

PRELUDE: "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

arranged by Kenneth T. Kosche

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.

OPENING HYMN:

"Word of God, Come Down on Earth" (LSB 545)



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our
4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the
Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.
world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.
pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence to reflect on God's Word and self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTROIT:

Psalm 27:4-6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15

P: My eyes are ever toward the Lord

C: **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

P: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

C: **that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.**

P: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

C: **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**

P: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

C: **I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: **and to the Holy Spirit;**

P: as it was in the beginning,

C: **is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: My eyes are ever toward the Lord,

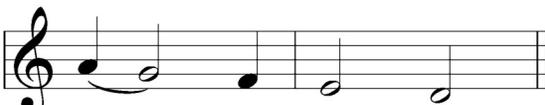
C: **for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**

KYRIE:

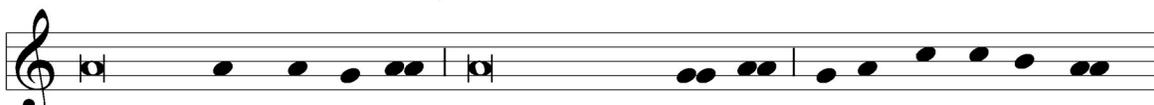
(LSB 168-169)



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



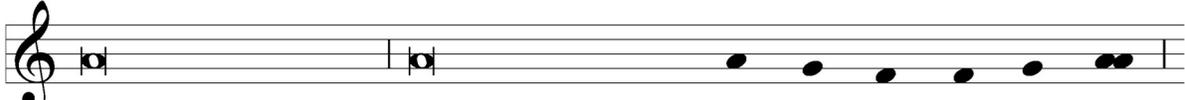
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



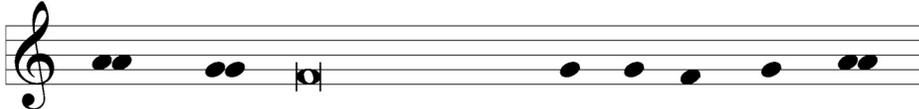
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **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. Amen. (please be seated)**

(8 a.m.) **ANTHEM:** "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

Choir

1. *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

Refrain: *This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. *Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and blest; Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love. Refrain*

*Ending: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior, Praising my Savior,
Praising my Savior, all the day long. This is my story, this is my song!*

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Isaiah 42:14-21

P: For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL:

Hebrews 12:2

P: [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

C: the founder and perfecter of our faith,

P: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

C: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE:

Ephesians 5:8-14

P: For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE (LENT):

(LSB 173)

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.

HOLY GOSPEL:*John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” . . .

They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH:*Nicene Creed (p 174)*

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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I

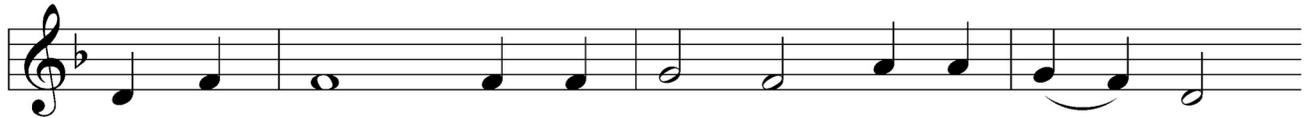
acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

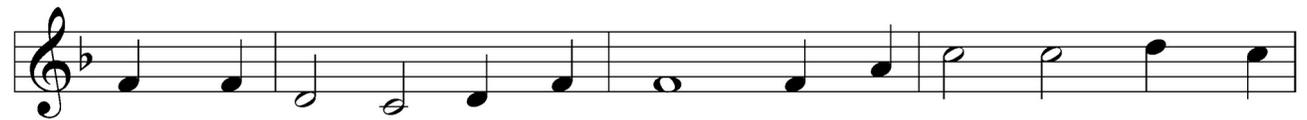
“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” (LSB 849)



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

SERMON

OFFERTORY:

(LSB 176)



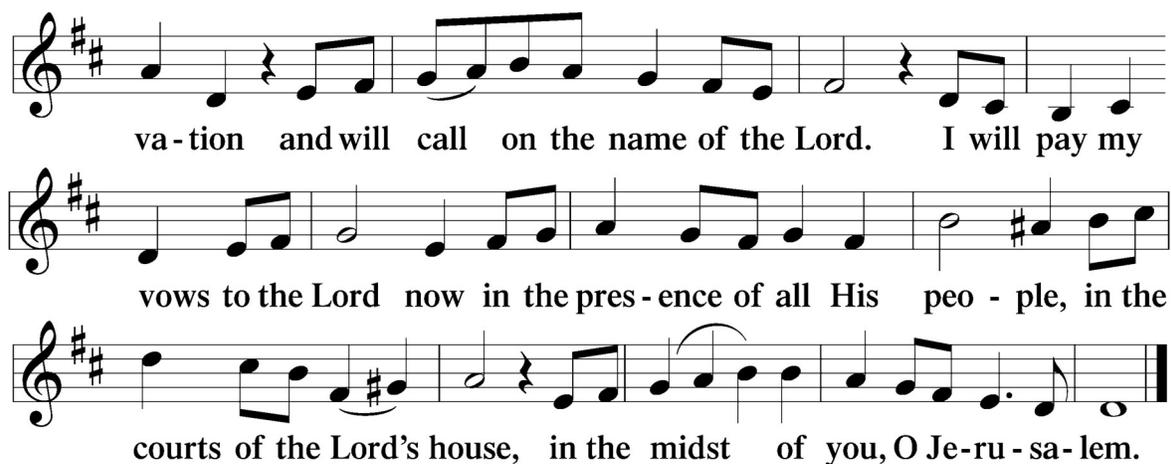
What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*please stand if you are able*)

(*Each petition ends “Lord, in Your mercy” and we respond, “hear our prayer.”*)

HEALING AND COMFORT: David Blankenship, Charles Guebert, Margaret Hanebutt, Brendan Harms, Ruth Hecht, Beth Kilpatrick, Rev. Russell Koen, Barbara Korves, Kortney Moll, Paul Mollet, Norma Preston, Mary Schultz, Eugene Stamm, Trudy Woolbright; *Family/Friends of St. John's Members:* Andy Amann, Allana Chamness, Mary Gibson, Virgil Gramenz, Shirley Hartmann, Gerald Hitzemann, Andrea Kuehner, Izzy McDermott, Tyson Moonier, Virgil Palm, Ron Pflueger, Sue Schreier, Mary Jo Shelton, Ted Stellhorn, Milton Theobald III, Matthew Vallett, Amy Winkelman, Roger Womack.

MILITARY: Army- Zachary Beyer, Casey Vallett, Brandon Voss, Adrienne Vallett, Easton Lucht, Chase Lucht, Ethan Summers, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Austin Scheibe, Jessica DeMarco, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan, Tyler Wahlman, Gavin Roche-Voss; Navy- Carl Muehler, Abbey Vallett; Air Force- Gage Baldwin, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Keenan Turnure, Austin Grohmann; National Guard: Jeremiah Brandt

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL: Fire/EMS- Jerre Atchison, Kaleb Barriger, Tom Beshoar, Kevin Biffar, Breanna Bingel, Chad Buch, Savannah Cowell, Chad Crafton, Steven Falkenhain, Curt Guebert, Jason Guebert, Scot Heller, Blake Koppel, Chad Langrehr, Matt Liefer, Kevin Miller, Craig Moll, Alan Piel, Jason Rippelmeyer, Brad Stechmesser, John Valentine, Mike VanDorn, Tanner Winkelman; Police- Abigail Browne, Ralph Sievers, Chris Hewitt, Nick Mounts, Doug Brennan

✠those who mourn: family of Dr. **Paul Schrieber**; died in the Lord on Thursday, March 5

✠those who mourn: family of Jay Prigge; died in the Lord on Tuesday, March 10

✠those who mourn: family of Mary Liefer; died in the Lord on Thursday, March 12

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT: pages 177-183ff.

PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE: (*we speak the responses*)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS:

(LSB 178)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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.**

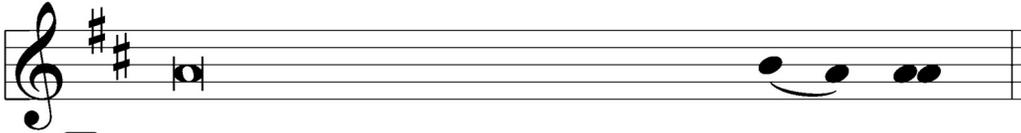
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI:

(LSB 180)



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI:

(LSB 180)



C 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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: *(please be seated)*

(8 a.m.) Anthem: "Touch Me Again, Lord"

Choir

1. Touch me again, Lord. I need Your power. I need Your strength in this trying hour. You said if I'd ask, I would surely receive, so touch me again, Lord. That's what I need

2. Touch me again, Lord, I see that mountain. Touch me again, Lord, let me feel that fountain. Come, Holy Spirit, let the heavens descend, and touch me again, Lord. Touch me again.

Chorus: *Touch me again, Lord. Touch me again, Lord, let the manna fall from on high. Wherever I'm going, You've already been, so I ask You to touch me again.*

(Repeat Verse 1 and Chorus)

Ending: *So I ask You to touch me again.*

"O Light Whose Splendor" (LSB 891)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and three-part harmony. The lyrics are as follows:

1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,
With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,
Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,
O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

“O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing” (LSB 635)



1 O gra - cious Lord, I firm - ly am be - liev - ing
2 Lord, I have sinned, a thou - sand times of - fend - ing;
3 You see my sin yet seat me at Your ta - ble;
4 O Lamb of God, my faith - ful, lov - ing Sav - ior,
5 Heav - en - ly Bread, my life and ben - e - dic - tion,



Your bound - less love will bless each faith - ful soul,
My thank - less thoughts and words and deeds e - raise,
Lord, as a guest, I sure - ly am the least:
You I em - brace in faith and ho - ly love;
This cup You give can take a - way each ill.



As from this al - tar we are here re - ceiv - ing
To me Your hand of mer - cy now ex - tend - ing,
Un - clean, un - fit, of wor - thy deeds un - a - ble—
Grant me the strength to show by my be - hav - ior
Come and re - lieve my soul from all af - flic - tion;



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole,
O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace,
My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast,
A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove,
Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still,



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole.
O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace.
My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast.
A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove.
Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still.

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death” (LSB 697)



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, And
 2 To us on earth He came to bring From
 3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, Who
 4 For us Christ lived, for us He died, And



Christ shall give you light; So learn His love, its
 sin and fear re - lease, To give the Spir - it's
 died that He might save; With kind and gen - tle
 con - quered in the strife; A - wake, a - rise, go



length and breadth, Its full - ness, depth, and height.
 u - ni - ty, The ver - y bond of peace.
 hearts for - give As God in Christ for - gave.
 forth in faith, And Christ shall give you life.

NUNC DIMITTIS : “Song of Simeon”

(LSB 182)



Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT:

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION:

(LSB 183)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Amazing Grace” (LSB 744)



1	A - wake,	O	sleep - er,	rise	from	death,	And
2	To	us	on	earth	He	came	From
3	Then	walk	in	love	as	Christ	Who
4	For	us	Christ	lived,	for	us	And



Christ	shall	give	you	light;	So	learn	His	love,	its
sin	and	fear	re -	lease,	To	give	the	Spir -	it's
died	that	He	might	save;	With	kind	and	gen -	tle
con -	quered	in	the	strife;	A -	wake,	a -	rise,	go



length	and	breadth,	Its	full -	ness,	depth,	and	height.
u -	ni -	ty,	The	ver -	y	bond	of	peace.
hearts	for -	give	As	God	in	Christ	for -	gave.
forth	in	faith,	And	Christ	shall	give	you	life.

POSTLUDE: “Fugue in G Major”

by JS Bach

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This Week with Our Lord, March 15-22, 2026

SUNDAY, March 15-

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School

Monday, March 16-

7:00 p.m. Choir in School Music Room

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting in Library

Tuesday, March 17- *Pastor Mark Winkelman day off & St. Patrick's Day*

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. Bible Recap Class in Fellowship Hall

Volleyball Regionals

Wednesday, March 18- *Midweek Lent*

7 a.m. Public School Confirmation Class

8:30 a.m. Midweek Lenten Service; Acolyte – Haydn Albert

9:00 a.m. to Noon Quilting in Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

3:15 p.m. Public School Confirmation Class

4:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

5:15 p.m. Lenten Meal

6:30 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service; Acolyte – Natalie Kassing

7:30 p.m. Confirmation Examination

Thursday, March 19-

3:15 p.m. Office Staff Meeting

5:00 p.m. PreK & K Registration & Open House

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice at Church

Friday, March 20- *Epistle Articles are Due!*

Saturday, March 21-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion; Acolyte – Aliviah Gulley

6:00 p.m. 7th Grade Fish & Beer Dinner at Ratzkeller

SUNDAY, March 22-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service; Acolyte – Sutton Jones

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School

10:15 a.m. to Sold out Lions Spring for Life BBQ

10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion; Acolyte – Austin Stellhorn

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Pictures & Retreat

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:

March 8: Worship: 346; Communion: 90; Adult Bible Classes: 38; Sun. School: 39

March 11: Worship: 177; *No Communion; No Chapel* (Midweek Lent)

March 10-11: Women's Bible Study: 11; Bible Recap: 23; March 13: *Not reported*

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN, WHATE'ER THE GIFT MAY BE:

We join together in the grace of giving. 3/8/26- General: \$20,987.00; School: \$495.00; Debt Reduction: \$500.00.

ELECTRONIC OFFERINGS:

Did you know that we do electronic funds transfer from your account to ours on a bi-weekly or monthly basis? It's a simple process! Complete the form with your contribution request and we'll do that for you. Those can be changed at any time, that works best for you, just contact the office with any changes. Feel free to pick up a form in church or school office. Please have completed form(s) turned into the office.

EPISTLES:

Paper copies of the March edition of our congregation's newsletter are on the tables in the entryway. It is also posted on our website and has been sent by email to those for whom the office has an email address. *To ensure an article is in the April Epistle, please send an email to the office by **March 20th**!*

VOTERS' MEETING:

First Quarter Voters' Meeting will be held on **April 29** at 7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.

H. SCHRIEBER & SONS GENERAL STORE – A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:

The Red Bud Area Museum is sponsoring an event on Sunday, March 15th at 1:30p.m. at 1860 in the Promenade Room. Free to attend.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES:

We will hold services on Wednesday, March 18, at 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. A Lenten supper will precede the evening service (chicken pot pie, crescent rolls, & applesauce) beginning at 5:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The eighth-grade class will assist with bringing desserts & serving these meals. The free will offering will go towards their class trip in April.

FISH FRY FUNDRAISER: *Last call for tickets!*

The class of 2027 will host an all-you-can eat Fish Fry Fundraiser at Ratzkeller on March 21st starting at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30/person and include unlimited fried fish, sides, and draft beer. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door, and the event is dine-in only. Please contact any 7th grade family to purchase tickets or for more information.

SPRING FOR LIFE BBQ:

On **March 22nd** in our school parking lot (or school gym lobby, if it rains) from 10:15am to sold out, Red Bud Lions will be hosting their Spring for Life BBQ. Menu: Pork steaks or brats, with sides by our Evening Guild. Desserts available – Provided by Southwest IL Lutherans for Life & Youth Group. Sponsored by Red Bud Lions Club & Thrivent Financial. To Benefit Life Network of Southern Illinois.

LIFE NETWORK BABY BOTTLE PROJECT: *Please Return Baby Bottles!!*

If you received a baby bottle on Life Sunday, please return it to the table in the front hall of the church or to the school as soon as possible. If you have any bottles from previous years, you can also return them to church or school. For each bottle not returned, Life Network has to pay \$2.00 to replace it so it is important to return the bottles whether they are filled with change or not. Thank you again for your years of support Life Network through their baby bottle fundraiser. Please contact Jennifer Roscow (618-972-5366) for any questions or concerns.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

3/15- Jeannie Voss, Rebecca Cooper, Emma Fritsche, Demi Grohmann; 3/16- Carolyn Stellhorn, Derek Uffelmann, MaKayla Liefer, Eve Schwartzkopf; 3/17- Jane Blankenship, Deborah Siegfried, Ralph Sievers, Kerrigan Zeiger; 3/18- Verla Salger, Harvey Liefer, Tim Kueker, Crew Grohmann; 3/19- Larry Gielow, Staci Candler, Christine Liefer; 3/20- Ronald Seymour, Julie Koester, Nicholas Uffelmann, Landon Kilpatrick; 3/21- Virginia Moeller, Terry Donjon, Emma McCarthy, Nicholas Junge.

EASTER LILY FORMS:

Easter Lilies will be on display again this year. We thank the Altar Guild for taking on this project each year as it is such a beautiful addition to our chancel as well as a heartfelt way to remember our loved ones or just give thanks to the glory of God for His many blessings to us. The cost is \$8 and you may return it to our church office or by way of the offertory plate by **Tuesday, March 31st**. Forms are on the tables in the entryway. Thank you!

FLOWERS IN CHANCEL:

To have flowers in worship please call the office at 618-282-2394 to notify the committee and to have proper thanks in the bulletin of those donating.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY:

✠ We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of St. John's member Dr. Paul Schrieber who died in the Lord Thursday, March 5th at the age of 76 years. He received a Christian funeral here on Friday, March 13th. Thanks be to God for His gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!

✠ We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of St. John's member Jay Prigge who died in the Lord Tuesday, March 10th at the age of 59 years. He received a Christian funeral here on Saturday, March 14th. Thanks be to God for His gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!

CLASS OF 2026 DC TRIP MEETING:

We need to schedule a meeting before we leave for the 8th grade class trip. **March 23** at 6pm in the library.

STONIE'S SAUSAGE FOR SALE:

The Class of 2028 is selling Stonie's sausage to help raise funds for their DC trip. A 12oz Summer Sausage stick, \$10 each, comes in a variety of flavors. Orders are due **March 26th** for delivery before Easter. Please contact Devon Albert or any 6th Grade Parent to order.

JOB OPENING – PART-TIME:

The After School Care Program is in seek of additional assistance. We are looking for a responsible and caring individual to assist with overseeing after-school childcare. Duties include supervising children, helping with homework, and leading fun activities. Ideal candidates enjoy working with children and are reliable team players. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older and available to start at 2:45p.m. Please contact Mrs. Courtney Schoenbeck for more information via cschoenbeck@stjohnsredbud.org.

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

The PTL is looking for enthusiastic parent volunteers to help make a difference at St. John's. There are multiple ways to pitch in, including Cougar Prowl Fun Run, Faulty Gift Coordinator and PTL Secretary. See the Cougar Tracks for details on each opportunity to serve your child's school! Contact the school office or any current PTL officers if you are interested.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES IN GERMAN:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Wartburg will host Good Friday services in the German language on **April 3, 2026**. The service begins at 10 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Darwin Schreder of Lebanon will be the guest preacher. Rev. Lyle Buettner, pastor at St. Paul, New Athens and Trinity, Darmstadt, Illinois will serve as the liturgist. The service folder with Scripture readings and hymns will be printed in the German language. St. Louis Radio Station KFUE at 850 AM will broadcast and live stream the service.

Holy Cross, Wartburg was founded by German immigrants in 1841. A German Good Friday worship service has been held annually, except for the Covid years. Worship is in the beautiful stone church which was built in 1863.

We invite the community, students and friends to join us to experience worship in the language of our forefathers. Holy Cross/Ladies Aid will be hosting a luncheon after the German service.

TRIVIA NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION:

Christian Friends of New American's 19th Annual Trivia Night & Silent Auction will be held on **Saturday, April 11th**. Check-in starts at 6 p.m. and Trivia will start at 6:45 p.m. Location: Lutheran High School South, 9515 Tesson Ferry Rd, St. Louis, MO 63123. Cost: \$30 per person or \$200 per team of eight. Please bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks. Be prepared for a fun evening as we work together to support our new American friends. Register today at cfna-stl.org/trivia.

LUTHERAN OLDER ADULT RETREAT IN GRAFTON:

The Lutheran Older Adults Retreat has been scheduled for **April 15 & 16** at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton, Illinois. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Lois Eclert at 618-282-8241 for more information.

ELDER ZONES FOR 2026-2027: (Chairman, Stuart Langrehr)

Zone 1: D. Adams thru R. Collins- Elder David Reinhardt (618/967-7967)

Zone 2: S. Conboy thru D/K Grohmann- Elder Louis Stellhorn (618/623-8495)

Zone 3: N/E Grohmann thru R/K Herriman-Elder Ron Liefer (618/282-3950)

Zone 4: R. Herriman thru T/E Krick- Elder Gerald Hanebutt (618/317-4574)

Zone 5: W/M Krick thru J. Maes- Elder Kollin Liefer (618/830-7140)

Zone 6 : P. Malik thru L. Pensoneau- Elder Stuart Langrehr (618/304-5082)

Zone 7: A/A Piel thru D. Schrader- Elder Kirk Liefer (618/282-8228)

Zone 8: J/D Schrader thru B/C Turner- Elder Michael Schnepel (618/363-9575)

Zone 9: D/K Uffelmann – A. Zeller- Elder Tyson Russell (618/612-6227)

THE PRAYER CHAIN:

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. To serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact her at dvheller@htc.net or 618/521-7417. Call our office to add someone to our worship prayers.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT:

Addington Place-Sparta: Kathryn Chunn; Oak Hill-Waterloo: Mary Gross, Jean Menke, Martha Rohlfing, Jody Winkelmann; Magnolia Terrace-Waterloo: June Lawrence; Cedarhurst of Tesson Heights: Ruth Hecht; Freeburg Care Center: Dorothy Byers, Wil Guebert, Margaret Hanebutt, Geraldine Koester.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT GARDEN PLACE:

Columbia: Pat Byer; Red Bud: Elaine Guebert, Alice Hick, Omer & Neva Liefer, Vernon Muench, Lorna Schneider, Esther Williams, Helen Winkelman.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH CONFINED IN-HOME:

Don & Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, LuAnn & Rick Liefer, Joyce Lopez, Trudy Woolbright.

CHURCH UPDATE - TITHELY APP:

Pastor Mark has been working diligently to set up a new church app. Currently, you can view services and create prayer requests through the app. In the future, online giving will also be available. Click the following link to download the app and begin enjoying its features: <https://tithely.app.link/stjohnsredbud>.

SID GOLF OUTING – HELP WANTED! :

Over the years our District Golf Outing each June has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to support church work students from Southern Illinois. The current leadership team has committed to training a new leadership team (2-3 people) this year. If you would like to help contact siddpaa@gmail.com.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY GUILD LUNCH:

Date: Friday, May 1st, 2026; **Cost:** \$20 per person; **Deadline:** April 17, 2026

Program: Three Hymns by Martin Hans Franzmann; *Dr. Jon Vieker, Dean of Chapel;*

11:30 a.m.: Registration in Koburg Hall; **Menu:** White meat chicken salad, croissants, broccoli salad, vegetable tray with ranch dip, fruit salad, lemon meringue pie; **Noon:** Luncheon and *Installation of Officers;* **Checks:** Make payable to Concordia Seminary Guild; Mail: 3375 Dana Drive, Arnold, MO 63010-4255; **Questions?** Call Ellyn Petrovic at 314-952-8202

LCMS FOUNDATION:

We live in an “I can do it myself” culture. The truth is that with creating a Christian estate plan, we need an entire team, to assist us to make sure that our plan is well grounded. The estate plan certainly can focus on care for the family to whom you are responsible. But it also plans the distribution of financial assets that have accumulated over the years. Your financial advisor is tremendously valuable, bringing to the table your conversations about planning for family, education and retirement. These topics should be factored into your estate plan. Bridging the gap between current financial plans and estate plans is something your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist with. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.

KFUO AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:

On Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.), tune in as we pick up our study of Genesis with chapter 29! Tune in for Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.) as we continue our study of the book of Numbers. This week, we'll be picking up with chapter 22. Don't forget to join us for Concord Matters (3/21 at 10 a.m.)! We'll be continuing our study of the Sacrament of the Altar as laid out in Luther's Large Catechism. How often should we be receiving the Lord's Supper? Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUE Radio app!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: “No Command from the Lord”

Jesus is the only way to God, but there are many adventures with Jesus. Which ones will you pick? (1 Corinthians 7:6-7) Listen on KFUE AM 850 Sundays at 12:30 & 5 p.m., on Bott Christian Radio Sundays at 8 a.m. on KSIV 1320AM or 91.5FM or on Sirius XM Family Talk 131 Sundays at 9 a.m.

LIFE THOUGHTS FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

Sin makes us blind to the things of God (Isaiah 42:16, 18). Not only do we often fail to recognize our neighbors and the many needs they have, but we also have a hard time seeing our own lack of love (John 9:41) and need for salvation. Thankfully, Jesus has come to open our blind eyes and turn our darkness into light (John 9:6, Isaiah 42:16). The Lord not only grants us faith to see Him and know His salvation, He also empowers us to “walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8) to better see and serve our neighbors in need, from the least of them to the greatest.

LCMS MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4–5

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: *LCMS Stewardship Resources*

Romans 8:1 – “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

This is the joy of the Gospel! There is no condemnation for us before the throne of God because in His love He has provided salvation for us in Christ. We have been set free. We are His children once again, and co-heirs with Christ of all the blessings of heaven. If this does not make us thankful, nothing will!

St. John's Lutheran Church – LCMS 508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois

Church Office & School: 808 S Main Street 618/282-3873 Fax 618/282-4087

E-mail: office@stjohnsredbud.org Web address: www.stjohnsredbud.org

Senior Pastor Mark Winkelman 815/499-1135

Associate Pastor Brian Nowak 708/369-7741

Principal – Mr. Justin Palm 618/214-1103

Director of Parish Music – Mrs. Lindsey Hudak 618/340-6055

Director of Christian Education/School Librarian–Mr. Bill Becker 618/282-2958

Secretaries – Mrs. Sara Shepherd and Miss Cynthia Wilson

Senior Youth – Kirk and Stephanie Liefer 618/967-0804

Junior Youth – Erin Kuehn 618/581-5928

Faculty and Staff

Preschool – Heather Nowak Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz

First Grade – Rachel Miller Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer

Third Grade – Stephanie Valleroy Fourth Grade – Monica Snyder

Fifth Grade – Amanda Ruhmann Resource Teacher – Lara Vause

Sixth Grade Homeroom – Doreen Schnepel Seventh Grade Homeroom – Nancy Whelan

Eighth Grade Homeroom: Kristin Sachtleben Jr High Science – Sara Shepherd

Athletic Director – Scott Voss Cooks – Catrena Heck and Marilyn Oettle

Before/After School Care – Courtney Schoenbeck

School Custodians – Wil Krick, Bob Schramm, Christian Stechmesser, and Cheryl Fehr

Day Care

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Lisa Quinn,

Amy Williams, Nicole Kadlec, Christy Deterding, Kristi Martel, Courtney Schoenbeck,

Brittney Eichholz, Brooke Supancic, Pam Henry, Melissa Schilling, Kaitlin Schmitz, Madison

Falkenhain, Kaitlyn Brown, Emma Trost, Madison Trask, Mycah Clements, Zandra Harless,

Tori Muench, Molly Huether, Cailee Strong, Reagan Birkner,

Olivia Noethen, Danielle Schmitz, and Tammy Roscow.

Church Council

Chairman: Michael DeRousse Vice-Chairman: Kevin Guebert

Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Connie Muench Board of Finance: Becky Biffar

Elder Chair: Stuart Langrehr Parish Education Chair: Jacob Arbeiter

Trustee Chair: Jeremy Voss Estate Fund Chair: Thomas Mulherin

Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Winkelman

Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak (8 a.m.) Lector: DCE Bill Becker

Acolytes: (5 p.m.) Karys Papenberg; (8 a.m.) Evan Muench

(10:30 a.m.) Maybre Falkenhain

Greeters: (5 p.m.) Virginia & Mark Moeller; (8 a.m.) Kalin & Kathy Liefer

(10:30 a.m.) Jim & Judy Guebert

Video: Eric Fritsche/Justin Palm Communion Cloths: Breanne Muench

Flower Servers: Linda Guebert Paraments: Virginia Moeller