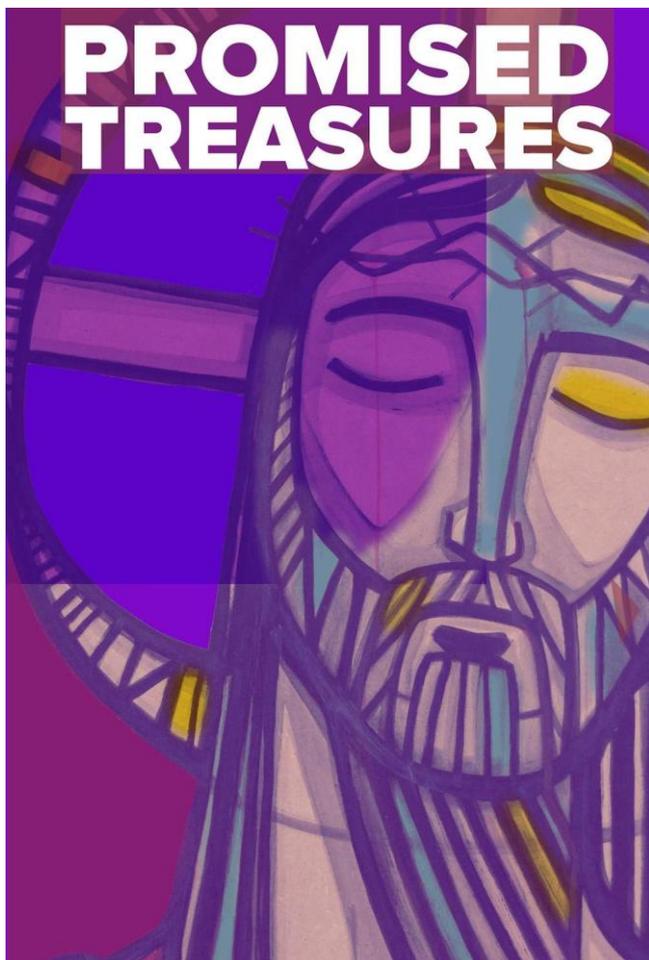


St. Johns Lutheran Church



Bread of Life

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3738 Morgan Ford Rd. St. Louis, Missouri 63116
Lent Midweek 4 March 18th, 2026
Promised Treasures: Bread of Life

AS WE GATHER

The bread we bake in our homes or buy from the store is good for today. But by tomorrow, it may be gone. The gifts we receive in this world satisfy us for a moment; however, the gifts we receive in the promised treasures of God's Word are gifts that are eternal. When Jesus describes Himself in John 6 as the bread of life, we know that He highlights for us His mission of salvation. As our bread of life, Jesus comes to forgive us, renew us, and lead us toward a meaningful life in relationship with Him. Let us taste and experience that life together this day as the Holy Spirit calls us to walk with Jesus and be satisfied by His presence among us.

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 19:7–10, 14

The law of the Lord is perfect,

reviving the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure,

making wise the simple;

the precepts of the Lord are right,

rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is pure,

enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the Lord is clean,

enduring forever;

the just decrees of the Lord are true,

and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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 Christ, You Walked the Road” LSB 424

**O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand’ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation’s pow’r
And fought our ancient foe.**

**No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung’ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.**

**No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.**

**When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.**

**O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand’ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation’s four
To flight our ancient foe.**

READINGS

READING Exodus 16:2–5, 11–18 (*Sit*)

² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” . . . ¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” ¹³ In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” ¹⁷ And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸ But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

READING 1 Corinthians 10:1–4, 15–17

¹ I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,

² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. . . .¹⁵ I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

READING John 6:32–37 (*Stand as you are able*)

³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to Him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out.”

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.

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 reveal Yourself as the bread of life who satisfies all the hungry souls that return to You in repentance and faith. 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 savor You as the true bread of life, trusting that You forgive us, renew us, satisfy us, and give our lives meaning.

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 “For the Fruits of His Creation” LSB 894

For the fruits of His creation,

Thanks be to God.

For His gifts to ev'ry nation,

Thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,

Silent growth while we are sleeping,

Future needs in earth's safekeeping,

Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor,

God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor,

God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring

For the hungry and despairing,

In the harvests we are sharing,

God's will is done.

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.**

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

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