



St John's

Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
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Fourth Sunday in Lent

19 March 2023 9:00 A.M.

Welcome! We're glad you're here! Although we are from all different backgrounds, we love to learn about what God has done. You and everyone are welcome to learn about God and find helpful guidance for your life. Feel free to bring us your questions or your feedback so we can improve. Or ask how to be part of a group conversation about faith in Jesus.

We *love* to have **Children** with us in the pews for worship. Our children's activity bags in the entryway have activities that can help them. We love babies in worship too because our Savior said, "Let the little children come to me." When babies want to be loud, the **Parent's Room** (just outside our worship area) is a good place for them to talk or cry so the rest of the worshipers can focus on God's Word. Then come back so we can all worship together.

If your **hearing aids** have T-Coils, set them to "on" and the service will be piped wirelessly to your ears.

We invite you to fill out a **ministry card** so we can better care for you. You'll find one on the pew in front of you. God bless your week. Come hear God's Word with us again!

Members: please note that the ministry cards are designed to serve some of your needs too.

Pre-worship Pondering:

Samuel Crossman

*My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be
Oh, who am I that for my sake My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
He came from His blest throne salvation to bestow,
But such disdain! So few the longed-for Christ would know!
But oh, my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need His life did spend!*

Service of the Word

Worship Theme *Jesus Overcomes Selfishness through Service*

Hymn *In Hopelessness and Near Despair (CWS738)*




1 In hope-less-ness and near de-spair, I cry to you, my
2 I see my heart's con-di-tion now, My heart's di-verse af-
3 I trem-ble as I feel your hand, Ex-pec-ting re-tri-
4 For-giv-en, free of guilt and shame, Grant me some time to



Sav-ior! My guilt is more than I can bear. I have not earned your
fec-tions. Why do I love the things you loathe; I'm torn in two di-
bu-tion, Yet hear no curse or re-pri-mand, But grace and ab-so-
ren-der A gift to glo-ri-fy your name, Love to re-lect your



fav-or. You know me as I real-ly am: How
rec-tions: Now prod-i-gal, now Phar-i-see. O
lu-tion: With you there is for-give-ness, Lord, You
splen-dor: This world must know what I have learned, That



much is truth, how much is sham; Why should you heed my plead-ing?
God, be mer-ci-ful to me; Who else but you can help me?
speak the sweet, con-sol-ing Word, And I am sure you love me!
you be-stow what none has earned: The joy of full for-give-ness!

Invocation

Pastor: *The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Congregation (speaks): *And also with you.*

Confession and Absolution

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: *Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.*

P: God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will. C: Amen.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise

CW273

♪♪ **C** (sings): *Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, Your Son came among us to serve and to give His life as payment for the sins of the world. Lead us by His love to share this message with others. Give us the strength and courage to proclaim the truth that You are the Author of life, and that Christ is the Source of forgiveness. Through us give hope to the hopeless,

love to the unloved, peace to the troubled, and rest to the weary. We ask it in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 37:2b-11

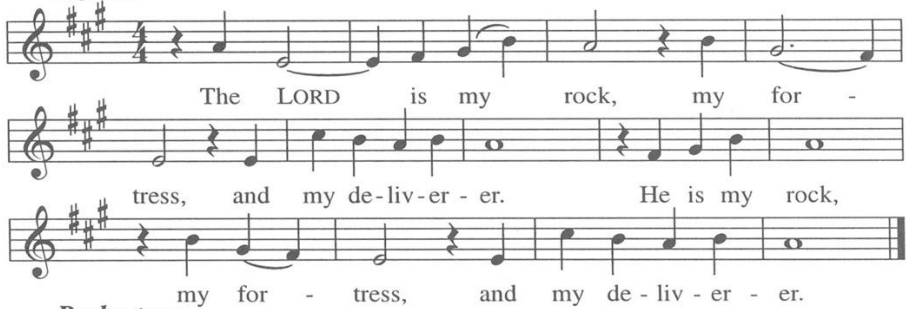
²Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers...and he brought their father a bad report about them. ³Now Israel [Jacob] loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. ⁵Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: ⁷We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.” ⁸His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. ⁹Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” ¹⁰When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?” ¹¹His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

P: You have heard the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 41

Refrain



The LORD is my rock, my for -
tress, and my de-liv-er - er. He is my rock,
my for - tress, and my de - liv - er - er.

Psalm tone



Blessed is he who has regard | for the weak;*
the LORD delivers him in times of | trouble.

I said, "O LORD, have mercy | on me;*
heal me, for I have sinned a- | gainst you."

My enemies say of me in | malice,*
"When will he die and his name | perish?"

Refrain

All my enemies whisper together a- | gainst me;*
they imagine the worst | for me.

Even my close friend, whom I | trusted,*
he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel a- | gainst me.

But you, O LORD, have mercy | on me;*
raise me up, that I may re- | pay them.

Refrain

I know that you are | pleased with me,*
for my enemy does not triumph | over me.

In my integrity you up- | hold me*
and set me in your presence for- | ever.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Refrain

Verse of the Day

Philippians 2:3

P: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,

C: but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Gospel

Matthew 20:17-28

¹⁷Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, ¹⁸“We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!” ²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹“What is it you want?” he asked. She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.” ²²“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered. ²³Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.” ²⁴When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

P: You have heard the Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Romans 8:1-10

¹There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. ⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. ⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

No Condemnation

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again

from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Many of our members give to the Lord electronically or once a month. So we now gather our offering as we enter the worship area. It is also acceptable to place an offering into the plate on the way out of the worship area. Guests are always welcome here without obligation.

We Bring a Thank Offering

Hymn #122*

5. Unto God be praise and glory; to the Father and the Son,
to th' eternal Spirit honor now and evermore be done.
Praise and glory in the highest while the timeless ages run.

Prayers of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn

#345

Prayer about God's Word

P: Blessed Lord, You caused all the Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and

inwardly digest them, that, comforted by Your Holy Word, we may patiently and steadfastly embrace the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Exhortation and Blessing

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with His favor and grant you His ✠ peace.



Hymn

#376

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Thank offering hymn stanza – *“Sing My Tongue the Glorious Battle”* from CW #122, Latin words by Venantius Fortunatus, abr., tr. by August Crull, alt. In the public domain.

Memory Verse of the Month

1 Peter 1:18-19

You know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

SERVING THE LORD AND US

March 19, 2023

Minister: Pastor Nathan Cordes 651-448-3559 KnowJesusBetter@StJohnsLakeCity.com

Pianist: Sandi Rodman

Audiovisual Tech: Kristi Gross

Communion/Flower Cte for March: Bonnie Dwelle, Judy Lortscher

March 19 Ushers: Glenn Albers, Mark Nibbe

March 22 Ushers: 3:30pm - Kathy Burfeind & Judy Lortscher

7:00pm - Jeff & Ruth Lee

March 26 Ushers: Lee Kackmann & Gary Lichtblau

Teachers in our LES

Mr. David Zabel, Principal, Gr. 6-8

Mrs. Jamie Fischer, Gr. PK-4, Director

Miss Molly Ring, Gr. 3-5

Miss Allison Hofland, PK-3

Mrs. Katie Majerus, Gr. 1-2

Miss Michelle Yotter, Gr. K

Sunday School Teachers Dawn Balow, Jennifer Ellison, Kristi Gross,

Philip Harteneck, Seth Harteneck, Brittany Huneke, Marcus Huneke

Youth Bible Teachers Stephanie Knudsen, Jolayne Johnson

EASTER LILIES Our Altar Guild is accepting Easter lily donations for decorating our chancel. You may bring your lily to the church on Saturday April 8 between 9:00 and 10:00 A.M. If you would like your lily back after Easter Sunday, write your name on a popsicle stick and poke the stick in the pot. If you are placing your lily in memory of a believing loved one, you may write this info on the Lily Sign-up Sheet which our Altar Guild has placed on the info counter near the church office.

BACK PEW ON PULIPT SIDE On each end of the back pew on the left side of the church there is a little sign which reads: "Reserved

for parents with small children.” Our Administrative Board and our Elders would like us to go back to observing these signs on April 9 and from then on. Grandparents and babysitters with small children may also sit in this pew. Small children and their adults are welcome to sit in any of the church’s pews. We are grateful for anyone to takes up the challenge of having small children in church. God bless you!

**Opportunities for Learning, Serving, and Spending Time Together
March 19, 2023 – March 26, 2023**

Today

- 8:55 AM Live-stream on YouTube
- 9:00 AM Adult Choir sings
- 9:00 AM Worship
- 10:15 AM Bible studies for all ages
- 10:35 AM Rebroadcast of 9 AM service on ch 18 or 13

Monday

- 3:00 PM Altar Guild Meeting
- 5:00 PM Jesus Cares
- 6:00 PM SJPTA Big Meeting

Tuesday

- 9:30 AM Pastor at Circuit Meeting
- 7:00 PM Rebroadcast of Sunday service on ch 18 or 13

Wednesday

- 8:40 AM Chapel—all welcome
- 3:30 PM Catechism Bible Study
- 3:30 PM Grades PreK-8 Sing

Wednesday—cont.

- 3:30 PM Lenten service w/ LIVE broadcast on ch 18 / 13
- 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM Lenten Supper
- 7:00 PM Lenten service
- 7:50 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

- 9:30 AM God Renewing Our Women (fellowship hall)
- 7:00 PM Rebroadcast of our Wed service on ch 18 or 13

Friday & Saturday

- Sunday – Last Sunday Offering
St. John’s Higher Education Fund**
- 8:25 AM Usher unlocks doors
 - 8:55 AM Live-stream on YouTube
 - 9:00 AM Worship w/ Communion
 - 10:15 AM Bible studies for all ages
 - 10:35 AM Rebroadcast of 9 AM service on ch 18 or 13

LAST SUNDAY OFFERING The LSO for March is St. John's Higher Education Fund. After completing elementary school, some of our St. John’s members want to continue their Christian Education

through high school and college. Gifts given to the St. John's Higher Education Fund are awarded by St. John's as grants to our members who are enrolled at St. Croix Lutheran High School or Luther Preparatory School or Martin Luther College or Wisconsin Lutheran College or Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We aren't able to grant a full-ride to any student, but we can help at least a little. Some of these grants are then matched by the financial aid office of the students' school. Thank you for circling "St. John's Higher Education Fund" on your LSO envelope. Watch for the LSO envelope in your worship folder next week, or pick up an LSO offering anytime from the info counter by the church office.

Some of the Ways We Fed our Faith

Sunday Morning Worship Attendance – 144 **Communion** – 120
plus all who watch the worship video or read the worship materials

Sunday Bible Class – 39 **Sunday School** – 9 **GROW** - 12

Midweek Lenten services: Mar 1 – 185 Mar 8 – 151 Mar 15 – 173

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION The PTA planning group is looking for volunteers to help out with childcare during tomorrow's meeting, starting with a pizza meal at 6:00pm. If you're available to help, please contact Erin Hinck (507-251-9656, hincke@stjohnslakecity.com).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL The VBS planning team is getting geared up for another week of fun, and we need your help to make VBS a success! The Planning Team is looking for volunteers willing to take charge of **Snacks** (planning, shopping & distributing), **Decorations** (planning, creating, set-up/tear down), and **Volunteer Coordination**. VBS is scheduled for June 12–15 (four days). If you are interested in helping out in any of these ways, please contact Miss Hofland (507-990-3993 / hoflanda@stjohnslakecity.com).

DID YOU KNOW that VBS is one of our biggest outreach events all year? Here is an event for everyone who wants St. John's to continue into the future to participate in. In fact we could think of this as an "all hands on deck" situation. There are lots of little ways and big ways for St. John's members to be involved. Let's find just the right way that fits your schedule and skill set. Examples: praying for the students and teachers and craft leaders and aides, making snacks, making props for the teacher or devotion leader, registration and name tags for days one and two, doing any of the following for one to four days: serving as a teacher or craft leader or aide, cheerfully greeting at the door for a half-hour at the start-of-VBS or the end-of-VBS, serving snacks, leading music, monitoring the halls for safety, parking lot safety directors, first-aid responder, any other way you can think of to make this great event even better for everyone involved.

Next LENTEN SUPPER On Wednesday, March 22, the Teens will be serving spaghetti & fixin's. All proceeds collected will be placed in the Teen Ministry fund.

Previous LENTEN SUPPER We were delighted to see many church members and guests at the Lenten Taco Dinner on March 8th. The many friendly faces, excellent food and fellowship made for a joyful and successful evening for all. The planning team had lots of fun planning, shopping, preparing, and presenting the food in our church fellowship hall. The event was made possible by a 'seed money' grant and your generous contributions. Thank you. We also thank our volunteer workers for their time and effort. The event would not have been possible without Jo Beltz, Jan Prenger,

Diane and Glenn Albers, Mary Thelen, Sue Halder, Cheryl Moyer, Deb Weinrich, and Donna Meyer. Thank you. As a result of our 'seed money' and your generous contributions, both financial and volunteer, we easily covered the dinner expenses and were able to contribute to the Siding/Window Fund. Our organizing team included Bonnie Dwelle, Kathy Pruter and Howard Burfeind.

CHOICE DOLLARS For those of you who know what "Choice Dollars" are, the company that makes choice dollars available is looking for you to designate by March 31 where you want your Choice Dollars to go. If you haven't told that company where to send your Choice Dollars, the company will direct them to a charity of their choice. In 2022 you directed \$2,289 of your Choice Dollars to our school and another \$5,157 to our church. Thank you.

REBATE PROGRAM Our local grocery store has started a new rebate program for non-profit organizations such as St. John's. We are now collecting receipts from our local grocery store. St. John's will receive a 1% rebate of the total of the receipts. Our coordinator Pam Klenke has placed a container on the Info Counter by the doors into the church office to receive all receipts from our local grocery store.

OFFERINGS As nice as it is to receive dollars from corporations who are trying to gain loyalty from customers through rewards, about 2/3 of our ministry is funded by the gifts our members bring to the Lord from joyful hearts. We thank the Holy Spirit for connecting us to Jesus by faith and working all manner of good in us.

MEN OF TRUTH The 2023 Men of Truth Conference (Men Mentoring Men) meets on Saturday Mar 25 from 8 A.M. to 2:15 P.M. at Martin Luther College in New Ulm. Keynote: Pastor Jeremy Mattek. Info: menoftruth.org.

Update Article—first of four

Where do things stand with the new broadcast equipment for channel 18/13?

Since 1984 St. John's has been broadcasting its worship services on local cable channel 18. Of the nine churches in Lake City, six were broadcasting their services on channel 18 before the pandemic. In 2020 Mediacom switched religious broadcasts to channel 13 because of an equipment failure. HBC still broadcasts on channel 18

St. John's has wanted to upgrade its cameras to HD (high definition) for about 20 years, but the old broadcast equipment won't accept HD. Channel 18/13 broadcasts in SD only (standard definition, 480p).

People kept saying that upgrading the broadcast equipment would cost as much as \$30,000, which, if spread out over six churches, is only \$5,000—but that's still a lot of money, even for bigger churches.

By the end of 2021 only two Lake City churches were still broadcasting services on channel 18/13: St. John's and Bethany. We wondered whether it would be worth replacing the broadcast equipment since our worship videos are available on YouTube 24/7/365 for everyone who has internet access. So we asked people who watch St. John's and/or Bethany's worship videos on channel 18/13 to let us know so

we could decide whether to keep broadcasting on channel 18/13. Over sixty homes contacted the two churches to say they still tune in for St. John's and Bethany's broadcasts on channel 18/13. So, yes, it is worthwhile to replace the broadcast equipment.

Next question: How much will it actually cost to replace the broadcast equipment? When we asked for a firm quote, the bid came in at \$9,215. We would also need a computer to help run the broadcast equipment—add about \$800.

Next question: How shall we pay for this new broadcast equipment? After considering a few complicated plans, our Administrative Board decided in November to recommend that St. John's pay for all the new broadcast equipment out of our Video Fund. We then invited those who watch worship videos on channel 18/13 to send a gift to St. John's Video Fund to help defray the cost of the new broadcast equipment. In response many thousands of dollars have been given.

The new broadcast equipment was ordered in mid-January. The new computer was ordered in late February. The new broadcast equipment will be installed soon after it arrives.

While the new broadcast equipment may make some difference in quality of sound or video, improvement may not be noticed until the cameras, the microphones, and the other audiovisual equipment inside the worship area are also upgraded.

We thank everyone who has given to our Video Fund for the purchase of new broadcast equipment or for upgrading the audiovisual equipment inside our worship area.

Watch for another Update Article next week. Collect all four.