



*Welcome*

## **"Simple Truths"**

March 5, 2023



**ST. JOHN'S**  
Lutheran Church  
Grounded • Growing • Branching

## **Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church**

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It truly is an honor to have you worshipping with us this morning and it is our prayer that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness! If you are visiting with us today, please take one of the visitor gift bags from the visitors' center.

At St. John's we are pleased to offer a variety of service formats on Sunday morning. In our 8:30 a.m. traditional service we offer familiar hymns and rich, traditional worship forms in a meaningful and inspirational setting. Our 11:00 a.m. contemporary service includes the same message as our 8:30 a.m. service but in an informal style, enhanced with contemporary music. We encourage you to try both worship styles! Thank you for worshipping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

*(If you need any assistance or need a hearing aid device, please see one of the ushers.)*

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### **The Lord's Supper**

Though we are eager for all to participate fully in the Lord's Supper, we do not want to compromise any portion of God's Word among us. Because Scripture states that the Lord's Supper can be taken to one's spiritual harm if not properly understood, we ask all visitors to refer to the following statement of belief regarding the Lord's Supper before communing:

*I am truly sorry for the sin in my life. I am struggling to die to my sin and to live in faith in Jesus. I am looking to Jesus to empower me to stop my sinning and to live a new life in Him. I believe when I receive the bread, I am receiving the true body of Christ, and when I receive the wine, I am receiving the true blood of Jesus. I believe that when I receive His true body and blood my sins are forgiven, I am given power over sin, death and the devil, and the gift of eternal life. My faith is completely in the words of Jesus.*

The Lord's Supper offers the two-fold gift of forgiveness and peace with God on the one hand, and unity and oneness among those who commune together on the other hand (Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17). Those who receive the body and the blood of the Lord do so in terms of their relationship with God as well as with their fellow-communicants. Therefore, all baptized believers who understand and agree with the above Lutheran teaching of the Lord's Supper are welcome to attend. As always, we encourage you to speak with Pastor Ray with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Disabled – The pastor and lay minister will gladly commune anyone unable to come to the communion rail. Let the pastor or an usher know before the service begins.

# SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 5, 2023 | 8:30 A.M.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

*Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It truly is an honor to have you worshiping with us this morning and it is our prayer that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness! Thank you for worshiping with us; we would love to have you join us again!*

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME/GREETING

## OPENING HYMN

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

*LSB 940*

## INVOCATION

## OPENING SENTENCES

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**L:** O God, our Father, we confess that by nature, we are sinful and that in our pride, we have turned away from Your commands.

**C:** **Forgive us, Lord, for all that we have thought and said and done that is contrary to Your will and Your ways. Forgive us for all those times when we have trusted in our own righteousness instead of relying on Your grace in Christ Jesus. Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have not been good stewards of Your great creation and for those times when we have been unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought. Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

**L:** 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 Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

## **LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

*Old Testament*

*Genesis 12:1-9(ESV)*

<sup>1</sup>Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup> What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." <sup>13</sup> For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup> That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 3:1-17 (ESV)*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung)**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs

that you do unless God is with him.”<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.<sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.<sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?<sup>11</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony.<sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (ESV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung*)

## **SERMON**

*“Simple Truths”*

*John 3:1-17*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **NICENE CREED**

## **OFFERING**

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at  
[www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving](http://www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving).*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "O Lord,"*

***People respond with: "hear us for Your mercy's sake."***

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**PREFACE** (*responses sung*)

## **PROPER PREFACE**

**SANCTUS** (*Divine Service, Setting One*) (*sung*)

## **WORDS OF OUR LORD**

## **PAX DOMINI**

**AGNUS DEI** (*sung*)

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

*Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*

*LSB 423*

*Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain*

*LSB 435*

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

*LSB 543*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **SENDING SONG**

*Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good*

*LSB 819*

# **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

MARCH 5, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.

## **OPENING SONGS**

*There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do*  
*Good Grace*

## **WELCOME & GREETING**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

## **OFFERING**

*King Of My Heart*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

*John 3:1-17*

## **SERMON**

*"Simple Truths"*

*John 3:1-17*

*Pastor Adam Ray*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

## **PRAYERS**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **COMMUNION**

*King of Kings*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **SENDING SONG**

*This is Amazing Grace*



## SUNDAY SERVANTS

Preacher .....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader .....	Cathi Tavararczyk
Communion Helper .....	David Salogga
Lay Minister .....	8:30 – Steve Craycroft 11:00 – Mark Langston
Organist .....	Ted Hesse
Ushers .....	8:30 – Dave Munson 11:00 – Dan Murphey/Tim Wisler
Acolytes.....	8:30 – Micah Langston/Audrey Billingsley 11:00 – Ellie Hesse
Computer .....	8:30 – Anne Jesgarz 11:00 – Jessie Denning
Live Stream .....	11:00 – Lindsay Tipsword
Camera.....	11:00 – Eric Brown
Sound.....	8:30 – Jessie Denning 11:00 – John Salogga
Vocals.....	Lindsay Tipsword, Janice Wright, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar.....	Mike Dahn
Piano.....	Angela Cushing

**OUR MISSION** We are restored to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. As a family of Christians, we are dedicated to the love and forgiveness of Christ as we reach out, preach and teach the truth of God’s Word to each other, our community and the world.

**IN NEED OF PRAYER:** If you would like to be added to the prayer list or the prayer chain, please contact the church office. Please call the prayer chain with an update of your prayer request.

**In the Military:** Kaleb Blakeman, Laura Byers, Bryon Chaney, Kimberly Chaney, Kristel Chaney, Travis Chaney, Dan Cheney, Tristin Comer, Randy Edwards, Caleb Goodson, Austin Highcock, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Salefski, Tyler Salefski, Jacob Thornell

## CONGREGATION NEWS

**Prayer Stations:** Confirmation Students have set up prayer stations focused on the Ten Commandments. For the next two weeks the stations will be set up in the Lounge. We hope you enjoy!

**Lent Wednesday Service** is March 8th at 6:30 p.m. Meal provided by Youth Board. Menu: Taco Bar

**Bus Trip:** We have a full bus load ready to go to the Little Theatre on Wed., March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. to board the bus.

**Need a ride?** If anyone would like a ride to the Wednesday (Lent) evening services, please contact the church office.

**Church Bus Drivers:** We are looking for drivers with a CDL driver's license, or willing to get a CDL License. Contact the church office if you are interested.

**Friendship Circle:** Ladies, are you still wondering which comes first, the chicken or the egg? Brenda Salogga, LSA chicken guru, will discuss that and more at our next meeting, starting at 1:00 on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is invited, and friends are welcome! If you want to help assemble Easter favors for our homebound friends, please come at 12:30.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Chili Cookoff & Dessert Silent Auction: Mark your calendars for Sunday March 26th for our first annual Chili Cook-off and Dessert Silent Auction. Visit the Youth table outside the sanctuary for more information, to register a chili or dessert, or to reserve your tickets! Questions??? Contact Malinda or the church office.

**New Life Pregnancy Center News – CHANGE FOR LIFE –** Thank you for taking a bottle to fill with your pocket change. Please return the bottles to the church office.

**Palm Sunday Breakfast:** There will be a breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 2nd between services. Come and enjoy Egg Casseroles, Baked Goods, Fruit, and Yogurt. If you would like to help with the breakfast and/or provide one of the above items, please contact the church office.

**Illinois March for Life** is Tues., March 21<sup>st</sup>. The rally preceding the march will begin at 12:00 noon on the east lawn of the Illinois State Capital. The march will begin at 1:00 p.m. For more information, go to: [IllinoisMarchforLife.org](http://IllinoisMarchforLife.org).

**LSA ReSale Shop News:** Thurs., March 9th is the semi-annual 10 cent sale. The Shop will be open 9:00AM – Noon. All merchandise will sell for 10 cents. We will be closed Fri., Sat., and Sun., March 10th – 12th for re-stocking and re-opening on Mon., March 13th with new spring and summer inventory. Volunteers are needed! For more information, contact t 217-423-0122.

**Laudamus Choir Concert** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 220 S. Second St., Springfield, IL on Saturday, March 18 at 5:30pm. Laudamus is a select choir of seminarians from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

**Grab a St. John's Magnet on your way out and take one for a friend.**

**Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed.....	\$12,403.85
General Fund.....	\$5,473.00

**Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m.....	146
11:00 a.m. ....	72
Total .....	218
Lent Service (3/1) .....	85
Wednesday Bible Study.....	21

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### SUNDAY, MARCH 5

8:30 A.M.....Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. ....LSA Informational Meeting (FH)  
11:00 A.M. ....Contemporary Service  
4-5:30 P.M. ....Confirmation (FH)  
5:30-6 P.M. ....Shared Dinner  
6-8 P.M. ....Jr. High Youth Groups

### MONDAY, MARCH 6

6:30 P.M.....Properties Meeting  
6:30 P.M.....Boy Scouts (FH)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 7

1:00 P.M. ....Staff Meeting  
5:30 P.M.....Fellowship Hall Reserved

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

10:00 A.M.....Adult Bible Study (FH)  
5:00 P.M.....Lenten Meal Served (FH)  
6:30 P.M.....Lent Service  
7:15 P.M.....Bells Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, MARCH 9

5:30 P.M.....TOPS  
6:00 P.M.....Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 P.M.....Worship Practice

### FRIDAY, MARCH 10

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 11

NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 12

8:30 A.M.....Traditional Service  
9:45 A.M. ....Education Hour (FH)  
11:00 A.M. ....Contemporary Service  
6-8 P.M. ....Sr. High Youth Groups