

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Rev. Daniel J. Bishop, Pastor

Joel Kilgus, Principal - Good Shepherd Lutheran School - 347-2020

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025

HOLY COMMUNION

TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS: We receive the Lord's Supper, believing the Word of Jesus, that He gives into our mouths His true body and blood, miraculously united to the bread and wine, to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His Word, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love one another, even as He forgives and loves us.

God's Word teaches us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm, and that this Holy Communion is a confession of the faith that is confessed in this church. Therefore any who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or are members of a congregation not in the fellowship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to commune, are asked to kindly speak with the pastor ahead of time. (Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:17-34)

The Confessional Service with Holy Communion

Prelude

Hymn of Invocation – #279

“Today Thy Mercy Calls Us”

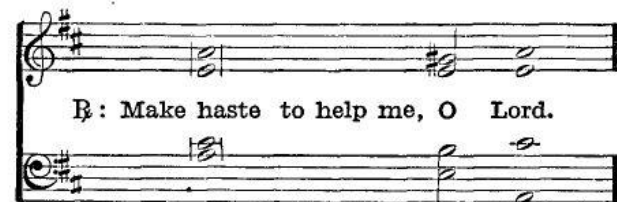
Stand

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

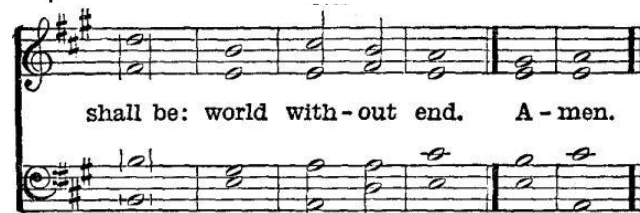
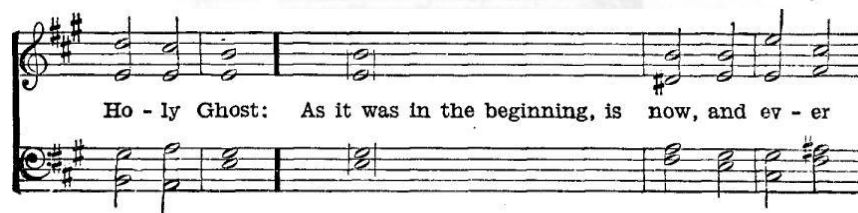
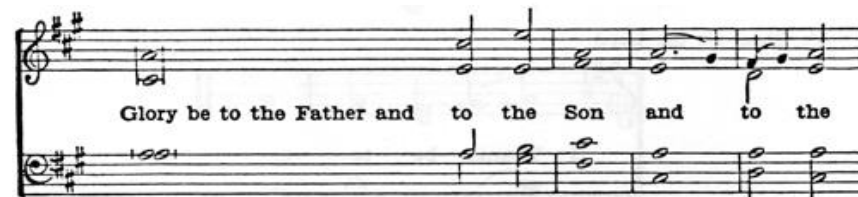
The Congregation shall say or chant:



Ps: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



Ps: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.



Introit

Ps. 51:2–6; antiphon: Ps. 51:1

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your
judgment.**

*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

The Confessional Address

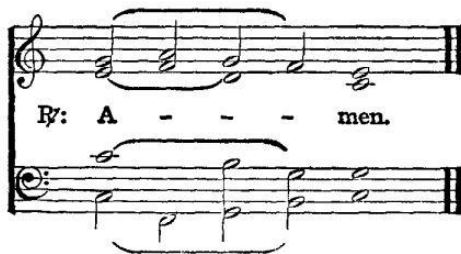
**O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess
unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended
Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I
am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray
Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy innocent,
bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be
gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

I now ask you before God, Is this your sincere confession, that you
heartily repent of your sins, believe on Jesus Christ, and sincerely and
earnestly purpose, by the assistance of God the Holy Ghost, henceforth to
amend your sinful life? Then declare so by saying: Yes.

Yes

The Absolution

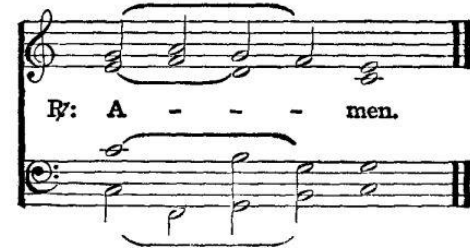
Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and
ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you,
and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you
all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.



The Collect for the Day

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every
morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your

children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may
heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your
benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.



Sit

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6

- ¹ You will say in that day:
“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.
- ² “Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my
song,
and he has become my salvation.”
- ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say
in that day:
“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.
- ⁵ “Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done
gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
- ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of
Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.”

Choir: “As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered” (10:30)
(*This is a reflection on the Parable of the Prodigal Son; you may follow the text below.*)

As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered
Far from Your love unfed, unclean, unclothed
Dare we recall Your wealth so rashly squandered,
Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?

Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,
Speech, that within Your warm embrace soon dies;
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing
As tears of joy and welcome fill Your eyes.

A feast of love for us You are preparing;
We who were lost, You give an honored place!
“Come, eat, come, drink, and be no more despairing—
Here taste again the treasures of My grace.”

The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Stand

The Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: . . .

¹¹“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that

country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn #32

“Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven”

Sermon – “A Loving Father for Unworthy Sons”

Luke 15:21-24

- I. Like the prodigal son, we are unworthy to be called sons of our Father.
- II. Our loving Father treats us as His worthy sons.
- III. We should respond with thanksgiving, and with care for people who are still estranged from God.

Stand

The Offertory

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir - it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of

Thy sal - va - tion; and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

The Offering

Choir: “As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered” (8:00)

(This is a reflection on the Parable of the Prodigal Son; you may follow the text below.)

As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered
Far from Your love-- unfed, unclean, unclothed--
Dare we recall Your wealth so rashly squandered,
Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?

Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,
Speech, that within Your warm embrace soon dies;
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing
As tears of joy and welcome fill Your eyes.

A feast of love for us You are preparing;
We who were lost, You give an honored place!
“Come, eat, come, drink, and be no more despairing—
Here taste again the treasures of My grace.”

Stand

The General Prayer

The Preface:

V: The Lord be with you.

R: And with thy spir - it.

V: Lift up your hearts.

R: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

V: Let us give thanks unto the lord our God.

R: It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, Who on the tree of the cross didst give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence Life also might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome, through Christ, our Lord; through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry; Ho - san - na, Ho -

san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
Bless - ed is He, Bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

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;

R: For Thine is the king - dom and the power and the
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His

disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini

V: The peace of the Lord be with you alway!

A - - - - - men.

The Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. . . . A - - - - - men.

Sit

Communion Distribution

Hymn #379 – "I Do Not Come Because My Soul"

Hymn LSB #744 – "Amazing Grace"

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright
 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to
 now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be, As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn #315 – "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

Stand
The Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation:
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the Glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - - - - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the 'Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be -

ginning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

The Thanksgiving
 V: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.
 R: And His mercy en - dur - eth for - ev - - - er.

The Post-Communion Collect
 O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness didst send Thine only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank Thee that for His sake Thou hast given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament; and we beseech Thee not to forsake Thy children but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve Thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reignth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

R: A - - - - - men.

V: The Lord be with you.
 R: And with thy spir - it.

V: Bless we the Lord.

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The top staff is for the voice (V) and the bottom staff is for the organ (R). The lyrics are: V: Bless we the Lord. R: Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The top staff is for the voice (V) and the bottom staff is for the organ (R). The lyrics are: R: A - men, A - men, A - men.

Sit

Closing Hymn: #379 (7:00 p.m.)

“I Do Not Come Because My Soul”

Silent Prayer & Postlude

DAILY READINGS: March 30: Gen. 41:28–57; Mark 11:20–33; 31: Gen. 42:1–34, 38; Mark 12:1–12; April 1: Gen. 43:1–28; Mark 12:13–27; 2: Gen. 44:1–18, 32–34; Mark 12:28–44; 3: Gen. 45:1–20, 24–28; Mark 13:1–23; 4: Gen. 47:1–31; Mark 13:24–37; 5: Gen. 49:29–50:7, 14–26; Mark 14:1–11.

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