Returns April 2

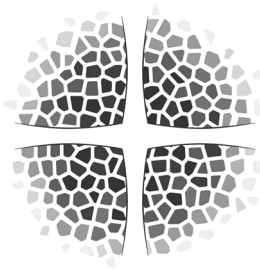
All are welcome!

Wednesday Meals 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. 24	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Mar. 25	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Fireside Room
	10:30 a.m.	Writing Group: “Inspired Pens”, St. John’s Library
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room
	5:30 p.m.	“Revelation Unveiled” Bible Study via Zoom
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council, Undercroft
Wednesday, Mar. 26	10:15 a.m.	Communion at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive, Offsite
	10:45 a.m.	Communion at NRC, Offsite
	11:15 a.m.	Communion at Kildahl Apartments, Offsite
	4:15 p.m.	Lenten Book Read, Fireside Room
	6:15 p.m.	Lenten Vespers, Sanctuary
	7:00 p.m.	St. John’s Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Mar. 27	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitters, St. John’s Library
	1:30 p.m.	Book Buddies, St. John’s Library
	4:00 p.m.	Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
	6:30 p.m.	Rehearsal - Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra, St. John’s Hall
Friday, Mar. 28	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Mar. 29		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Mar. 30	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

Green Bouzard, Jubilate Choir Director

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, Parish 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 Rings

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.*