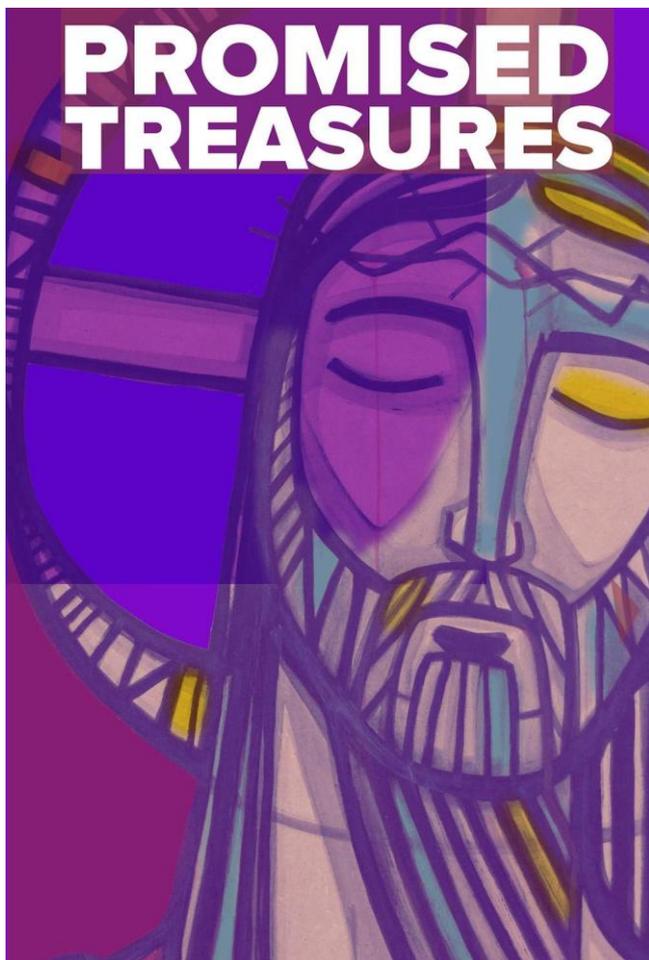


St. Johns Lutheran Church



Salt That Sweetens and
Preserves

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St. Johns Lutheran Church

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Lent Midweek 1

February 25th, 2026

Promised Treasures: Salt That Sweetens and Preserves

AS WE GATHER

We are blessed to be God’s children—cleansed of sin, renewed by the Spirit, and salted in Christ Jesus. The promised treasures in God’s Word remind us of the importance of salt, which both sweetens and preserves things for our enjoyment. When Paul reminds us to let our conversations be “seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6), and when Jesus tells us that we are “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), the image is rich, for it is not only visual, but it also engages the sense of taste. We are reminded today that we are blessed to sweeten this world with the presence of Christ in us, even as Jesus Himself preserves our lives through His Word and Spirit.

OPENING - Holden Evening Prayer (*Stand as you are able*)

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,

The light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

And the day is almost over.

Let you light scatter the darkness,

And shine within your people here.

**Joyous light of heav’nly glory, loving glow of God’s own face,
you sing creation’s story, shine on ev’ry land and race. Now as
evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of
daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.**

**In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of
dawn, in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet
song. Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the**

weary soul, love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light. Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way, loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

May God be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us sing our thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

Amen.

PSALMODY

PSALM Psalm 107:28–36

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.

He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and He brought them to their desired haven.

Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love,
for His wondrous works to the children of men!

Let them extol Him in the congregation of the people,
and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.

He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,
a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the evil of its inhabitants.

He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.

And there He lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in.

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.

HYMN “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” LSB 418

**O Lord, throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin,
And free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and You won;
Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust
In God’s eternal Word.**

**Through parched and hungry, yet You prayed
And fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves,
Since we have known God’s love.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord,
And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns,
We join in heaven’s praise.**

READINGS

READING 2 Kings 2:19–22 (*Sit*)

¹⁹ Now the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” ²⁰ He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt

in it.” So they brought it to him. ²¹ Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the Lord, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.” ²² So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

READING Colossians 4:2–6

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. ⁵ Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

READING Matthew 5:13–16 (*Stand as you are able*)

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

LENT RESPONSORY LSB, p. 231

Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

SERIES HYMN “One House Abides Unending” (*Sit*)

**One house abides unending,
One Master fears no fall,
One Lord provides, attending
The daily want of all.
When ruin would allure them
Whose one estate was need,
One Father would secure them
In will, in trust, in deed.**

**The wealth of all creation
We squandered at our birth.
The heirs of condemnation
Sowed tears in blighted earth.
But light, the world's first treasure,
The Master worked anew
In promise, and in measure
No mortal eye could view.**

**With endless hunger driven
The grave cried out for more,
But Jesus Christ has given
Safe passage through its door:**

**His flowing blood our raiment,
The flood to purge our shame;
The living God the payment
That buys for us His name.**

**Exchange our ash for beauty,
Anoint our grief with joy;
Dear Lord, who paid our duty,
All grace for us employ.
Feed us the saving manna
Lest on the way we fail
And sweeten our Hosanna
To holy Easter's hail.**

SERMON

CANTICLE

ANTIPHON LSB, p. 231

**Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

MAGNIFICAT - *Holden Evening Prayer*

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit
rejoices in You.
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed
me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your
kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart!**

**You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and
uplifted the humble of heart.
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the
wealthy no part.
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your
justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness
forevermore.**

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit
rejoices in You.
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed
me all my life through.
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your
kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart!**



OFFERING

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

PRAYER

KYRIE LSB, p. 233 *(Stand as you are able)*

**Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, 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.

COLLECTS

O Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to You.

Lord Jesus Christ, You call Your people to be the salt of the earth, to sweeten and preserve this world even as You have sweetened our lives with Your forgiveness and have preserved us by Your Spirit. Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.

Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary, **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**

Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

Enable us to see that we are the salt of the earth, preserved by Your grace and sweetened by Your forgiveness.

Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [especially . . .], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICAMUS LSB, p. 234

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION LSB, p. 234

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

Amen.

HYMN “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” LSB 425

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

Preacher	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Liturgist	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Elder	Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli

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