

Prodigal Parent, A. Malcolm Gimse

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 27, 2022 † 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 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 — "The Prodigal Son" from *Three Gospel Scenes*

James Biery

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — ELW No. 666

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

*Confession and Forgiveness

- P In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.
- @ Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Holy One,
- we confess that we have wandered far from you:
 we have not trusted your promises,
 we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
 we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
 we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
 Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you.
 Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love,
 and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.
- P Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and to all who call out to God. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.
- Amen.

*Greeting

- P 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

- P God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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 — Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

■ The word of the Lord. **②** Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 32:1-8

Antiphon: Palestinian traditional (ACS No. 989)

Antiphon: Let your peace rain upon us, O living God of peace.

Let your peace rain upon us, Lord, fill our hearts with your peace.



¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven, and whose sin is | put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt, and in whose spirit there | is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- ered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴For your band was because non-model day and night.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ceal my guilt. Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they ¹ shall not reach them.

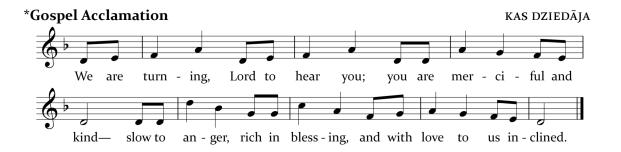
⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble; you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go; I will guide you | with my eye." Antiphon

Second Reading — 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat 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.

- **L** The word of the Lord.
- **©** Thanks be to God.



*Gospel — Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Pew Bible, page 850; Spark Story Bible, page 378

Before the reading:

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.
- **G** Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Rev. Laura Aase

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 1047

"What Is the World Like"

*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,
- hear our prayer.

*Peace

- **P** 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) "There Are Children at the Door"

David Cherwien

There are children at the door, thousands, millions, many more, and my Jesus makes me think, "Take them eat and take them drink." Jesus, Jesus, I will go, when the heart is high and low. There are beggars at the gate, waiting long and waiting late, and my Jesus makes me say, "Take them coat upon their way." There are lonely at the tree, resting there to talk to me, and my Jesus makes me stay, with him till the end of day. There are weary at my side, washed ashore in angry tide, and my Jesus makes me go where the storm and waters blow.

—Herbert F. Brokering

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Meditation for Holy Week—Lament for Bells" *Rejoice Ringers*

Brian Childers

rejoice rangers

ELW No. 188

*Offering Hymn — "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

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.

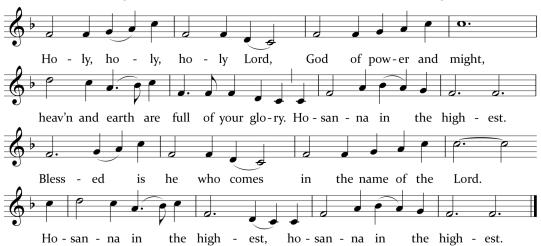
*Offering Prayer

- Let us pray.
- Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **©** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **1** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*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



(8:30) **Anthem** — "I Will Arise"

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

- E Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.
- C Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

C Amen.

*Sending Hymn — ELW No. 502

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Stanzas 5 and 6

*Dismissal

- **L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **□** Thanks be to God.

Postlude — "Finale" from *Das Holsteinische Orgelbüchlein*

Hans Friedrich Micheelsen

+ + +

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' " - Revelation 21:5

Our theme for Lenten Wednesdays this year is *Always Being Made New*. This year, five St. John's members (both new and long-time members) have been invited to share their story: how they found their way to St. John's and how God has been making all things new in their life. We are so grateful to these individuals for their courage in sharing their story with us, and we are excited to see how their example helps all of us think more deeply about how we all are being made new in this season.

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

• March 30: Jo Franklin

• April 6: Michael Mandsager

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding Pastor Pam Fickenscher and Pastor Jonathan Davis

Preaching Rev. Laura Aase

Assisting Ministers (8:30) Deb Schoeb

(10:45) Sponheim Family

Organist Nathan Proctor

Choir (8:30) St. John's Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director

(10:45) Rejoice Ringers; Zachery Pelletier, director

Anthem Accompanist (8:30) Marcia Yernberg

Cantor (10:45) Nancy Ordahl Kmoch

Communion Prep Jill Enestvedt
Communion Cleanup Monica Holicky

Coffee Service and Treats Ted Peterson, Dale and Karen Schuette, Ann Albert

Counters Brenda Bultman, Jane Rizzo, Bob Tabery Ushers (8:30) Barry Becker, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin

(10:45) Todd and Connie Menssen, Bob Nyvall, Mark Rydberg

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (March 27):

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall Bread for the World Letter Writing, 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) Parent Gathering (9:45-10:30 a.m., St. John's Library

Next Week (April 3):

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons
Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons
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)
Parent Gathering (9:45-10:30 a.m., St. John's Library)
St. John's Forum: Emotional Health (9:45-10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Rev. Sylvan R. and Lucile Moe by Rick and Nancy Moe. 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 507-645-4429 office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Available Dates: April 3 & 24.

Coffee Hour Today Between Services in St. John's Hall

To sign up to donate treats (homemade or store-bought), or to help with serving or clean-up, sign up in CCB in the "Monthly Hospitality - April" Group under the Needs tab, or email Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

Bread for the World Letter Writing

Today Between Services in St. John's Hall

We invite you to write a letter to our state senator and representative for the Bread for the World campaign. You can use a provided sample letter to copy, or compose wording of your own. Paper, pens, and envelopes will be provided and the church will stamp and mail them.

Message from The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

This month the board designated \$1,000 from St. John's funds to the Eastern European Crisis Fund of Lutheran Disaster Relief to provide aid for those affected by the war in Ukraine. Members may send their own gifts to LDR at https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/

Plans for St. John's to Join the Summer Church Softball League

Church softball is returning to St. John's for Summer 2022! Teams are mixed gender, for players high-school age and older. Games are played on Sunday evenings. Let us know about your interest in managing, playing, or cheering on the team by Sunday, April 3, on the CCB interest form or contact Rob Quanbeck at rob.quanbeck@gmail.com or 507-301-3625.

Thrivent Members

You can give St. John's an extra boost at no cost to you by designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's. 2021 funds need to be designated by March 31, 2022. This year the Church Council is designating a significant portion of these gifts toward funding our beloved tradition of Advent Fair. Go to thrivent.com to designate your funds.

Easter Lilies

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 on the church website. The cost is \$20. The last day to order is next Sunday, April 3. If you have questions contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.

Announcements (continued)

Special St. John's Forum: Emotional Health - Tending to COVID Anxiety and COVID Grief Next Sunday, April 3, 9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall and via Zoom

As we all try to find our way in this next phase and season of COVID, it is more and more clear that we, as a church and a community, are still living with the effects of the pandemic. Two years of chronic stress, periods of fearfulness, losses large and small, and the grind of perpetual change have taken a toll on all of us in different ways. How do we process and tend to these experiences? We can start by connecting and talking about them together. With the help of two local therapists, Erin Barnett and Elaine Nesbit, we will spend some intentional time thinking and sharing about the impact the pandemic has on us as individuals and as a community. We will also look forward and talk about what we are noticing in ourselves as Omicron winds down locally and more COVID restrictions are relaxed. The second part of this forum will be held on Sunday, May 1.

Courageous Conversations

Thursday, April 7, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

TORCH director, Tessa Kiesow, and Northfield Community College Collaborative (NCCC) director, Sarah Lee, will present "TORCH & NCCC: Past, Present, & Future," their work in preparing and supporting first generation college students in Northfield, helping to build the beloved community. Register here: www.stjohnsNorthfield.org/courageous

Easter Egg Hunt for Pre-K through Grade 5 Saturday, April 16, 9:30–11:00 a.m.

The egg hunt will be outside at St. John's with weather permitting, or in St. John's Hall, the Commons, and lower level if weather is inclement. Bring your Easter baskets to collect the eggs! Children need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. **Donations of individually packaged Easter candy are appreciated. Please place donations in the designated buckets in the Commons.** Thank you! Volunteers (middle school and high school youth and adults) are also needed to help hide plastic eggs! Contact Julie Brehmer at childrens@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you can help!

ELCA Alleluia 5k Fun Run/Walk Sunday, April 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

The ELCA congregations of Northfield (St. Peter's, St. John's, and Bethel) are partnering on the 2^{nd} Sunday of Easter to offer a unique worship service—a Fun Run/Walk! There will be a full 5k route as well as a half-distance option. More information coming in the April/May Voice.

Minnesota FoodShare 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 runs through April 10. Please consider a donation to our local shelf via check or online giving. If giving by check, please note Minnesota FoodShare/CAC on the memo line. Thank you.

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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

Billi Faillettaz, Bob Flaten, Ruth Hansen, Carolyn Jennings, Dick Kleber, Bruce Ohland, Paul Peterson, Kristi Wermager, Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson)

Those celebrating the birth of

Olive Mae Barvir, daughter of Amy Kraushaar and Scott Barvir

Those with ongoing health concerns

Elvin Heiberg, Donna James, Guenther Moesler, Delores Nelson, Carole Nesheim, Becky Ness, John Quam, Scott Quinnell, Lois Rand, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Tom Fjelde, Lois Pearson, Gloria Porter

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

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia; lambi 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.

Life in the Time of COVID. Tell us your story . . .

The New York Times calls COVID-19 "the greatest health catastrophe in a century." In our community the first infections began in mid-March 2020, and the pandemic remains an ongoing public health crisis. In one way or another we still feel its impact on our lives. The Faith & Health Board invites St. John's members of all ages to reflect on living in the time of COVID. What have you experienced and felt? What have you lost or gained? How are you coping? How has the pandemic affected work, family, and church? Do you see a hopeful future?

- We are looking for stories from 100 to 2500 words in length. Artwork and poetry are also welcome.
- Please email your story to: office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. If you cannot send us your story by email, paper submissions are welcome at the St. John's office.
- Please see the link on the St. John's homepage for how families can submit for their children.
- Submissions will close May 31, 2022.

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. 28	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Mar. 29	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, Mar. 30	12:00 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m.	Crossroad Lenten Book Study via Zoom Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Crossroad Lenten Book Study via Zoom Lenten Vespers, Sanctuary Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room St. John's Chorale, Sanctuary
Thursday, Mar. 31	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall Rejoice Ringers, St. John's Hall
Friday, Apr. 1	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Apr. 2	4:30 p.m.	Crossroad Lenten Book Study via Zoom
Sunday, Apr. 3	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Worship, Sanctuary (For Schedule Between Services, please see page 11) Worship (Baptism - Eleanora Luckman), Sanctuary Cub Scout Den Packs, Lower Level

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (April 3):

Fifth Sunday in Lent



500 Third Street West Northfield, MN 55057 507-645-4429 office@StJohnsNorthfield.org www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor
Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor
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
Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

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