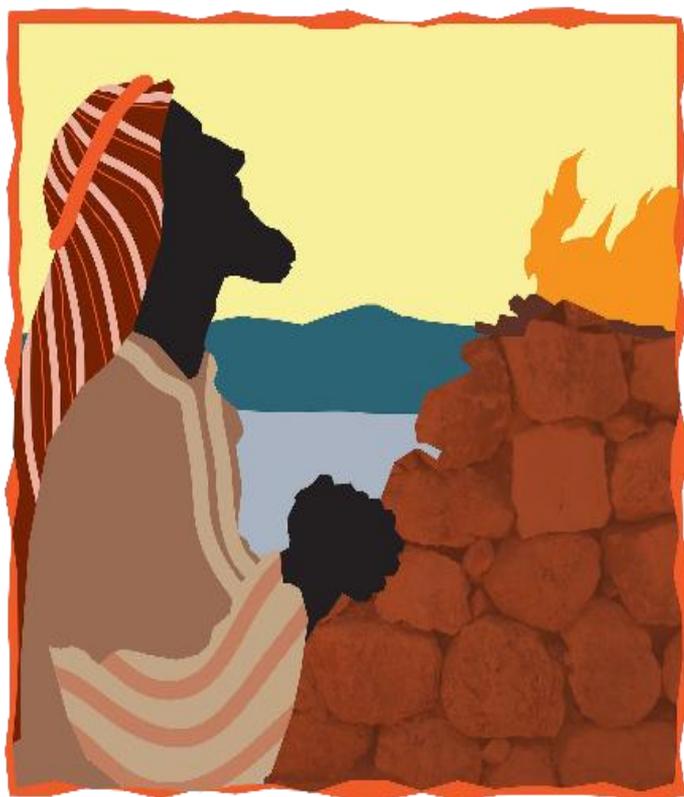


# St. Johns Lutheran Church



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## AS WE GATHER

“Born again” has become a catch phrase in our age. It is not merely that Jesus says one must be born again but born from above. This new birth happens not from human will or desire but solely from the love and act of God working by the Spirit. Baptismal water is the womb through which we are born again and born from above to the life that death cannot overcome and is eternal. As we make our way through Lent, we are constantly reminded of the truth of Luther’s explanation: we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Christ, our Lord, or come to Him. The Spirit calls us to the font, gathers the baptized around His Word and Table, delivers us from the darkness of unbelief, and makes holy those who belong to the Lord. Thanks be to God!

## RINGING OF THE BELLS WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME** (Bienvenido, स्वागत छ, Chào mừng, 환영, ようこそ,  
Bienvenue, Karibu, እንኳን ደህና ጭጡ, Baga nagaan  
dhufte, Willkommen, Benvenuto, 欢迎) **ALL**

We’re glad you are here! If you are visiting for the first time, please 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/>).

If you have a prayer request that you would like offered during the service, please grab one of the blue sheets of paper next to the bulletins and place it in the basket during offering.

## PREPARATION

**God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.**

**Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.**

**If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.**

*Stand*

**Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!**

**INVOCATION** (*Stand as you are able*)

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**      *Psalm 121:1–2, 8*

From where does my help come?

**My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

The LORD will preserve your going out and your coming in,  
**from this time forth and forevermore.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

O almighty God, merciful Father,

**I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

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.**

**INTROIT**      *Psalm 105:4–7; antiphon: v. 8 (Spoken)*

He remembers his covenant forever,

**the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**

Seek the Lord and his strength;

**seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

**his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

**children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

He is the Lord our God;

**his judgments are in all the earth.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
He remembers his covenant forever,  
**the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**

**KYRIE**

LSB 186

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, You promised Abraham that he would become the father of many nations. Grant to us that we may see in Jesus the fulfillment of Your promise and covenant, with Your holy church, sealed in His blood on the cross. Bring us to the righteousness that comes by faith in Christ, our Savior; in the holy name of Jesus, who with You and the Holy Spirit, is one God and one Lord, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *Genesis 12:1–9*    *(Sit)*

<sup>1</sup>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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 121*

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
    From where does my help come?  
<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the Lord,  
    who made heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved;  
    he who keeps you will not slumber.  
<sup>4</sup>Behold, he who keeps Israel  
    will neither slumber nor sleep.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord is your keeper;  
    the Lord is your shade on your right hand.  
<sup>6</sup>The sun shall not strike you by day,  
    nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup>The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
    he will keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup>The Lord will keep  
    your going out and your coming in  
    from this time forth and forevermore.

**EPISTLE**      *Romans 4:1–8, 13–17*

<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 trusts 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *John 3:1–17*

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

**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** (*Sit*)

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”

*LSB 708*

**Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;  
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,  
With tender mercy cheer me.  
Earth has no pleasure I would share,**

**Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare  
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.  
And should my heart for sorrow break,  
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.  
Thou art the portion I have sought;  
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.  
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.**

**Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave  
My body, soul, and all I have  
In this poor life of labor.  
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place  
May glorify Thy lavish grace  
And help and serve my neighbor.  
Let no false doctrine me beguile;  
And Satan not my soul defile.  
Give strength and patience unto me  
To bear my cross and follow Thee.  
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
In death Thy comfort still afford.**

**Lord, let at last Thine angels come,  
To Abram's bosom bear me home,  
That I may die unfearing;  
And in its narrow chamber keep  
My body safe in peaceful sleep  
Until Thy reappearing.  
And then from death awaken me,  
That these mine eyes with joy may see,  
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,  
My Savior and my fount of grace.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
And I will praise Thee without end.**

**SERMON**

**APOSTLE'S CREED** *(Stand as you are able)*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**OFFERING** *(Sit)*



*(Scan this code with your phone if you would like to give online)*

**OFFERTORY**          LSB 192

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

**Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.**

**Amen**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(Stand as you are able)*

Let us come before the throne of God's grace in the name of Jesus and bid Him on behalf of ourselves and all people as they have need.

For grace that with Abraham our father, we trust in the Lord for all things and this faith be counted unto us as righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to trust in our Baptism from above and for the Spirit to enable us to show forth the fruits of this new life in words and works all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to enjoy a good government and good leaders who do what is good and right and honorable in the sight of the Lord and for the pursuit of peace among the people in our land and across the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to proclaim with courage the Good News of our Lord's death and resurrection and for the Spirit to open the hearts of those who hear that they might believe in Him whom the Father has sent, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace upon every pastor and church worker that they faithfully fulfill their vocations and for the Lord to raise up many who will follow them into the Lord's service, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to provide for the widow and the fatherless, the single and the married, the sick and those who suffer, the grieving and the dying, [*especially . . .*], that in their need they know the comfort of God's presence and have confidence in His mercy to supply all that they need for this life and for eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to enjoy the good fruits of the earth with thankful hearts, for grace to be generous with those in need, and for grace to love our neighbors as ourselves, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Special Petitions.... let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering faithful Abraham who was counted righteous by faith and giving thanks for those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, we pray You to bring us at last with them into the place of eternal light and life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### **BENEDICAMUS**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Bless we the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

**HYMN**            “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”            *LSB 918*

**Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven**

**Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.**

Preacher	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Liturgist	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Lector	Michael Nerl
Elder	Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Children's Message	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Sunday School	Joanna Wescoatt
Bible Class	Pastor Ben Wescoatt

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# Announcements

## Saved to Share Called to Care

**Our Response to God's Love last Week:**

9:00 Attendance/Communion: 68/51

Offering: \$1,527.52

### **SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE**

We have an opportunity to receive matching dollars for our Scholarship Fund. Donations to this fund that are given through Easter Sunday will be matched dollar for dollar (up to a total of \$5,000). Please help our congregation take advantage of this opportunity to support our students who attend Lutheran Schools in our area. Special envelopes will be available on the tables in the front and back of church. Thank you for helping

**YOUTH SUPPORT** support the youth of St. Johns going to the Missouri District Youth Gathering on April 17-19, 2026 at the Cross Pointe Retreat Center. Please use the special fund envelope and mark or write youth.

**EASTER LILIES** Get your Easter Lilies on order to enhance the Easter Sunday worship service. Once service is over, you can take them home. The cost is \$12. Use the special envelope at church (available in the narthex) or just mail the request. Please make checks out to St. Johns.

### **VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY CHORALE AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT**

The Valparaiso University Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform music by J.S. Bach, Emma Lou Diemer, Palestrina, Philip Stopford, and Eric Whitacre in churches and schools during their March 6-11 tour. The program will feature two pieces for choir and orchestra: J.S. Bach's *Der Herr denket an uns*, BWV 196 and Eric Whitacre's *Five Hebrew Love Songs*. The concerts are free and open to the public.

**Sunday, March 8 at 7:00 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Des Peres,**  
12345 Manchester Road, MO 63131.

**Monday, March 9**

**at 7:00 PM at Lutheran High School South  
Duesenberg Theater,**

9515 Tesson Ferry Rd. St. Louis, MO 63123.

The LHSS Concert Choir will also perform.

### **ANNUAL SAUSAGE DINNER & SPRING BAZAAR - SUNDAY,**

**MARCH 1ST - IMMANUEL LUTHERAN OLIVETTE** Our annual Sausage Dinner will be held this year on Sunday, March 1st from 11:00am to 3:00pm (take outs available until 3:30). Dine in includes All you can eat Pork Sausage, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce, Bread, and Dessert. We accept cash or check at the door. Cost is below:

Adults - \$16.00 Children (6-12) - \$8.00

Children (5 & under) FREE

All Carry Outs - \$16.00

# Prayers

Prayers for Health –for President R. Lee Hagan, Richard, Bob, Jessica, Kate, Mary, and Cat; **Sandy Key** who has cancer;

Area Ministry – **Word of Life Lutheran School**

Shut Ins – Debra Frerichs, Carolyn Dickhoener, and Ruth Trauth (Sherbrooke)

Special Prayer Petitions –**For** those displaced from home and church;

**Melba** that her walking ability may improve so that she can return to church; **Evangelist** Idonis King; **Compass Director** Jaylynn Mennel;

**Our Associate Pastors** Nabin & Ratna; **Momentum Academy and All Schools; The Food Pantry and those who receive food: Compass;**

**Our Field-Workers** Michael and John; **For** those traveling;

**Missionaries** Zach Barz (for life & ministry) and Erin Mackenzie;

South City Circuit Prayers **Ben Wescoatt, Synod, LBT, and LHM international missionaries, Art Eichorn, Randy Asburry, Matt Clark, LCMS partner churches around the world and their presidents/bishops, and Bob Bernhardt**

## Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week March 1 – March 8

Sunday	<b><u>9:00am</u> Worship / <u>10am</u> Fellowship</b> <b><u>10:30am</u> Bible Study / <u>10:30am</u> Nepali Worship</b> 12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship <b><u>1pm-4pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer Club / <u>6pm-8pm</u> Nepalese Volleyball</b>
Monday	<b><u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>9am</u> Elders</b> <b><u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass</b> <b><u>6pm</u> Ladies Exercise / <u>6:15pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer</b>
Tuesday	<b><u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass</b>
Wednesday	<b><u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>9am</u> Midweek Bible Study</b> <b><u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass</b> <b><u>5:30pm</u> Soup Supper / <u>6:30pm</u> Lent Worship</b>
Thursday	<b><u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass</b> <b><u>3:25pm</u> Compass Chapel / <u>5:30pm</u> Pizza &amp; Prayer</b> <b><u>6:15pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer</b>
Friday	<b><u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>2pm-6pm</u> Compass</b>
Saturday	<b><u>8:30am</u> Food Pantry / <u>1pm-4pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer</b> <b><u>6pm-8pm</u> Abundant Grace Choir Practice</b> <b><u>6pm-8pm</u> Nepalese Volleyball</b>
Next Sunday	<b><u>9:00am</u> Worship w/ Communion / <u>10am</u> Fellowship</b> <b><u>10:30am</u> Bible Study / <u>10:30am</u> Nepali Worship</b> 12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship <b><u>1pm-4pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer Club / <u>6pm-8pm</u> Nepalese Volleyball</b>