

*March 23, 2025 9AM  
The Third Sunday in Lent*

*St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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Holbrook, NY  
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*St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church exists by the grace of God to be the body of Christ in Holbrook. Therefore, we proclaim God's word to the world, teach the faithful, administer the sacraments, and show the love of Christ in care for our community.  
Welcome! Every person who comes to worship is a special gift from God. Thank you for being with us today!*

### **Serving in God's house**

Presiding Minister: Rev. George Kirkup  
Readers: Charles Kalhorn, Lennox Debra  
Organist: Doreen Leonard

*Stand*

#### **Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing**

*LSB 691*

- 1 Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, may we ripen and increase,  
Fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love and joy and peace.
- 2 Laden branches freely bearing gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, patience, kindness, gentleness.
- 3 Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us, as the years fly faster, goodness, faith, and self-control.
- 4 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.

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. 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.

**P** Upon this your confession, I... forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

*Psalm 5*

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;  
evil may not dwell with you.**

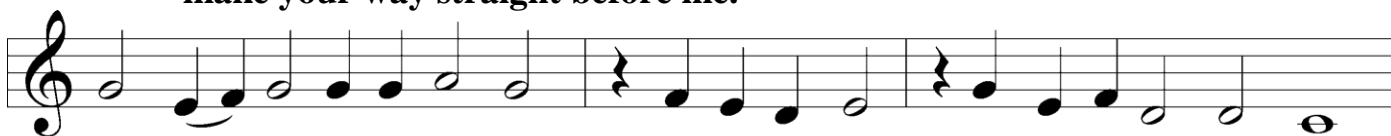
The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;  
you hate all evildoers.

**You destroy those who speak lies;  
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.

I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

**Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies;  
make your way straight before me.**



**G** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

*During Lent, the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is omitted.*

### SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Sit*

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Ezekiel 33:7–20*

**A** The Old Testament Reading for the Third Sunday in Lent is from Ezekiel, chapter thirty- three.

“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. If 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. But 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. “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?’ Say 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?”

“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. Though 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. Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if 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. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM

*Psalm 85*

LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.**

You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!**

Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.

**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

**A** The Epistle is from First Corinthians, chapter ten.

I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do 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.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now 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. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No 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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

*During Lent, the ALLELUIA is omitted.*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 13:1–9*

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

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

There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or 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? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And 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?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## APOSTLES’ CREED

*LSB back cover*

*Sit*

## May God Bestow on Us His Grace

LSB 823

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- △ 3 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!"

SERMON

**"Generalizations"**

*Stand*

OFFERTORY

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

COLLECT TO RECEIVE THE WORD

BENEDICTION

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- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** **Amen, amen, amen.**

Jesus, Lead Thou On

LSB 718

- 1 Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won;  
And although the way be cheerless, we will follow calm and fearless.  
Guide us by Thy hand to our fatherland.
- 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near,  
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us; let not faith and hope forsake us;  
For through many'a woe to our home we go.
- 3 When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,  
When temptations come alluring, make us patient and enduring.  
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
- 4 Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won.  
Heav'nly leader, still direct us, still support, console, protect us,  
Till we safely stand in our fatherland.

*In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true body and blood. In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant will examine himself and come to the Lord's Table seeking forgiveness of sins. As the catechism says, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" Therefore, we expect all communicants to have been baptized, instructed, and confirmed in the Christian faith, repent of their sins, and believe that Jesus here offers His true body and blood for their forgiveness.*

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**C** **It is meet and right so to do.**

**P** It is truly meet right and salutary ... evermore praising God and saying:

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**

**heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### AGNUS DEI

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### DISTRIBUTION

p.199

In the Very Midst of Life

*LSB 755*

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

*LSB 704*

### NUNC DIMITTIS

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**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** **and His mercy endureth forever.**

### POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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### PAULINE BENEDICTION



**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Joyce Barbagallo, Barbara, Terry Stapleton, Kathy Cecere, Tara Grey, Lenora Debra, Linda Konecny, Zachary Pompee, Ralph Ciniglio, David Perry, Richie LaPresti, Lydia Foley, Barbara Gerke

**CHURCH MEMBERS:** Paul Cataldo, John Wimmer, Rich & Betty Kuerner, Arlene Enz, MaryAnne Boucher

**OUR SHUT-INS:** Charles & Ethel Nenstiel, Tom Maher

**THOSE IN THE MILITARY:** Mark Kummer (USN), Kristine Broger (USA), Michael Deck (USAF), Patrick Ullrich (USA)

**OUR CHILDREN:** Andrew Zeo, Liam Balroop, Thomas Cataldo, Mars Crowley

**FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S:** Nancy Cataldo, Rebecca Shannon, Erin Nicole Kuerner, Ken Skjeveland, Jacquelyn Berntsen, Frank Sandmeyer, Balmick Persaud, Beth Laine Mattarella, Bob Selkirk, Carolyn Gronlund, Shirley Koenig

Tuesday 10:00AM – Bible Study

Tuesday 6:30PM – Confirmation Class

Tuesday 6:30PM – Soup Supper

Tuesday 7:30PM – Midweek Vespers