

A wooden cross stands against a sky with soft, white clouds. A vibrant purple cloth is draped over the horizontal beam of the cross, with the ends hanging down. 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 Sunday in Lent * Sunday March 30, 2025



www.stjohnwilliston.org

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

My Savior and My God

St. John Choir

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: 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 One,

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.

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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Hymn #338

3 verses

GREETING AND KYRIE

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.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

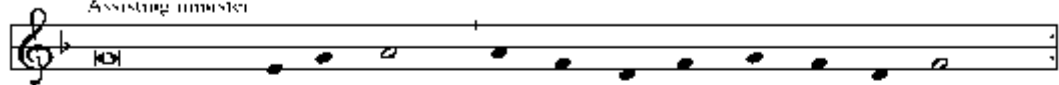
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

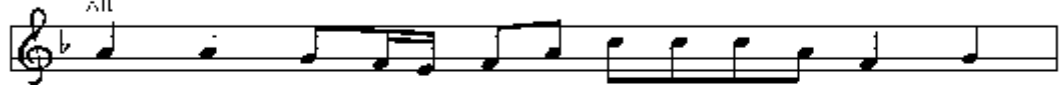
Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en-ly King, al-might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther. Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord.



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it.



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our 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.

C: Amen.

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.

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

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

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

Lenten Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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 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; ²⁴for 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. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But 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.’”

The Gospel of the Lord... **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

HYMN

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Hymn #608
3 verses

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith

THE 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.

OFFERTORY



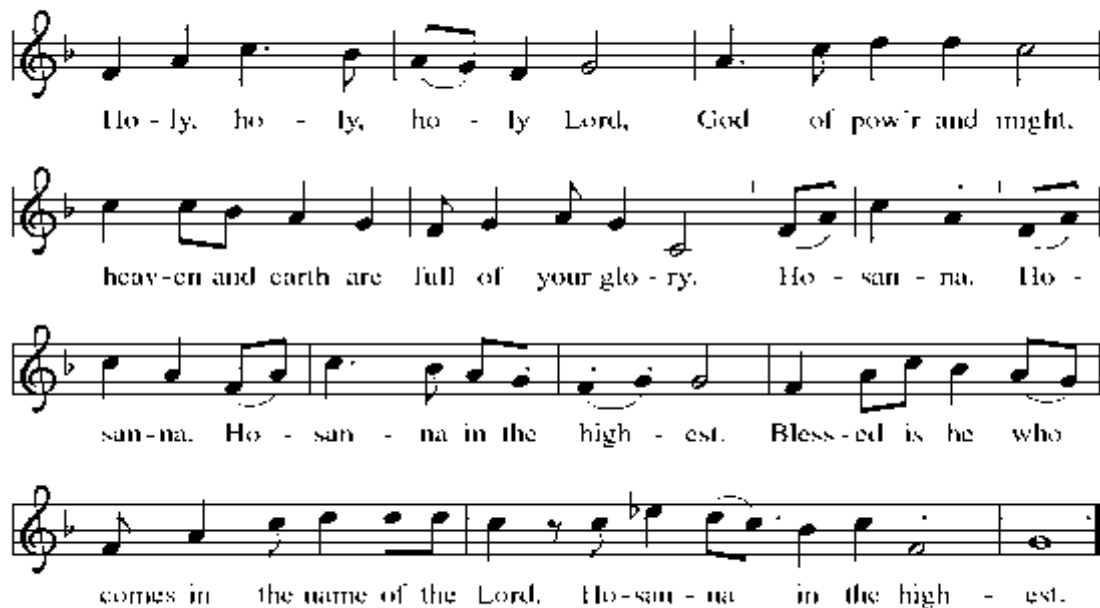
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

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.

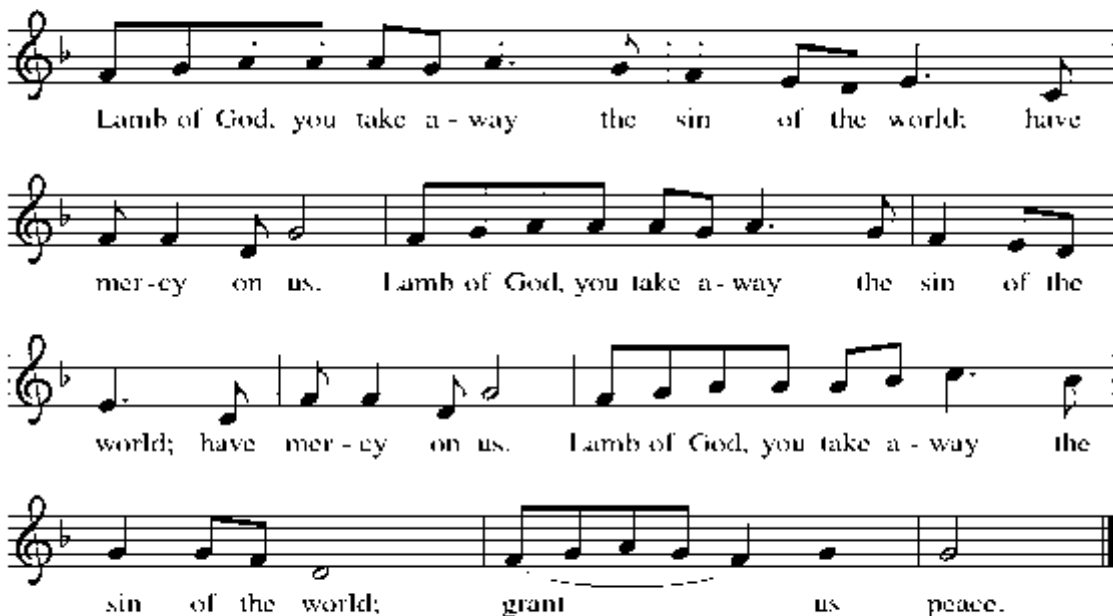
THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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



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.

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 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound Hymn #779
5 verses

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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Pastor Shawn O'Brien

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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."***

Church Office Hours: Mon-Weds. 9 am to 3 pm
Thurs. hours may vary Church office closed on Friday
Email: office@stjohnwilliston.org

Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday School for the whole family 8:30 am
on the 1st Sunday of the month (Oct-May)
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am

