



*“<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.”*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Third Sunday in Lent – March 19, 2017**

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Jacob Gordon, Director of Music Ministries

*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 card attached to the front of the bulletin. 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**

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

*Today we commemorate Joseph, Guardian of Jesus.* Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

**PRELUDE:** *O Christ the Same* – Marianne Kim

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

During the season of Lent  
we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart.  
Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.**  
**We confess that we have strayed from you**  
**and turned aside from your way.**  
**We fail in love, neglect justice,**  
**and ignore your truth.**  
**Have mercy on us and wash away our sin.**  
**Create in us clean hearts**  
**for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Behold, now is the acceptable time;  
now is the day of salvation.  
Almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us all our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #807: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing***



<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
 and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.  
<sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
 the heights of the hills are | also yours.  
<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
 and your hands have molded | the dry land.  
<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
 let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.  
<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.  
 Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!  
<sup>8</sup>"Harden | not your hearts,  
 as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.  
<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors | tested me,  
 they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.  
<sup>10</sup>Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,  
 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.'  
<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore | in my anger,  
 'They shall never come | to my rest.' "

**SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL HYMN: *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery***



1. Tree of Life and awe - some mys - 'try, in your death we are re - born;  
 2. We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed on through act and word;  
 3. Liv - ing Wa - ter of sal - va - tion be the foun - tain of each soul;



though you die in all of his - 'try, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn,  
 ev - 'ry per - son lost and bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord,  
 spring - ing up in new cre - a - tion, flow in us and make us whole,



still you rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
 wears the bod - y of our Lord.  
 flow in us and make us whole.

**\*GOSPEL READING: John 4:1-31, 39-42 The Voice (VOICE)**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**4** The picture was becoming clear to the Pharisees that Jesus had gained a following much larger than that of John the Baptist, *the wandering prophet*. Now He could see *that the Pharisees were beginning to plot against Him*. **2** This was because His disciples were busy ritually cleansing many new disciples through baptism,[a] **3** He chose to leave Judea *where most Pharisees lived* and return to *a safer location in Galilee*. **4** This was a trip that would take them through Samaria.

**5-8** In a *small Samaritan town* known as Sychar, Jesus *and His entourage* stopped to rest at the historic well that Jacob gave his son Joseph. It was about noon when Jesus found a spot to sit close to the well while the disciples ventured off to find provisions. *From His vantage, He watched as a Samaritan woman approached to draw some water. Unexpectedly He spoke to her.*

**Jesus:** Would you *draw water, and give Me a drink?*

**Woman:** **9** I cannot believe that You, a Jew, would associate with me, a Samaritan woman; much less ask me to give You a drink.

**Jesus:** **10** You don't know the gift of God or who is asking you for a drink *of this water from Jacob's well*. Because if you did, you would have asked Him *for something greater*; and He would have given you the living water.

**Woman:** **11** Sir, You sit by this deep well *a thirsty man* without a bucket in sight. Where does this living water come from? **12** Are You claiming superiority to our father Jacob who labored long and hard to dig *and maintain* this well so that he could share clean water with his sons, *grandchildren*, and cattle?

**Jesus:** **13** Drink this water, and your thirst is quenched only for a moment. *You must return to this well again and again.*

**14** I offer water that will become a wellspring within you that gives life throughout eternity. You will never be thirsty again.

**Woman:** **15** *Please*, Sir, give me some of this water, so I'll never be thirsty and never again have to make the trip to this well.

**Jesus:** **16** Then bring your husband to Me.

**Woman:** **17-18** I do not have a husband.

**Jesus:** Technically you are telling the truth. But you have had five husbands and are currently living with a man you are not married to.

**Woman:** **19** Sir, it is obvious to me that You are a prophet. **20** Our fathers worshiped here on this mountain, but Your people say that Jerusalem is the only place for all to worship. *Which is it?*

**Jesus:** **21-24** Woman, I tell you that neither *is so*. Believe this: a new day is coming—in fact, it's already here—when the importance will not be placed on the time and place of worship but on the truthful hearts of worshipers. You worship what you don't know while we worship what we do know, for God's salvation is coming through the Jews. The Father is spirit, and He is seeking followers whose worship is sourced in truth and deeply spiritual as well. Regardless of whether you are in Jerusalem or on this mountain, if you do not seek the Father, then you do not worship.

**Woman:** **25** These mysteries will be made clear by He who is promised, the Anointed One.

**Jesus:** **26** The Anointed is speaking to you. I am the One you have been looking for.

**27** The disciples returned to Him *and gathered around Him* in amazement that He would *openly break their customs* by speaking to this woman, but none of them would ask Him what He was looking for or why He was speaking with her.

**28** The woman went back to the town, leaving her water pot behind. She stopped men and women on the streets and told them about what had happened.

**Woman:** **29** *I met* a stranger who knew everything about me. Come and see for yourselves; can He be the Anointed One?

**30** A crowd came out of the city and approached Jesus. **31** During all of this, the disciples were urging Jesus to eat the food they gathered.

**39** Meanwhile, because one woman shared with her neighbors how Jesus exposed her past and present, the village *of Sychar* was transformed—many Samaritans heard and believed. **40** The Samaritans approached Jesus and repeatedly invited Him to stay with them, so He lingered there for two days *on their account*. **41** With the words that came from His mouth, there were many more believing Samaritans. **42** They began their faith journey because of the testimony of the woman *beside the well*; but when they heard for themselves, they were convinced the One they were hearing was and is God's Anointed, *the Liberating King*, sent to rescue the entire world.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY#611: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say***

#### **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

O God, let your church on earth, justified and reconciled through Jesus Christ, be bold in its proclamation of the gospel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In your hands are the depths of the earth and the sea which you made. Make us faithful inhabitants of this earth, caring for the waterways and their creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lead the nations of the world away from the wilderness of sin and evil, and toward the light of love and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

To those who are thirsty for love, for justice, for peace, for belonging, give the water of life. For those who are suffering or in pain, bring healing balm and peace. We pray especially for Dan, Denise, Sally, Bill, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lead this congregation in service to others. Embolden the faithful here with your promise and your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the witness and testimony of the saints who have gone before us into eternal life, especially Joseph, guardian of Jesus. Let us boast in the hope they have shared, a hope that does not disappoint us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

**OFFERING VOLUNTARY:**

*Improvisation on RESTORATION(8:00)*

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy(10:30)*

trad. American; for text, see p. 11

**\*OFFERING SONG: *Create in Me a Clean Heart***

*All stand for the Offering Song as the gifts are brought forward.*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving

and the offering of our lives,

that following in the way of the cross,

we may know the joy of the resurrection;

through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

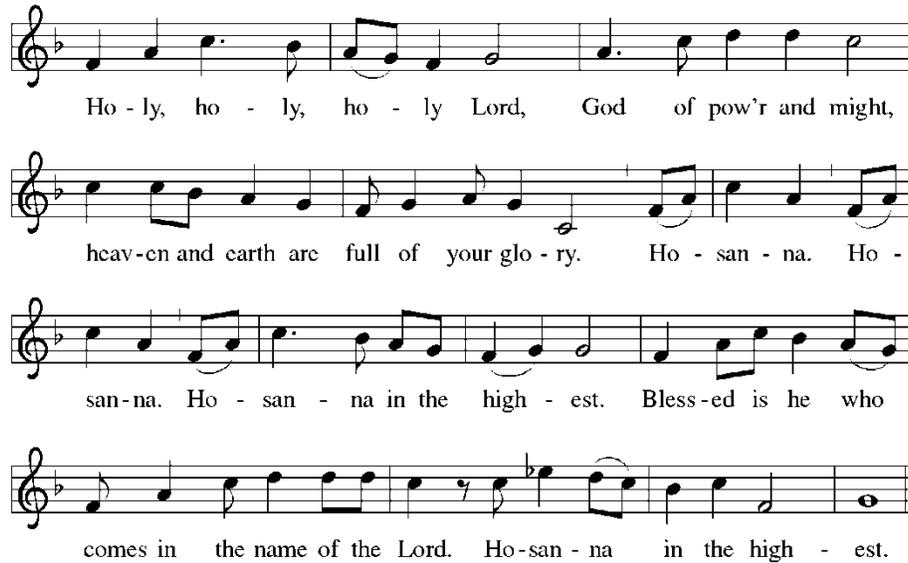
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

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 in their unending hymn:



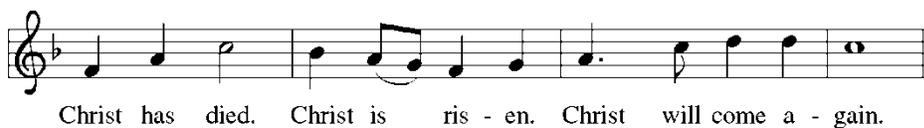
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Return to God with all your heart.  
Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

**COMMUNION**

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN #335: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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 Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:  
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,  
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament.  
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,  
and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence  
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
and claimed us as children of the light,  
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you + peace. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #623: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me***

**DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ,  
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* – Franklin D. Ashdown

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**The choir's anthem** at 10:30 features a text by English hymnist Joseph Hart, who lived in the 18th century. The focus of Hart's hymn is much the same as the Church's focus during Lent: our recognition of our sinfulness and our utter dependence on Christ for our redemption. The tune (RESTORATION) is an American folk melody first published in Southern Harmony in 1835.

Come ye sinners, poor and needy,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of pity, love, and pow'r.

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.

Come ye weary, heavy laden,  
Lost and ruined by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
You will never come at all.

I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior,  
O there are ten thousand charms.

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**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Matt Claus  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** Bob Davidson  
**Attendance Last Week:** 48  
**Weekly Budgeted Expense:** \$ 3,185.02  
**YTD Budgeted Expense** \$  
**YTD Actual Expense** \$

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Missy Kramer  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** Jim Ward  
**Attendance Last Year:** 64  
**Last Week's General Giving:** \$ 881.05  
**Last Week's Designated Giving:** \$ 1,664.95  
**YTD Receipts:** \$36,972.50

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