

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 29, 2020 † 8:30 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 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.

Video of this week's service will be posted for one week only on the home page of our website www.stjohnsnorthfield.org. Audio recording of the sermon will be archived under the worship tab of the website. If you wish to have a text copy of the sermon mailed to you, please contact the church office. Other helpful links and resources will be posted as they become available at the St. John's Facebook page.



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 — “Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir” BWV 686
“Out of the Depths I Cry to You”

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — “Jesus, Still Lead On”

SEELENBRÄUTIGAM



Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, tr. Jane Borthwick

*Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who gathers us in the wilderness
to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

C Amen.

P If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Gracious God,

☩ **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

ℙ Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

☩ 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 Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us from sin and death.
Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life
in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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 — Ezekiel 37:1-14

After the reading:

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

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always

hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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 — “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON



Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";
Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson

***The 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:

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

Paul Manz

*Thanksgiving for the Word

☐ O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

☑ 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 — “Abide with Me”

EVENTIDE



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte

*Dismissal

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Maestoso” from *Sonata III*

Felix Mendelssohn



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Ruthie Neuger
Organist	Nathan Proctor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Lectionary Readings for Next Week (April 5):

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a † Psalm 31:9-16 † Philippians 2:5-11 † Matthew 21:1-11

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Tony Becker and Rebecca Judge. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 8:30- 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: April 5, 19 & 26. 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.

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Here at St. John's the pastors and staff are closely following the recommendations from the CDC for the preparation for and prevention of the spread of COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus. Important tips for us all to remember are: wash hands with soap and water frequently for at least 20 seconds, cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue when possible and then throw it in the trash, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and stay home if you are sick. The recommendations do not include stockpiling food or other supplies and wearing a mask as a protective measure to prevent infection. We are following all updates from the CDC closely and will keep you informed of any changes.

Thrivent Member Reminder

Eligible Thrivent Financial members have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2019 Choice dollars in their accounts to charitable non-profits. St. John's welcomes your Choice dollars which are used to support of our ministry among youth and the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church. To learn more, go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after prompt. If you need assistance or have questions, Brad Kmoch will be happy to help you. Just send him an email (bkmoch@gmail.com) or call him (952-807-4702). Note that your 2019 Choice dollars will disappear if not directed, so act before March 31.

2020 Census

As we stay at home, there is one activity that you can do to help promote the completion of the census. If you have not done so, please fill yours out now or as soon as it arrives in your mailbox. It is so important to Minnesota, Rice county, Northfield, and the school district that everyone be counted. It is easy to do online or via phone. The count is used to distribute future federal funds to our state, redistricting at federal, state, county, and local level, planning for development, etc. Without an accurate count, we could lose a lot. So go online, or call 844-330-2020 to respond via phone. The web site is my2020census.gov.

How Can You Help?

This question continues to be asked everyday. It's heartening to know that we have a community that is ready to step up in a crisis.

First and foremost, you've all heard the reminders about allowing for physical distance and minimizing direct contact, even if you are currently well. That must be everyone's first priority. Item two is to connect with neighbors and friends, especially health care workers, those who are at risk, and people with small children who suddenly find themselves 24/7 together.

Other things that are happening.

- Last week many prayer shawls made by our knitters were distributed to members who are on lockdown in care facilities. If you would like to make one, the patterns are easy; what better way to pass the time when you are stuck at home yourself? Contact Sue Sharrow at sue_sharrow@msn.com to learn how.
- The Red Cross still needs blood, maybe now more than ever. Go to the Red Cross website www.redcross.org if you are eligible to donate. Drives are still happening locally.
- The Community Action Center is preparing for a deluge of needs. The quickest way to help is to donate financially. The CAC can make those gifts go further than your own grocery donations. They also are building their volunteer base here: <https://communityactioncenter.org/community-response-to-covid-19/>
- Local businesses, especially the ones that are usually social hangouts, are trying to quickly pivot to serve you in different ways. Take advantage of all those take-out and delivery options. And if you can't use them now, buy a gift card that you can use in the future. The Northfield Chamber of Commerce is also offering a special on chamber bucks, which can be given to others and used at wide number of local businesses.
- St. John's continues to need your regular financial gifts. Although we can't be with you all in person, we want to continue to pay our staff. Giving online is easy at StJohnsNorthfield.org. Contact the church office at 507-645-4429 to set up automatic gifts. Or mailed offerings will continue to be welcomed. If you are in a position to pay ahead on your annual pledge, that will also help us get through this difficult time.

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

Noah Parker

Tim Oberle, son-in-law of Sue and Dave Hagen

Those celebrating the birth of

Genevieve Alice Timmer, daughter of Joe and Amanda Timmer

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Joanne Sommers, Tom Sorenson, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Janice Helegson, Arlene Sivanich, Joan Carlson,

Sigrid Gronning, Elouise Quinnell, Lester Gunderson

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.



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

*Lenten Soup Suppers are canceled
until further notice.*

All are welcome!

This Week At-a-Glance

*The calendar below contains only St. John's events.
The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

All previously scheduled in-person activities until April 10 are canceled.

The building is closed.

Contact the church office at 507-645-4429 if have any questions.

**The 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, April 5, will be a radio broadcast only (www.kymnradio.net)
and the 10:45 a.m. service is canceled.**

Virtual Pub Theology – Mondays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

During this season of keeping physical distance, we think it is important to connect to each other and our faith more regularly. Therefore, for now, we will have weekly Virtual Pub Theology via ZOOM from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Monday nights. Pub Theology is a space where we gather for connection and conversations around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. A topic and a link to ZOOM will be emailed out on Sunday and shared on Facebook. If you would like to be added to the email list or have questions about using ZOOM, please email Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study – Mondays, 12:00 p.m.

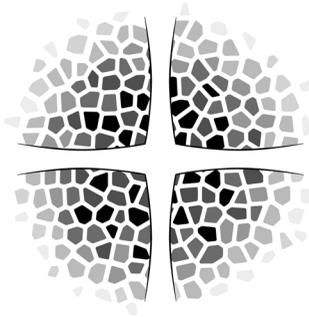
Our weekly Manna and Mercy Text Study will gather on Monday from 12:00-1:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Manna and Mercy Text Study is a time to read and wrestle with the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. Together we will wonder about what these texts have to say to us in this particular time and place. No Biblical experience necessary! The link to ZOOM will be emailed out on Monday morning and shared on Facebook. If you would like to be added to the email list or have questions about using ZOOM, please email Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

St. John's Virtual Church Coffee Break

Join us on your computer, tablet, or phone for St. John's Virtual Church Coffee Break throughout the week. For 30 minutes, we will simply check in, connect, and have a thought for the day. If you cannot stay the whole time, but simply want wander through and say "hello!," please do! The link to ZOOM will be posted on Facebook each morning. If you have questions about using ZOOM, please email Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Virtual Coffee gathering times will be:

Tuesday @ 2:00 p.m., Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m., Thursday @ 2:00 p.m., and Friday @ 10:00 a.m.



St. John's

ELCA • NORTHFIELD • MN

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office@StJohnsNorthfield.org
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*
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*
Bernie Renander, *Finance Manager*

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