



“²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

~John 12: 24

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 22, 2015

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-04111

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Robert Newpher, Interim Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 15, 2015

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

PRELUDE: *Seed That in Earth Is Dying* – David Maxwell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,

and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,

and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you

the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father,

and of the + Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG #379: *Now the Green Blade Rises

1 Now the green blade rises from the buried
grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred
slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps
unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen
grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

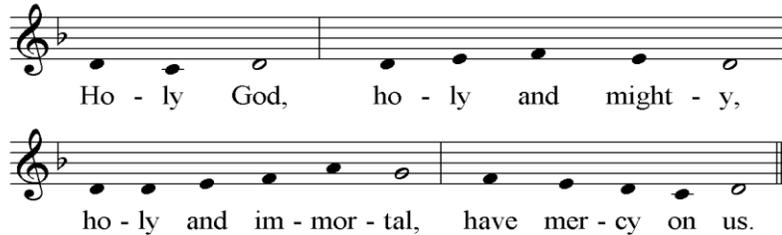
4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in
pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have
been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

***GREETING**

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

***TRISAGION**

A cantor sings the Trisagion, and all repeat it twice.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.
**O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself,
and in mercy you receive our prayers.
Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,
that through life and death we may live in your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31–34 (page 735 in Old Testament)

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51

*The congregation sings the **bold** verses; all sing the refrain together.*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God.

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through ¹from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹from my sin.**
- ³For I know ¹my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak
and right ¹in your judgment. R**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born ¹steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth ¹deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear ¹joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹may rejoice. R**
- ⁹Hide your face ¹from my sins,
and blot out ¹all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean ¹heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- ¹it within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away ¹from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- ¹it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of ¹your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- ¹tiful Spirit. R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5: 5–10 (page 220 in New Testament)

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #330: *Seed That in Earth Is Dying

1 Seed that in earth is dying
grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel
turn into golden wine.

God, through this mystery grant us
faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death.

2 We were baptized in Jesus,
into his death and grave,
to resurrection's promise:
praise and eternal life.

Heaven's own praises begin here
where you yourself are near us,
deep in our night and death.

3 Seed that in earth is dying
rises to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table,
give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you!
Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death.

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Gracious God, keep your church firm in faith, so that it might trust in your goodness even when the way is difficult and the future seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the earth spins through another change of season, awaken trees and flowers from their winter's rest. Bring forth grain from the earth and fruit from the vine. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace to nations devastated by war and violence. Teach leaders to trust in your deep and abiding peace and make all of us instruments of that holy peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come into a broken world that is never beyond your repair. Heal those who feel the effects of illness and injury in body, mind, or spirit, especially Nan, Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the ministries of teachers and mentors in the faith and be with those preparing for baptism. Send newcomers into our midst, and prepare us to welcome them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide those who are discerning your will in their lives. Be with our bishop and call committee as they seek a new pastor for this congregation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember your covenant with us, and write it on our hearts until we join with Jonathan Edwards and all the saints around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #759: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

(All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)

1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!

3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.

Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

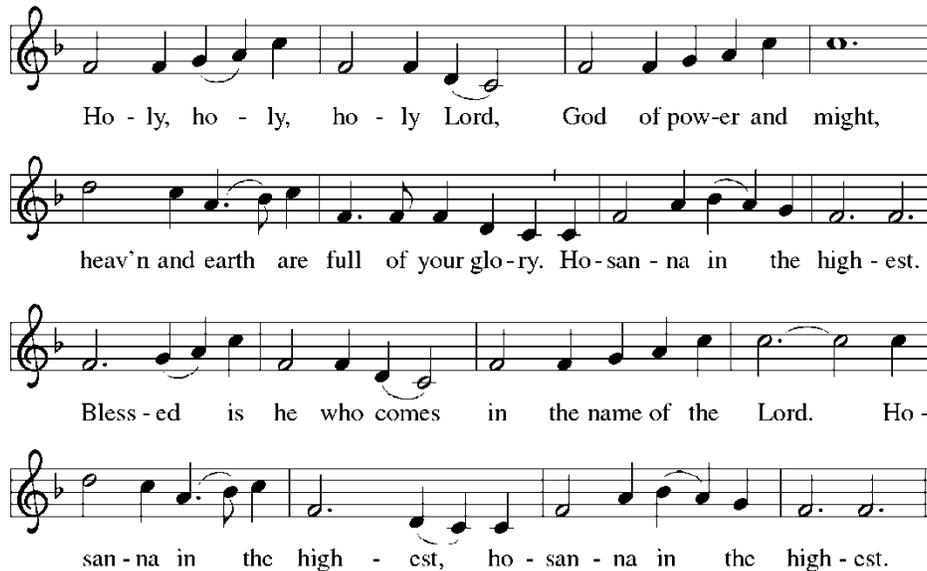
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Jesus, Remember Me*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Jesus, Remember Me". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom." The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.
Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
may our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms, a making of peace;
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG #339: *Christ, the Life of All the Living

1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suffering, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.

for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.

2 You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;

3 Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Now the Green Blade Rises* – Franklin Ashdown

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Marlene Strabel

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Larry Werner

Attendance Last Week: 59

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,755.44

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 33,065.31

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 35,397.84

10:30 am

Assisting Minister:

Sally Foster

Communion Assistant:

Denise Hager

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher:

Attendance last year: 73

Last Week's Giving: \$ 3,227.00

Year to Date Receipts: \$ 28,558.84

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