

St. Johns Lutheran Church

No Figs? “Cut it Down”



Wait - ‘Sir, let it alone this year
also,’
See if it will bear fruit.

AS WE GATHER

It seems that much time is spent deciding which sins are worse and which sinners are worst. In the Gospel for today, Jesus is confronted with this question and turns it into a call for all sinners to repent. But this is not only a call to confess your sins, it is a call to turn away from those sins and become the fruitful trees of the Spirit's planting. These fruits are displayed in us when we turn away from our self-interest and benefit and behold our neighbor in need. The call of the day is to repent and live the righteous life that flows from repentance and faith under the power of the Holy Spirit. Repentance always involves turning and this turn is away from sin and to life!

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME GUESTS

We're glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

PREPARATION

HYMN

O Blessed Spring

LSB 595

**O blessed spring, where Word and sign
Embrace us into Christ the Vine;
Here Christ enjoins each one to be
A branch of this life-giving Tree.**

**Through summer heat of youthful years,
Uncertain faith rebellious tears,**

Sustained by Christ's infusing rain,
The boughs will shout for joy again.

When autumn cools and youth is cold,
When limbs their heavy harvest hold,
Then through us, warm, the Christ will move
With gifts of beauty, wisdom love.

A winter comes as winter must,
We breathe our last, return to dust;
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing
And trust the promise of the spring.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,
Be praised for this blest mystery;
That Word and water thus revive
And join us to Your Tree of Life.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 1:6; 5:4, 7, adapt.*

The LORD knows the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked will perish.

You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with
You.

**Through the abundance of Your steadfast love, I will enter Your
house.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

**Almighty God, maker of all things and judge of all people, we poor
sinners confess to You that we have turned away from You. We have
not done the good You desire but have done the evil You forbid. We
repent of all our sins of thought, word, and deed and pray for Your**

mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Turn our hearts away from sin and its temptation and grant us by the Holy Spirit to serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

SONG Create In Me A Clean Heart

**Create in me a clean heart, O God
Let me be like You in all my ways.
Give me Your strength,
Teach me Your song;
Shelter me in the shadow of your wings,
For You are our righteousness,
If we die to ourselves and live through Your death,
We shall be born again to be blessed in Your will.**

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.

Amen.

May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORD

KYRIE To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All LSB 613; Verse 1

**To Thee, omniscient Lord of all,
In grief and shame I humbly call;
I see my sins against Thee, Lord,
The sins of thought and deed and word.
They press me sore; I cry to Thee:
O God, be merciful to me!**

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, You have shown patience with us sinners who deserved Your wrath; turn our hearts away from sin and to the Lord Jesus Christ, that we may know the power of His life in us and bear the good fruits of Your kingdom in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.
Amen.

MEMORIZED WORD

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 33:7–20*

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. ¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?
¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has

done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. ¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

**[O come, let us fix our eyes on] * Jesus,
the founder and perfecter * of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despise *
ing the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the * throne of God.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble,

as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *2 Peter 3:9b, c*

**The Lord is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish,
but that all should reach repentance.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “May God Bestow on Us His Grace” *LSB 824*

**May God bestow on us His grace,
With blessings rich provide us;
And may the brightness of His face
To life eternal guide us,
That we His saving health may know,
His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the nations show
Christ's riches without measure
And unto God convert them.**

**Thine over all shall be the praise
And thanks of ev'ry nation;
And all the world with joy shall raise
The voice of exultation.
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.**

Stand

**O let the people praise Thy worth,
In all good works increasing;
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,
Thy Word is rich in blessing.
May God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit bless us!
Let all the world praise Him alone,
Let solemn awe possess us.
Now let our hearts say, "Amen!"**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 13:1–9*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” ⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED (WE ALL BELIEVE IN ONE TRUE GOD) LSB 953

**We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessed, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!**

SERMON

OFFERING "Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord" sung by the Choir

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Restore us, O Lord, according to Your promise, and hear the prayers of Your people who cry to You in need.

Blessed Lord, it is Your good and gracious will not to condemn but to save the sinner through the merits of Christ alone. Open our hearts to the voice of Your call, lead us to repentance, and grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may show forth the good fruits of that repentance in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we live in a world filled with temptation, fear, and threat. Grant us a refuge in Your Word that our hearts may not despair. Deliver us from all our enemies and bring us to everlasting life.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Merciful Lord, the tragedies and disasters of this life unsettle our hearts and feed our anxieties. Remind us of Your great compassion and faithfulness, and support the victims of such events as well as the emergency personnel who imperil themselves on our behalf.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, our world cries out in search of hope; grant to those who preach Your Word the grace to proclaim it faithfully, and bless the missionaries far and near who bring Your Gospel to those who sit in the darkness of sin and death. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord God, bless us with good and faithful leaders who will hear and heed Your Word. Move us to have compassion on the oppressed, to seek justice for those who suffer wrongly, and to sustain goodness in our life and conduct. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Deliver, O Lord, the sick from their afflictions, the sorrowing from their grief, the troubled in mind from depression, and the dying from fear. Hear us [*especially for . . . and*] for all who cry to You in need. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Blessed Lord, You have given us the comfort of Your Word and the food of Your Son's body and blood that we may be sustained in trial and strengthened in faith. Forgiven by Your mercy, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we show forth in holy lives our Savior, whom we here receive upon our lips. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Additional petitions may be inserted here.

Holy Lord, all things are Yours and yet You show Your great mercy in giving us all we need for this life and for eternal life. Give us also a grateful heart, so that we may respond with gratitude and return to You the tithes and offerings You are due for all Your kindness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

Amen.

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. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

Amen.

HYMN Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing *LSB 691*

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing,
May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing,
Rich in love and joy and peace.**

**Laden branches freely bearing
Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing,
Patience, kindness, gentleness.**

**Rooted deep in Christ our Master,
Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster,
Goodness, faith, and self-control.**

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending,
May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending,
Heaven's love and joy and peace.**

Preacher	Guest Pastor Dan Gilbert
Liturgist	Guest Pastor Dan Gilbert
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	William Gebhart and Roger Schmidt
Acolytes	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Greeter	Roger Schmidt
Worship Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Guest Pastor Dan Gilbert

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LCMS INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY PRESENTATION – Our congregation is hosting a new missionary called by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at our Bible study hour next weekend, March 27th. As part of our Synod's New Missionary Orientation, our congregation is supporting the work done by LCMS International Mission by providing an opportunity for our new missionaries to practice sharing their message with local congregations as this is an integral part of their service. Please consider joining us for the Bible Study hour next Sunday, March 27th to hear from our new missionary, Mr. Jerry Mays, who is going to Tanzania.

CFNA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Please join us in sharing Christ's love! Whether helping to sort or deliver donated items, taking someone to the grocery store or appointment, assisting International Institute with meeting families at the airport and helping take them to their hotel, etc., we have many opportunities for volunteers to serve the newly arriving Afghan families and other refugees. And we continue to welcome volunteers in our program ministries, including After School Tutoring, Adult ESL, Driving Lessons, Health and Wellness screenings, Sewing classes, and more. Interested? Questions? Please contact Laura Brink at [HYPERLINK "mailto:lbrink@cfna-stl.org" \t "_blank" lbrink@cfna-stl.org](mailto:lbrink@cfna-stl.org) or complete/submit a [Volunteer Recruitment Form](#) online.

LUTHERAN SOUTH SUMMER CAMPS Does your child enjoy shooting hoops? Love being on stage? Want to learn a new sport like football or field hockey? Lutheran South Summer Camp offers a variety of athletic and enrichment activities with morning and afternoon sessions available for students in K - 8th grade. From playing tennis to the trombone, we have coaches and instructors who offer positive reinforcement. Your campers will have fun while developing new skills. Enjoy summer at South! Register at LSlancers.org/summer

PALM SUNDAY CANTATA Salem's Director of Music Ministries, Mr. John Wittmayer, and the members of our Parish Choir and Parish Handbells are pleased to present our Palm Sunday CANTATA entitled, "Worthy Is the Lamb!"

This dramatic musical narrative is the compelling story of God's plan to deliver all people from sin and death. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, all believers will one day join the heavenly hosts in a never-ending hymn of praise: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12)

Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week
Attendance Sunday/Communion: 33/36
Offering: \$1,868.00
Lent Attendance: 21

CONCORDIA SEMINARY AFTER CHAPEL CONCERT

SERIES The After Chapel Concerts are mini concerts featuring musicians from within and beyond the Seminary community. Concerts are held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus directly following morning chapel services from 9:55 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Concerts are typically held in the chapel balcony. These concerts also will be streamed at csl.edu/live. Check out their website for a full schedule and details! The next concert is on Tuesday, April 5th featuring Dr. James Marriott on the organ.

IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY Join us for the Lent midweek 3 service (3/23/22 @ 6pm) in our In View of God's Mercy series for Lent, as we look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we ponder the truth that though we may turn away from our God again and again, our Lord continues to call us back into his merciful arms for Jesus' sake. **We will also be providing a soup supper before the service @ 5:30pm.** We also encourage you to bring a side dish to share.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY for young adults between the ages of 18-30. The Bible Study will run from 5:30pm-7:30pm, and will include a pizza dinner (provided by St. Johns). Our next date being March 26th. If interested, please RSVP to stjohnslechl@gmail.com or call 314-773-0126 and let us know what your preferred pizza topping is.

MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE Hope Ev. Lutheran will host the Laudamus choir from Concordia Seminary in their spring concert on Sunday, April 3rd @ 4pm. The Choir is under the direction of Rev. Dr. James Marriott who serves as the Kreft Chair for Music Arts and Director of Musical Arts. The choir consists of men preparing for pastoral ministry in service to the church. Hope Ev. Lutheran is located at 5218 Neosho St. in

Prayers

Special Prayer Petitions –For those infected by the corona virus for quick healing and recovery; **Maureen Rehmer** as she continues to battle congestive heart failure; **Dennis Solomon** for healing from bed sores; **Lara** from Oak Hill as she recovers from surgery; **Dennis Schwab** who is on hospice; **Bobbie Kepford** as we give thanks for her new home and the opportunity to invite others to chapel; **Field-workers** and **Vicars**; **Nepali & African Congregation** blessings; **EAGLE schools & Compass** as they make decisions and care for the scholars.

Shut Ins – Bobbie Kepford, Dennis Solomon, Jerry Schmaltz, Carol Carr, Steve Bain, Maureen Rehmer, Eileen Wehrheim, Don Osiek

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week March 20-March 27

Sunday	9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study/Nepalese Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-2pm Office Open NO Compass 6pm Ladies Exercise Class
Tuesday	8am-2pm Office Open NO Compass 6pm Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-2pm Office Open NO Compass NO Compass Chapel 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Lenten Service 7pm ESL
Thursday	8am-2pm Office Open 2pm Ridgewood Apartments Bible Study NO Compass
Friday	8am-1pm Office Open 8am Bible Study NO Compass
Saturday	8:30am Food Pantry 1pm Vicar Meeting 5:30pm-7:30pm Young Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	9:00am Joint Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm African Worship