

NICODEMUS came
to
Jesus
BY NIGHT

JOHN 3:2



Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville

5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road

Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937

574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



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March 1, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.

Prelude

+ Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ☐ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

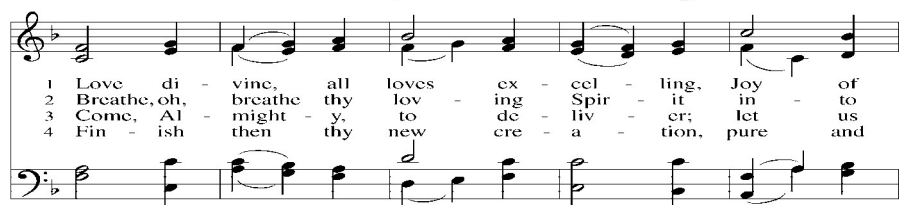
P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

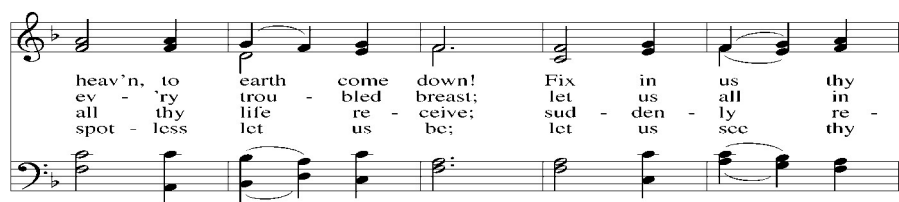
Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☐ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.



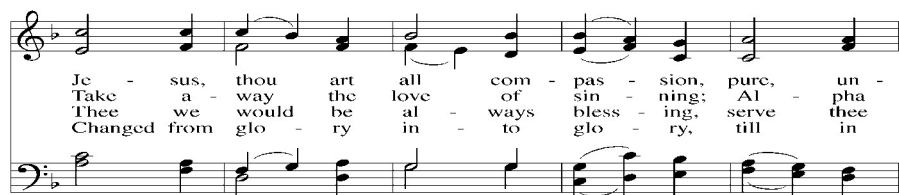
1 Love di - vine, all thy loves ex - cel - ling, Joy in of
 2 Breathe, oh, thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure us and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled re - us all in
 all thy life let re - ceive; sud - den - ly in
 spot - less let us be; let us see thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 thee in - her - it; us find thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, nev - er more thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee!



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -
 Take a - way the love al - ways sin - ning; pha -
 Thee we would be in - ways to glo - ry, serve thee in
 Changed from glo - ry in - ways to glo - ry, till



bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 and O - me hosts ga - be; end of our faith, as
 as thy we take our place, pray, and praise thee
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

+ Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

+ Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . **O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Choir

And I Did Nothing

Children's Sermon

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The **Lord** said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the **Lord** had told him, and Lot went with him.

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

+ Gospel Verse



+ The Gospel: John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Silence For Reflection

Hymn of the Day

Baptized in Water

#693

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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+THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Let us pray.

P Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

P Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages (*like George Herbert whom the church remembers today*), give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially*). Hear us, O God

C Your mercy is great.

P Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly (*especially*) and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere (*especially*). Hear us, O God

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P “Raise up and send to us our next pastor (deacon). We pray for our call committee, that your wisdom will rest upon them, that they may know and recognize the person you are sending. Grant us patience and faith as we wait. Amen”

“We pray for the our call committee as they continue their work, that they may know your will, and have the faith and courage to follow your leading.”

“Grant that your Holy Spirit may rest upon our call committee as they listen for your will. Grant us patience and hope that comes by faith in you.” Hear us, O God

C Your mercy is great.

P Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C Amen.

+ The Peace [shared among the congregation]

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

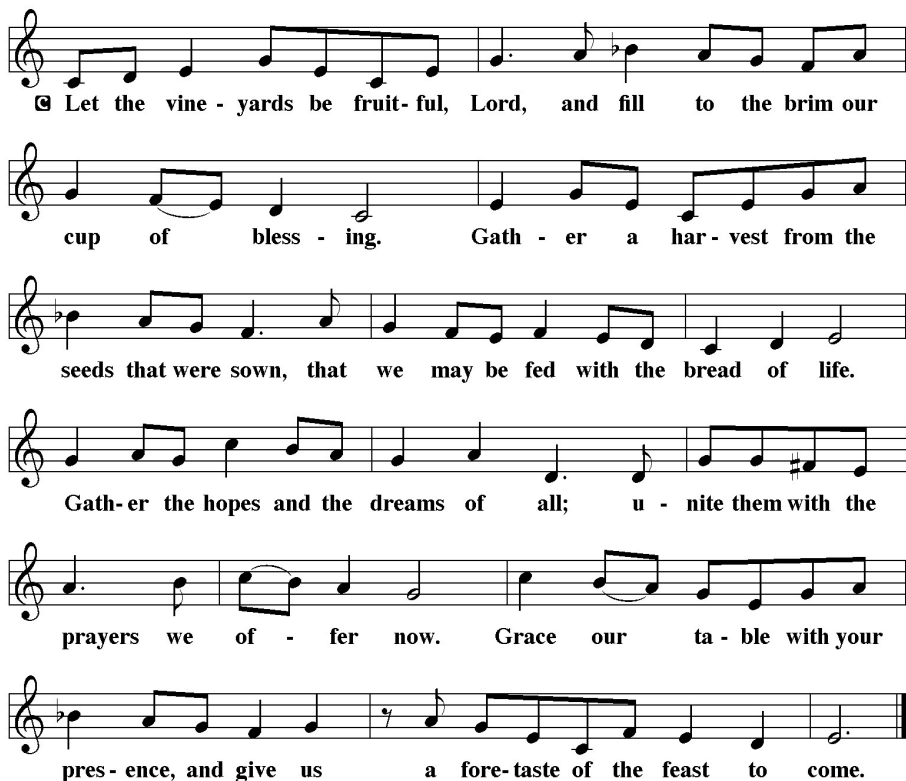
The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

Parish Announcements

Offering

Offertory



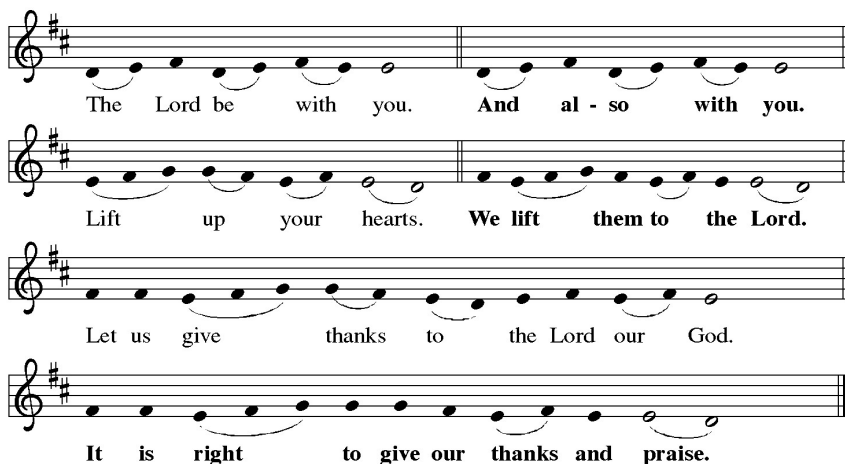
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

+ The Prayer

P Let us pray. Blessed are you,

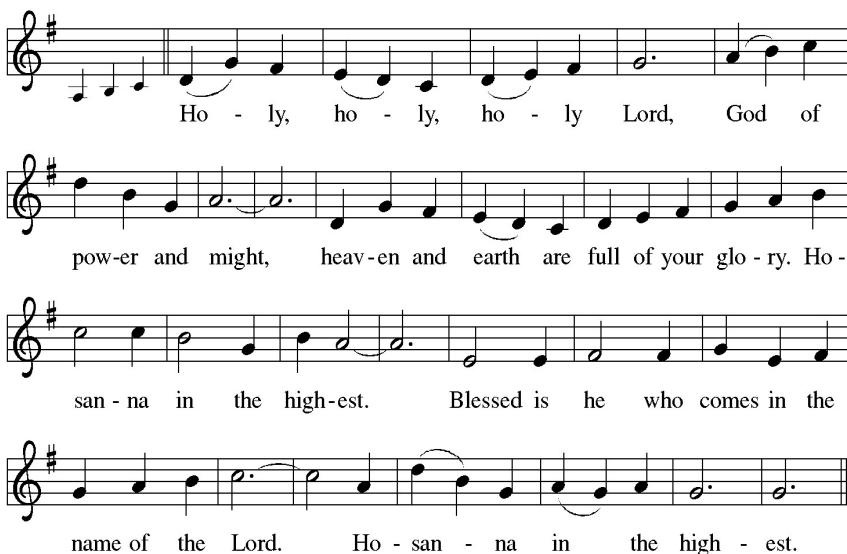
C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ The Great Thanksgiving



P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3 & Matthew 21:9)



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

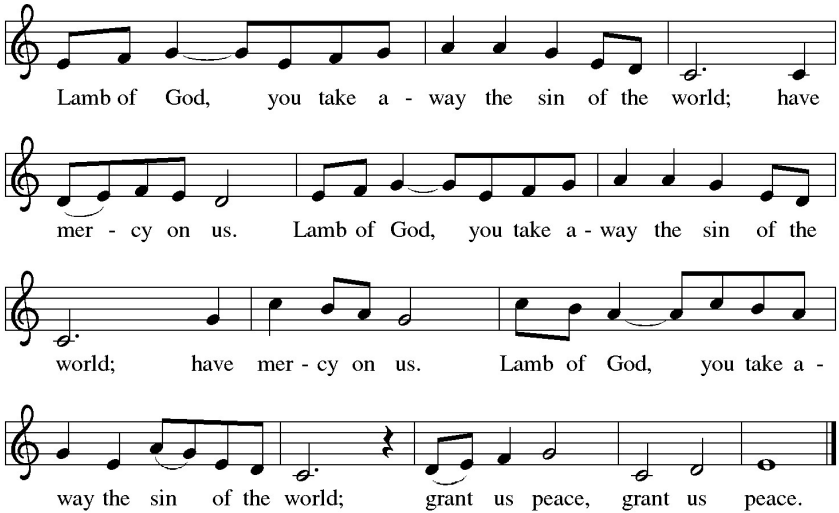
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

+The Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13)

**C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

(John 1:29)



The Holy Communion

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

Music during the

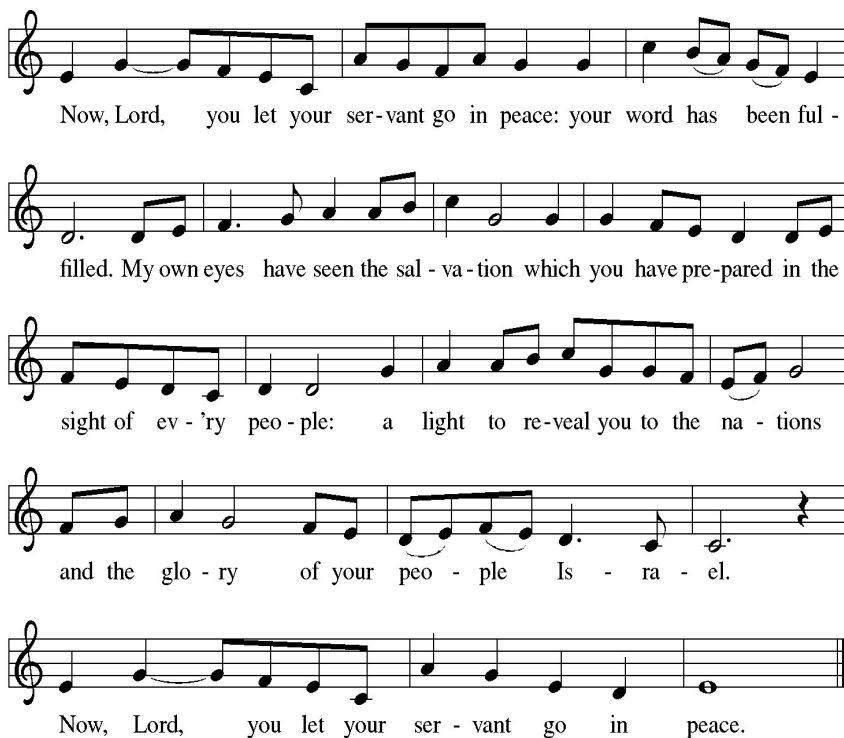
Communion:

Stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

+ Post-Communion Canticle *Now, Lord Let Your Servant* Luke 2:29-32



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

+ Post Communion Prayer

(Romans 5:5)

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

+ The Benediction

(Numbers 6:24-26)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

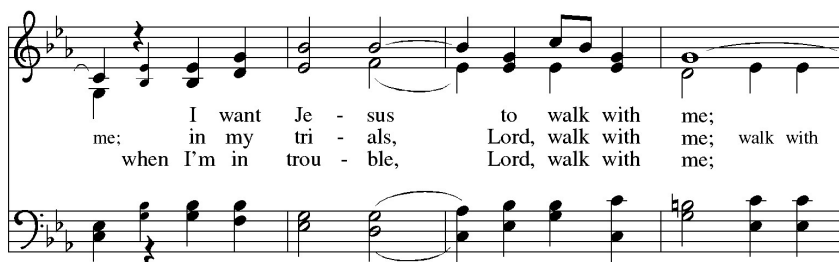
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

+In the name of the Father , and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

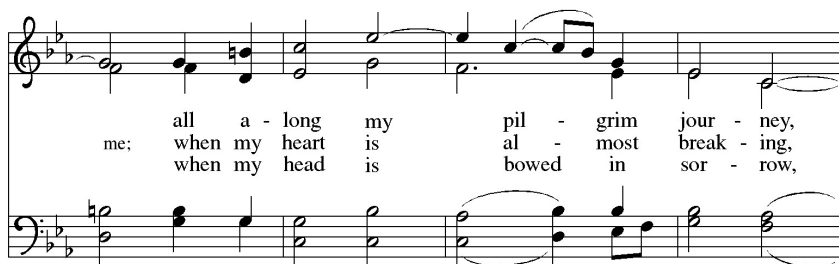
C **Amen**



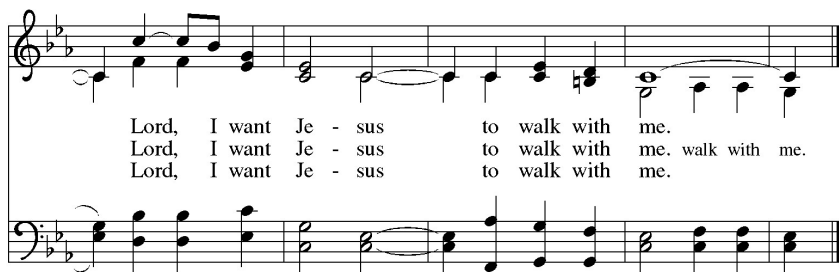
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
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+ Dismissal
 P Go in peace.
 Children Serve the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist	Kendra Hughes
Worship Assistant	Vivian Riffel
Lay Reader	Sherry Mullins
Prayer Leader	Sherry Mullins
Greeter	Shirley Gleim
Altar Committee	Kendra Hughes, Vicki Titus
Council President	Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION. St John observes open communion. Christians of all Churches and all denominations are invited and encouraged to join us at our Lord's table. You may drink from either the Common Cup or individual cups. **Grape juice is offered as an alternative for those who wish it.** Young children who have not yet gone through Preparation for Communion may be brought forward for a blessing.

These are the words of Martin Luther from The Small Catechism.

The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** The words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.

TODAY is the Second Sunday of Lent. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days (excluding Sundays). Lent --- the word originally meant "spring" --- is to be understood as a time to reflect on Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent is, therefore, a time for rebirth and a renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The traditional color of Lent is purple, to suggest somberness and solemnity. (The Lutheran Manual on the Liturgy)

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Paul Means, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Linda Martin, Rena McIntyre, Bill Culver, Melaine Hawk, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Joanne Oakes, Rod Schneider, Brian & Carol Hicks, Glenn Eskridge, Ed Hughes, Karyn Sexton, Brenda Moore, Shirley Gleim, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

CHOIR PRACTICE will be at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

KELLY SKIPWORTH & JOANNE OAKES will be leading Lenten Bible Studies and Devotion each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., beginning with a light supper. We will be watching The Chosen. Thanks to Debbie Clevenger for organizing the food. All is welcome.

THE JR. LUTHER LEAGUE is asking for donation of candy or money to help fill the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 7th and 8th graders is the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The next class is Sunday, March 8 and 22 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room.

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Vicki Floyd, Aiden Gleim, Jim Skipworth, Dawn Scott, Zane Gullet, Danielle Beekman, Adair Mercer

BAPTISMS: Cindy Bowen, Stephanie Clevenger, Sean Little

ANNIVERSARIES:

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

This Week at St. John

Today—*Second Sunday in Lent*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**—*Holy Communion*

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Youth Service—Downstairs

6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Midweek Bible Study

Next Sunday—*Third Sunday in Lent*

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

Attendance

2026 Average: 66

2025 Average 62

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Organist

Leigh Ann Henry

Lay Reader

Shaun Allen

Prayer Leader

Amy Fraulini

Greeter

James & Kym Hayman

Altar Committee

Kendra Hughes, Vicki Titus

Council President

Rick Williams

Coming Events

Sunday, March 1 at 11:00 a.m. First Communion Class

Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. Youth Service downstairs

Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Sunday, March 1 First Communion Class

Sunday, March 8 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. Youth Service downstairs

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Sunday, March 15 at 11:00 Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. Youth Service downstairs

Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Sunday, March 22 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. Youth Service downstairs

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Sunday, March 29 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 1 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m. Easter Festival of Holy Communion

Sunday, April 5, following Easter Worship Service, Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 12 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 19 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 26 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Lenten Bible Study & Devotion **Wednesday, February 25—March 25**

At 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study and Devotion

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday **Service**

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Easter Festival Service of Holy **Communion**

Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m.
Following worship

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 5 following Easter Worship Service

Join us for **Easter Breakfast**

Sunday, April 5
at 9:00 a.m.





Sunday, April 5
Following Easter Worship Service