



Unless a
grain of wheat
falls into the
earth and dies,
it remains
just a single grain

JOHN 12:24

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
March 17, 2024

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Worship! God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord’s table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

We thank Linda Stauffer for sharing her gift of music today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bells

Welcome and announcements

Prelude

“Prayer”

W A Mozart Arr. By E J Lorenz

Arrangement © 1946 by Lorenz Publishing Co. in “The Organ Portfolio”

Please stand if you are able

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

ELW 810

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt. Music: *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2 Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.

3 Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Lenten Wreath

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW 338

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869 Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

During the singing of “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” verse 2, a single candle on the Lenten wreath is extinguished. Our space becomes a little darker as we journey together toward the Passion of Christ.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.

And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12 (Read responsively)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**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.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel: John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

ELW 332

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889 Music: Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done.

Prayers of the people:

Response: Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Choir Offering

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Music: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Please stand if you are able

Offertory

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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Offering Prayer

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your
saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen, amen, amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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**

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Communion Song



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution Hymn

"Change My Heart, O God" Sing 3 times

ELW 801

Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (ASCAP), admin. Music Services

Refrain

Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

You are the potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray. Refrain

Distribution Hymn

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

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Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. Refrain

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain

Distribution Hymn

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW 471

Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.
Refrain

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
Refrain

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in
His care.

Amen

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten
pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our
prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

Sending Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

ELW 660

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.

Refrain

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Blessed Assurance"

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:

"A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known"

And a congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor
Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday
Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

Church: 419-625-2192
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Morgan Noon, Organist
Today's Musician: Linda Stauffer

Lay Reader: Paula Hoffman Laws

Usher: Ray Witt

Communion Assistant: Toni Nossaman

Audio/Visual Tech: Rich & Kathy Schlessman

Attendance: Mar. 10 - 58 Midweek -

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

Like us on Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, Sandusky

2024: The Year of Rest Memory Verse

"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" Hebrews 4:9

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bob & Jerrie Krawetzki.

Council asks the congregation to pray that we continue to rely on God to strengthen us and uplift our spirits, and to move us to be more aware of our neighbors who may be struggling and in need of our love and help.

New Member Opportunity: We are so thankful for everyone worshiping with us recently. If you are interested in becoming a new member or in getting more information, please see Pastor Stacy or Sandy Thompson by March 24th. We look forward to talking with you.

Communion Clean-up today: Elizabeth Libben

March 24 - Set up – Toni Nossaman Clean up - Kathy Strayer & Bonny Ambos

March 28 - Set up - Toni Nossaman Clean up – Sandy Thompson

March 31 - Set up - Joleen Dillender Clean up -

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help out, please see Toni Nossaman, Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

Your help is needed with candy donations for the annual kids' Easter egg hunt. If you plan to donate, it is **very important to select small individually wrapped candy treats.** Please bring your donation of individually wrapped candy treats by Palm Sunday and place them in the container at the handicap entrance. Thank you for helping with this fun time for the youth of St. John's.

The Season of Lent: Join us for special opportunities for fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent, featuring soup suppers at 5:30 pm followed by worship at 6:30 pm. This year's theme is "In Community." **The soup supper sign-up sheet is on the back window for you to share your delicious soup recipes.** May God bless you in your Lenten journey.

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday: March 24th 10:30 in the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday: March 28th at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary Celebration of Holy Communion. Joint Worship with Zion Lutheran Huron.

Good Friday: March 29th at time 7:00 pm. Good Friday worship will be held at Zion Lutheran Church Huron.

Easter Sunday Schedule:

Easter Sunday, March 31st:

Easter Breakfast at 9:00 am. Your help will be needed to cook, setup, cleanup.

Easter egg hunt will be held for the youth immediately following breakfast at 9:30 am.

Easter Worship at 10:30 am with Holy Communion. **Note: only one service will be held on Easter morning.**

Alzheimer's Association: Please join us for **The Impact of Alzheimer's Disease in Our Community.** The forum will be held on Wed. April 3, 2024 from 7:45-9:00 am at the Sandusky Yacht Club, 529 E Water St. Sandusky. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by April 1. Erica Parnisari: elparnisari@alz.org (419-216-2973) Speakers: Camren Harris, OH Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association, Sue Daugherty, Exe. Dir. Serving our Seniors, Peter Schade, Health Commissioner, Erie County Health Department.

Weekly Verse:

"Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy." Psalm 130:1-2

Mar. 17 – Write down 3 things you're grateful for

18 – Find a flower and smell it

19 – Go for a walk outside

20 – Give someone a compliment

21 – Unfollow social media accounts that you compare yourself to

22 – Write down 3 places you saw God today

23 – Spend 1 minute deep breathing

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR MARCH 17TH THRU MARCH 31ST

Sunday, Mar. 17	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Sunday Worship
Wednesday, Mar. 20	4:45 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Choir Practice Lenten Soup Supper Lenten Worship
Palm Sunday, Mar. 24	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Sunday Worship
Maundy Thursday, Mar. 28	6:30 pm	Jt. Maundy Thursday worship St. John's
Good Friday, Mar. 29	7:00 pm	Jt. Good Friday worship at Zion Huron
Easter Sunday, Mar. 31	9:00 am 9:45 am 10:30 am	Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt Easter Worship

IN COMMUNITY LENTEN SERIES

Worship Series
begins on Wed.,
Feb. 21, 2024
at 6:30 pm.
Soups on at 5:30 pm
each Wednesday.



Week 1

Week 2



Week 3



Week 4



Week 5

Sabbatical Opportunities

Hopewood Pines: Travel to Morrow County to experience one of our Lutheran camps. We will look at how camps form communities in the short time kids are gathered, how they share the Good News in new and old ways, learn about our local camp, and see where we send some of our youth. May 6, leaving the church at 9:30 AM. Lunch is provided.

Bellwether Farm: Venture to Wakeman to see an Episcopalian camp. They have an enormous community garden and provide farm to table cooking opportunities and meals to people who attend their camp. See how they care for the earth and share their faith through nature. May 30th in the morning, Lunch is provided.

Faith Lutheran Church in Swanton: This congregation has one of the largest community gardens in the synod. Worship with them outside, and see their garden. Hear how they provide food for local churches, and experience their pollinator garden. June 16, leaving the church at 8:30. Lunch is provided.

Islamic Center of Greater Toledo: We will learn about the Muslim faith and see where they worship. We will learn about forms of prayer, service, and giving. Date to be determined, likely in late June. Lunch is provided.

Spirituality Retreat: Rev. Dr. Lisa Dahill will join St John's to talk about spirituality, meditation, and nature. No church experience necessary even though those are churchy words! There will be time for prayer, journaling, and walking the labyrinth. This will be at Zion, Huron's outbuilding, from May 31-June 1. Dinner, snacks, and lunch will be included. There are only 15 spots available and cost is \$20. Reserve your spot soon!

Helping Out: Want to help council cover some needs? We need someone each Sunday to **welcome** the pastors who will lead our worship. Welcoming includes greeting them, showing them the microphone and the bathroom, and introducing them during the announcements. During the entire sabbatical, will have one cell phone so there is one number to call for pastoral needs. This will be passed around each week so someone different can answer. Would you be willing to **answer the phone** and call a local pastor on call so they know where to go? Three pastors are on call to respond to needs.

Name: _____

Interest: _____

How you can help (circle 1 or 2): welcome pastors answer phone

Phone: _____

Email: _____