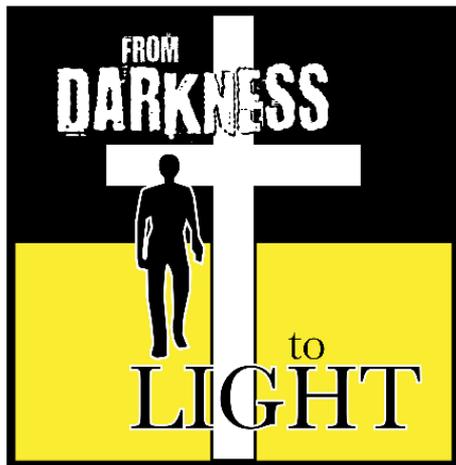


# St. Johns Lutheran Church



St. Johns Lutheran Church  
The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Divine Service Setting 3

St. Louis, Missouri  
March 15th, 2026  
LSB 184

## AS WE GATHER

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, but He does not forsake them. Instead, He promises to turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground (Isaiah 42:16). The Lord does not give up on His servant, Israel, but sends another Servant who is the light of the world (John 9:5). Jesus' light comes to us in His Word, His water, and His Supper. These are His means for opening our eyes to see and to live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). Baptized into Christ, we look forward to the day when these words will come pass: "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Ephesians 5:14).

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## **RINGING OF THE BELLS WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME** (Bienvenido, स्वागत छ, Chào mừng, 환영, ようこそ,  
Bienvenue, Karibu, እንኳን ደህና መጡ, 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**

**HYMN**      “Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten”      *LSB 914*

**Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten  
Radiance of the Father’s face,  
Word made flesh, who lived among us  
Full of truth and full of grace,  
Shine upon our human darkness;  
Pierce the night that shrouds our race.**

**Word eternal, through Your being  
God created all we see,  
When the empty spaces echoed  
With the Father’s “Let there be”  
Light and life burst from the glorious  
Power of Your majesty!**

**Still Your brooding Spirit hovers  
Over chaos, dark and deep,  
Calling out with invitation:  
“Rise, awaken from your sleep;  
Christ the Lord will shine upon you  
And from death your soul shall keep.”**

**Come, Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit  
In our hearts Your work begin,  
Bring the healing restoration  
Of Your images lost by sin;  
From Your fullness all receiving  
Grace on grace, new life within!**

**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 142:1*

With my voice I cry out to the LORD;  
**with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.**

*Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we were born in utter sin. To this day and by nature, we have eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear. We have trusted in the things we have made rather than You. Our thoughts, words, and actions have been unfruitful and dark. We have been blind to our sin, but You have seen it. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, open our eyes. 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.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus is the light of the world and your salvation. He has enlightened you with His gifts and given you ears to hear Jesus' words. It is He who is speaking to you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve judgment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs. Give us new eyes, that we may see Your merciful goodness and give thanks for all the ways Your light scatters our darkness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Isaiah 42:14–21*      (*Sit*)

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.”  
<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! <sup>19</sup>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? <sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. <sup>21</sup>The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE**      *Ephesians 5:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good

and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**      *John 9:1–41*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>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 <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.”<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight<sup>19</sup> and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”<sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.<sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”<sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)<sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.”<sup>25</sup>He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”<sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”<sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”<sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.<sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.<sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”<sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”<sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”<sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** *(Sit)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

*LSB 839*

**O Christ, our true and only light,  
Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice  
And in Your fold with us rejoice.**

**Fill with the radiance of Your grace  
The souls now lost in error's maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.**

**O gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed  
In you find peace and heav'nly rest.**

**Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,**

**That they with us may evermore  
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to You be giv'n  
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.**

**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)*

As children of light, we cry out to the Lord who sees us and hears us, and deals bountifully with us in our time of need:

Lord of Light, You claimed us as children in Holy Baptism, bringing us out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. Help us to walk as children of light, that Your works be displayed in us while it is still day.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**shine on us.**

Patient Lord, in the face of deep darkness, You remain slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Give us Your patience in our encounters with the darkness, that we graciously and fearlessly lead those who are blinded by sin back to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**shine on us.**

Sovereign Lord, You are our refuge and portion in the land of the living. Strengthen our leaders, our government, and all You have put in place to protect us. Open their eyes to see the needs of Your people and Your

creation. Help them to establish laws that are good and right and true.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**shine on us.**

Merciful Lord, You deliver those who cry to You from the darkness of pain, sickness, and grief. Visit all who are in need and struggling to see beyond what is before them, [*especially* . . .]. Bring them Your light and Your peace. Hide them in Your shelter and restore to them the joy of being Your children. Lord, in Your mercy,

**shine on us.**

Special Petitions.... Lord, in Your mercy,

**shine on us.**

Believing that Jesus truly is the light who overcomes all darkness, we trust that You hear and answer us according to Your good and gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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** "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" *LSB* 849

**Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,  
Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands  
With the very Bread of peace.**

**Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With the piercing two-edged sword.  
Praise the one who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water  
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**Let us praise the Word incarnate,  
Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise the One who makes us one.**

Preacher	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Liturgist	Pastor Ben Wescoatt
Lector	Sandra Gerber
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/10:30 Attendance: 47/37/54

Offering: \$1,209.00

### 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.

### LASE SPECIALIZED EDUCATION - IMMEDIATE BOARD

**POSITION NEEDED** Do you love numbers and love kids? Then maybe LASE Specialized Education has a spot for you! LASE (Lutheran Association for Special Education) is seeking a mission-minded financial expert to serve as Treasurer on its Board of Directors. This is a volunteer position working with 6 to 12 other mission-minded and passionate Christ-followers to further the mission of LASE Specialized Education. For further information, check out the LASE website ([www.lutherspecialied.org](http://www.lutherspecialied.org)) and/or contact LASE's Executive Director, John Jameson, at 636-505-0501 (text/call) or [john.jameson@lutherspecialied.org](mailto:john.jameson@lutherspecialied.org).

**MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE** Hope Ev. Lutheran Church in St. Louis invites you to join them on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm for a Palm Festival featuring Rev. Stephen Starke. Rev. Starke is a well-known writer of hymns and liturgical texts. A reception will follow in the church auditorium.

Hope Ev. Lutheran Church is located at 5218 Neosho St. in St. Louis, MO. Visit [hopelutheranstl.org](http://hopelutheranstl.org) for more information

**CFNA TRIVIA NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION** Join us for an unforgettable evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition at our Silent Auction and Trivia Night on Saturday, April 11. **Schedule** 6:00 p.m. – “Doors open” and check-in starts 6:45 p.m. – Trivia Begins! **Location** Lutheran High School South 9515 Tesson Ferry Rd, St. Louis, MO 63123 **Cost** \$30 per person \$200 per team of eight **Note** Please bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks. Be prepared for a fun evening as we work together to support our new American friends.

Area Ministry – Compass Afterschool Program

Shut Ins – Debra Frerichs, Carolyn Dickhoener, and Ruth Trauth

**Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week  
March 15 – March 22**

Sunday            **9:00am Worship / 10am Fellowship**  
                      **10:30am Bible Study / 10:30am Nepali Worship**  
                      12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship  
                      1pm-4pm Tower Grove Soccer Club / 6pm-8pm Nepalese Volleyball

Monday            8am-12pm Office Open / 3pm-6pm Compass  
                      6pm Ladies Exercise / 6:15pm Tower Grove Soccer

Tuesday           8am-12pm Office Open / 3pm-6pm Compass

Wednesday        8am-12pm Office Open / 9am Midweek Bible Study  
                      3pm-6pm Compass

Thursday           **5:30pm Soup Supper / 6:30pm Lent Worship**  
                      8am-12pm Office Open / 3pm-6pm Compass  
                      3:25pm Compass Chapel / 6:15pm Tower Grove Soccer

Friday             8am-12pm Office Open / 2pm-6pm Compass

Saturday           8:30am Food Pantry / 1pm-4pm Tower Grove Soccer  
                      6pm-8pm Abundant Grace Choir Practice  
                      6pm-8pm Nepalese Volleyball

Next Sunday      **9:00am Worship w/ Communion / 10am Fellowship**  
                      **10:30am Bible Study / 10:30am Nepali Worship**  
                      12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship  
                      1pm-4pm Tower Grove Soccer Club / 6pm-8pm Nepalese Volleyball