



Love is patient;
love is kind;
love is not
envious or boastful
or arrogant
or rude.

It does not insist on
its own way;
it is not irritable;
it keeps no record
of wrongs;
it does not rejoice
in wrongdoing
but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.

Love never ends

ASH

Wednesday

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2026



Weds. February 18, 2026 Ash Wednesday 11:00 AM/7:00 PM



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PSALM 51:

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

ALL: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

ALL: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Leader: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

ALL: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Leader: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

ALL: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Leader: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

ALL: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Leader: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

ALL: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Leader: Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

ALL: Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

ALL: For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

Leader: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

ALL: Amen.

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Hymn #359

5 verses

FIRST READING

1 John 4:19

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

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

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a

¹ If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends.

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

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

INVITATION TO LENT

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God's will, our

neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent--self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love--strengthened by the gifts. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **ALL: Amen.**

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.



IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

People may come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

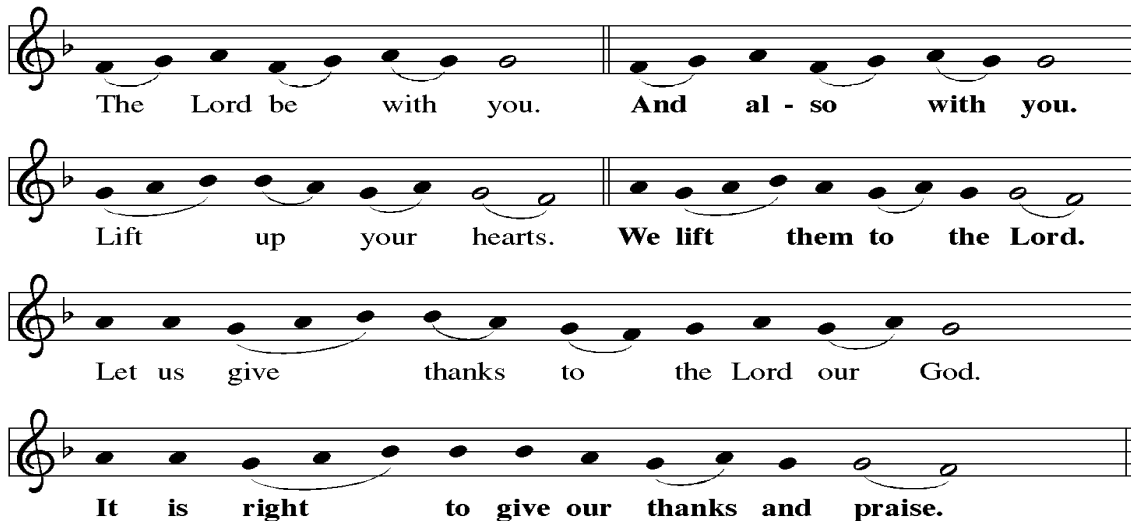
P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

ALL: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

ALL: bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **ALL: Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING


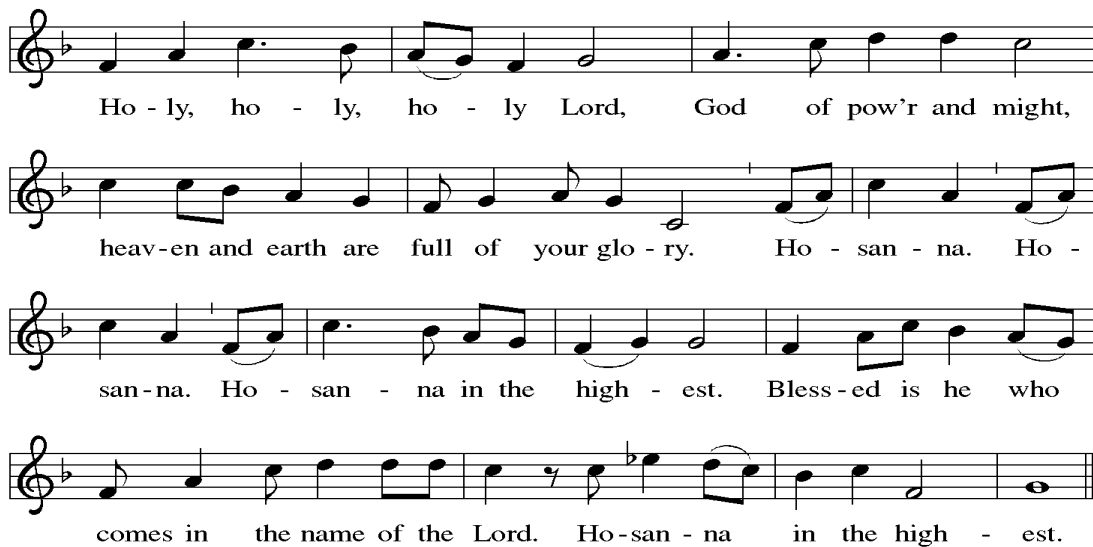
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: 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.

ALL: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

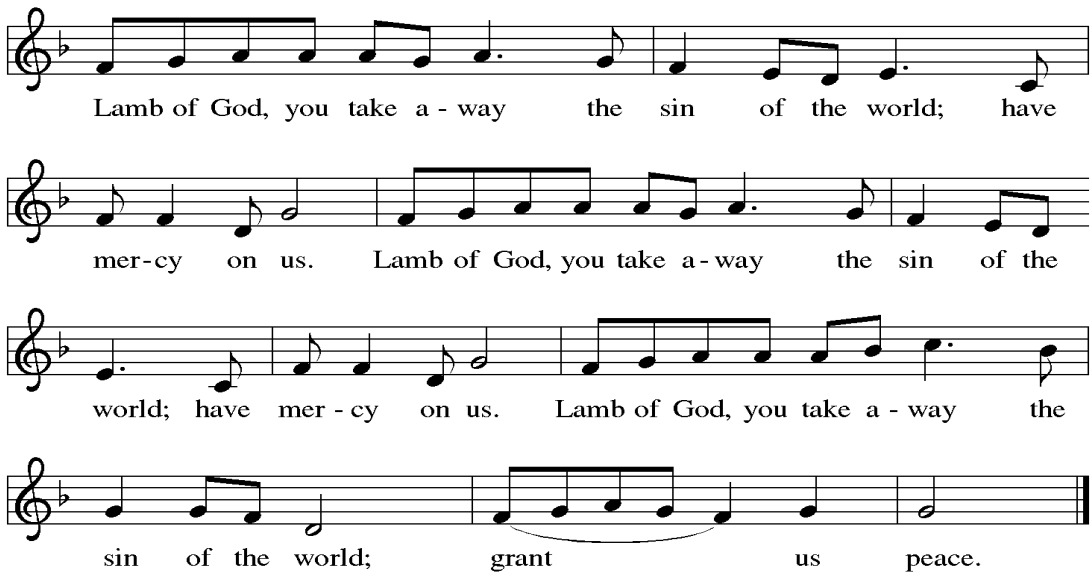
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



THE DISTRIBUTION

Welcome!

St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the Pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the Pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the Pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.



PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

P: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Hymn # 793

4 verses

DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.



www.stjohnwilliston.org

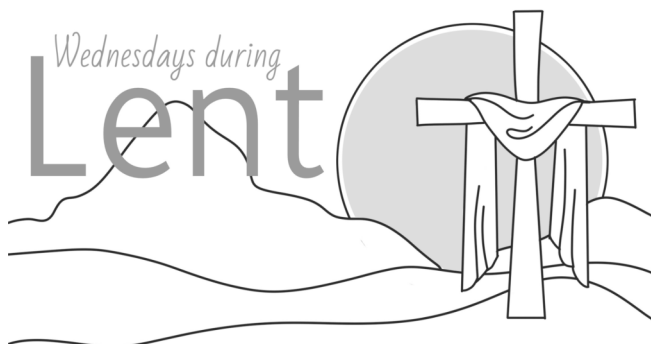
Pastor Shawn O'Brien

21120 West Toledo Street P.O. Box 235 Williston, Ohio 43468
(419) 836-5514 email: office@stjohnwilliston.org

***We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are...
"creating and nurturing life changing relationships based on the love
of God in Jesus Christ, so that we may grow in faith,
serve God, and serve our neighbor."***

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM
Adult Sunday School/ Confirmation 8:30 AM
Sunday School for kids 9-9:30 AM
Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM

LisaAnne Gregg, Office Administrator
Church office hours: Mon-Tues-Weds. 9 am to 3 pm
Thurs. hours may vary. Closed Friday
Email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



Beginning February 25th-
join us every Wednesday
during Lent at 11:00 AM
for worship in the Sanctuary
followed by a light lunch in the
church basement.

All are welcome.