

A wooden cross stands against a bright, cloudy sky. A purple cloth is draped over the horizontal beam of the cross. The word "Lent" is written in a large, elegant, purple cursive font in the upper right portion of the image.

Lent

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a
new creation: everything old has
passed away; see, everything has
become new!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Fourth Saturday of Lent * March 29, 2025

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

Rise and Sing

Rise and sing praises to the Father.
Rise and sing praises to the Son.
Rise and sing praises to the Spirit,
Give thanks in all you do
For what God's done for you.

(Repeat)

Rise and sing.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We gather in the name of the one God, who forgives us completely,
whose love never fails.

C: Amen.

P: Let's turn back to God, trusting in his endless mercy.

(A moment of silence for reflection.)

P: Merciful God,

C: you are patient and full of love, but we don't always reflect that love in our lives. We fail to show the kindness and grace you have shown us. We don't always welcome others the way you welcome us. We oppress others, even though you keep setting us free. We waste the gifts you have given us.

Change us, God. Lead us back to the way of Jesus.

Amen.

P: Hear this good news:

God's arms are always open, always ready to welcome us home.

In Christ, you are forgiven. You belong to God, now and always.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The 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.

¹⁰ While 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. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The 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.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From 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. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have ³

bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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

P: God in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious Provider,

**C: you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to
the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our
commitment to sharing those treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

OFFERING SONG

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: As we journey through these forty days, we come to find rest for our hearts and contentment for our minds.

All: We are caught up in the activity of our life and need to pause and receive God's sustaining gift of grace.

Leader: In this holy time of worship, we come to receive the forgiving grace of God in the bread and the wine.

All: We praise you, God, for your heavenly food given in love for us.

Leader: 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.

All: In this meal we discover a God who sent his only Son, so that all may receive life. In the body broken and the blood poured out, we experience the forgiveness of a dying Savior who prayed for our forgiveness. In the eating and drinking we are united with the risen Savio who greets us with the promise of peace. 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

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.

THE DISTRIBUTION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Generous Host,

**C: 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.**

BLESSING

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Step by Step

O God, you are my God, And I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, And I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, And I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, And I will follow you all of my days.

(Repeat)

And I will follow you all of my days, And I will follow you all of my days,

And step by step you'll lead me, And I will follow you all of my days.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



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**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.”**

LisaAnne Gregg, Office Administrator
Church Office Hours: M-T-W 9am—3 pm
Thurs. hours may vary * Office closed Friday
Email: office@stjohnwilliston.org

Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 pm
Confirmation Class: Sunday 8:30 am
Sunday School for all ages...
1st Sunday of the month at 8:30 am
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am

