



Prodigal Parent, A. Malcolm Gimse

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 30, 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 — “The Prodigal Son” from *Three Gospel Scenes*

James Biery

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Front of ELW hymnal, page 94

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 666

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Stanzas 3 may be sung in harmony.

*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

- ☐ 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.

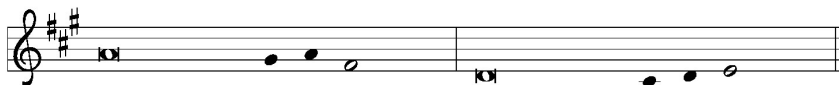
L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 32:1-8

Antiphon: David Sims

Antiphon: You are my hiding-place, you preserve me from trouble.



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

²**Happy 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.

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

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me
the guilt | of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | 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.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



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 — 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.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Schuyler Vogel

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:

- Ⓐ 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) "What Wondrous Love Is This"

David N. Johnson

(10:45) "The Road Home"

Stephen Paulus

*Tell me where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost, so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, oh, when will I know there's a way, there's a road
that will lead me home? After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake from
a dream in the gold of day, through the air there's a calling from far away, there's
a voice I can hear that will lead me home. Rise up, follow me, come away is the call,
with love in your heart as the only song; there is no such beauty as where you
belong, rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.*

– Michael Dennis Browne

Abby Carter, soprano

St. John's Chorale

***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.

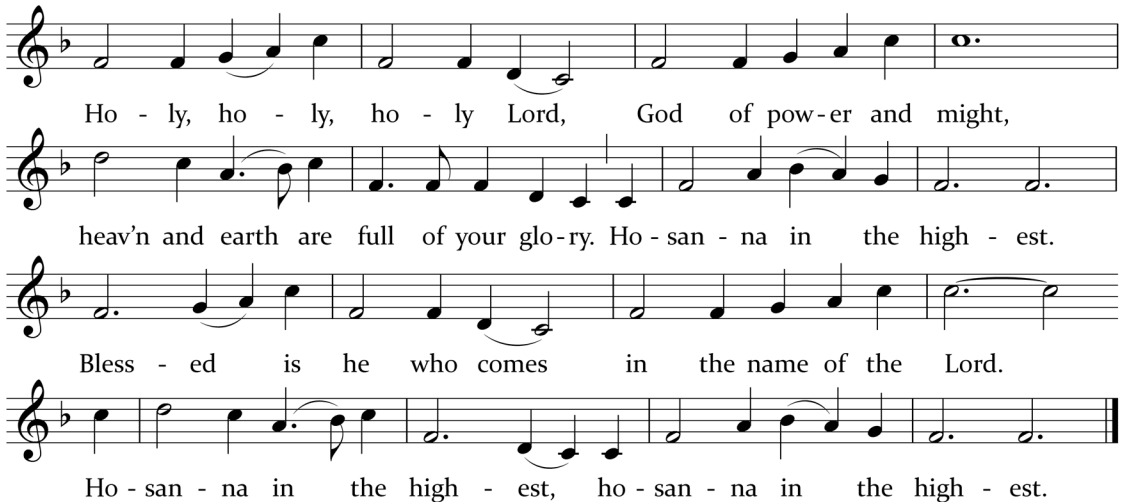
*Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ 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.**

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

- Ⓐ The Lord be with you.
- Ⓑ **And also with you.**
- Ⓐ Lift up your hearts.
- Ⓑ **We lift them to the Lord.**
- Ⓐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- Ⓑ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- Ⓐ 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

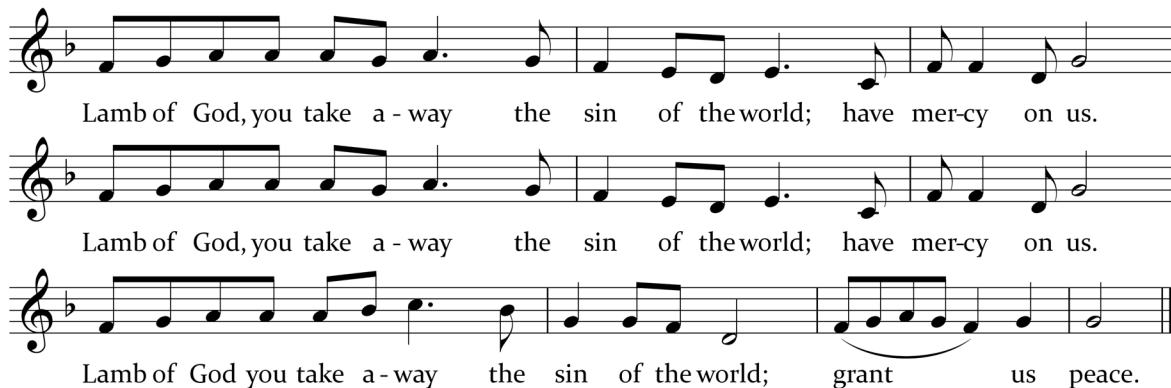
*The Lord's Prayer

**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”



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.

Hymn — ELW No. 779

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

*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** — ACS No. 1049

“Before the Waters Nourished Earth”

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

George Shearing



Lectionary Readings for Next Week (April 6):

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 † Psalm 126 † Philippians 3:4b-14 † John 12:1-8

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Rev. Schuyler Vogel
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Dean Schoeb (10:45) Susan Canon
Organists	Nathan Proctor, David Sims
Choir	(10:45) St. John's Chorale
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Cleanup	Vicki Otis
Greeters	(8:30) TBD (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Angie Gehring, Bob and Pat Tabery
Refreshments	Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Liz Rowley
Counters	Merilyn Calcutt, Reed Hagberg, Judd Lohmann
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Child, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Chuck Cannon, Angie Gehring, Dylan Gehring, Gordon Moore

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (March 30)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

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

Next Week (April 6)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

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

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

St. John's Forum (9:45–10:30 a.m., 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 Anthony Becker and Rebecca Judge. 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 645-4429.

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.

Courageous Conversations

"Songs to Meet the Moment" with Sarina Partridge, Musician, Song Leader, Educator, and Activist
Thursday, April 3, 7:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

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.

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

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

Jon Buuck, Director of Development at Global Refuge (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.

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.

Announcements (continued)

Wellspring Circle

Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Wellspring is a women's circle primarily focused on Generation-X (born 1965–1980). We welcome all women who are Gen-X or close to Gen-X age. We use the [ELCA Faith Lens blog](#) to guide our discussion.

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.

Reminder of Deadlines

Please send all submissions electronically to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

- Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements: Due by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.
- *The Voice* (May 2025 Edition): Due by April 15.

Electronic giving is a great way to support the ongoing ministry of St. John's, even when you are out of town or unable to worship in person. To sign up for electronic giving, contact Leah in the church office at 507-645-4429, or by email at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. "I Give Electronically" cards are now available in the pew racks, so you can show your support during the Sunday morning offering.

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.

- 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

For those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Charles Houge

Family of Carol Bjorlie (brother-in-law of Ellen Ellickson and Ruthie Neuger)

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

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.



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

Menu for Wednesday, April 2:
Creamy Turkey Wild Rice
Baked Potato Soup

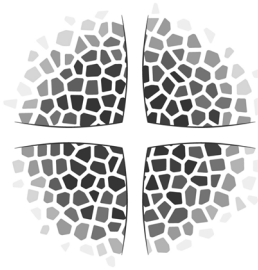
All are welcome!

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. 31	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Apr. 1	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
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room
	5:30 p.m.	“Revelation Unveiled” Bible Study via Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	Wellspring Circle, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), Youth Room Northfield Rotary, St. John’s Library
Wednesday, Apr. 2	11:00 a.m.	Personnel Committee, Undercroft
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John’s
	4:15 p.m.	Lenten Book Read, Fireside Room
	5:15 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper, St. John’s Hall
	6:10 p.m.	Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fireside Room High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room
	6:15 p.m.	Lenten Vespers, Sanctuary
	7:00 p.m.	St. John’s Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Apr. 3	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	Communion at Millstreams Commons, Offsite
	10:30 a.m.	Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite
	7:00 p.m.	St. John’s Courageous Conversations, St. John’s Hall
Friday, Apr. 4	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	5:30 p.m.	Kid’s Night Out, St. John’s Hall / St. John’s Movie Theater
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Apr. 5		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Apr. 6	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary <i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD-MN

500 Third Street West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429

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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 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.*