

*“<sup>24</sup>Very 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**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – March 21, 2021**

Mars, PA 16046-0411

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Maizy Fisher, 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? Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin. **Hymnals with the songs we will be singing are available in the front of the sanctuary. For Covid-19 safety, please take one from the side of the church with the baptismal font and return it to the pulpit side following worship.** Those who are able, please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**. In order to participate fully in worship you are encouraged to softly sing behind your mask the hymns and liturgical music. Please place your offering and attendance cards in the baskets by the doors.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – March 21, 2021**

*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 love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.*

***Today we commemorate Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556.***

*Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.*

**PRELUDE:** *Prelude in F – J.S. Bach*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

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

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ.

Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.  
 The promise rests on grace:  
 by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
 the wisdom and power of God,  
 your sins are  $\dagger$  forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
 Journey in the way of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #379 –Now the Green Blade Rises (vs.1 & 4)**



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing 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.**

**\*KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy.  
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy.  
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy.  
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy.  
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.  
A - men.

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **\*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.**

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON & BLESSING OF PERSONAL CARE KITS**

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A reading from Jeremiah.

*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.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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** *Read responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**



## **GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-33**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very 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. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #330 – *Seed That in Earth is Dying (vs. 1 & 3)***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Seed that in earth is dying<br>grows into ears of grain.<br>Grapes that are crushed in the vessel<br>turn into golden wine.<br>God, through this mystery grant us<br>faith in our deepest darkness,<br>life in our night and death. | 3 Seed that in earth is dying<br>rises to bear much fruit.<br>Christ, as we meet at your table,<br>give us the bread of life.<br>Lord, we do thank and adore you!<br>Unceasing praise of the ages<br>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**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve, especially Marcia, Zach, Geneva, Cherry, Bob, Winnie, Sally, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Bill, Karen, and Ellen, for those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you, especially Thomas Cranmer. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus 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 PRAYER**

Let us pray,  
Faithful God,  
you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

## \*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'r and might,  
heav - en 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.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

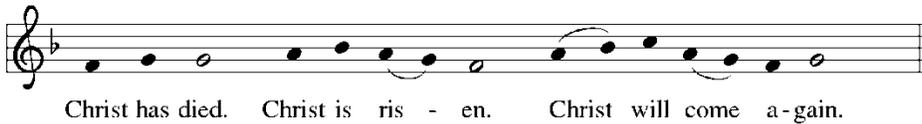
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

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.

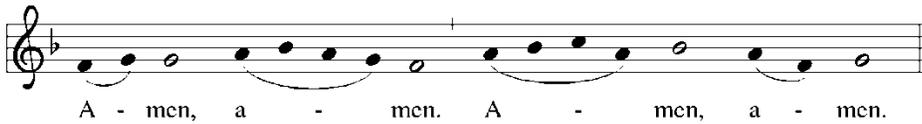
With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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.**

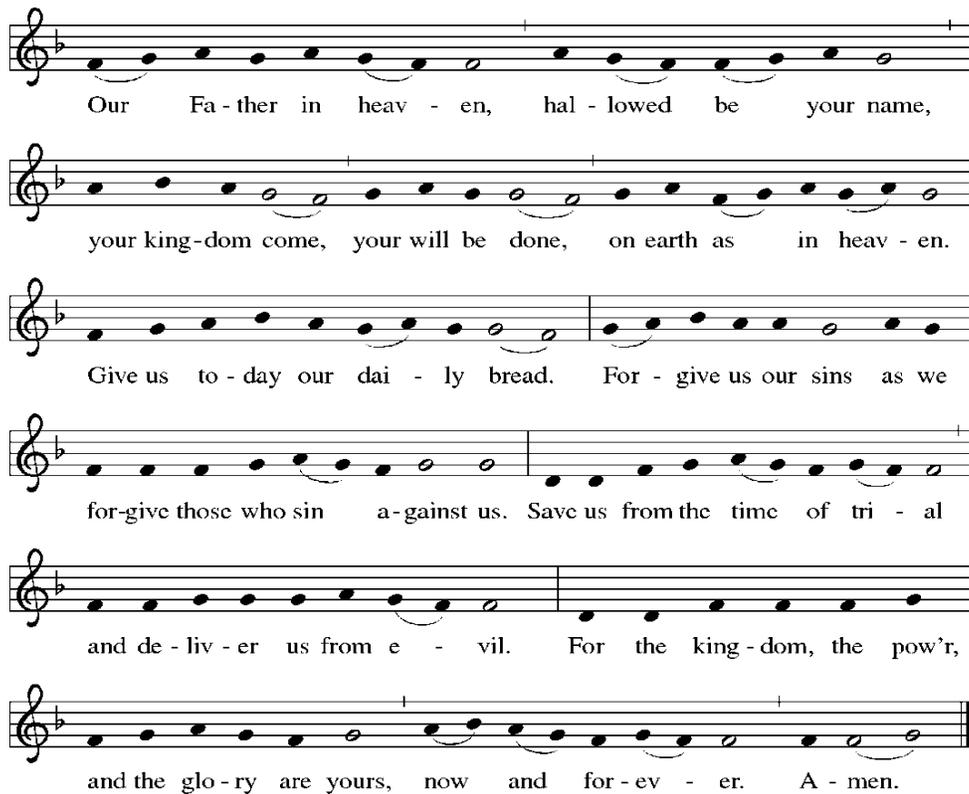
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
 Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
 Breathe new life into us.  
 Send us forth,  
 burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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.



**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

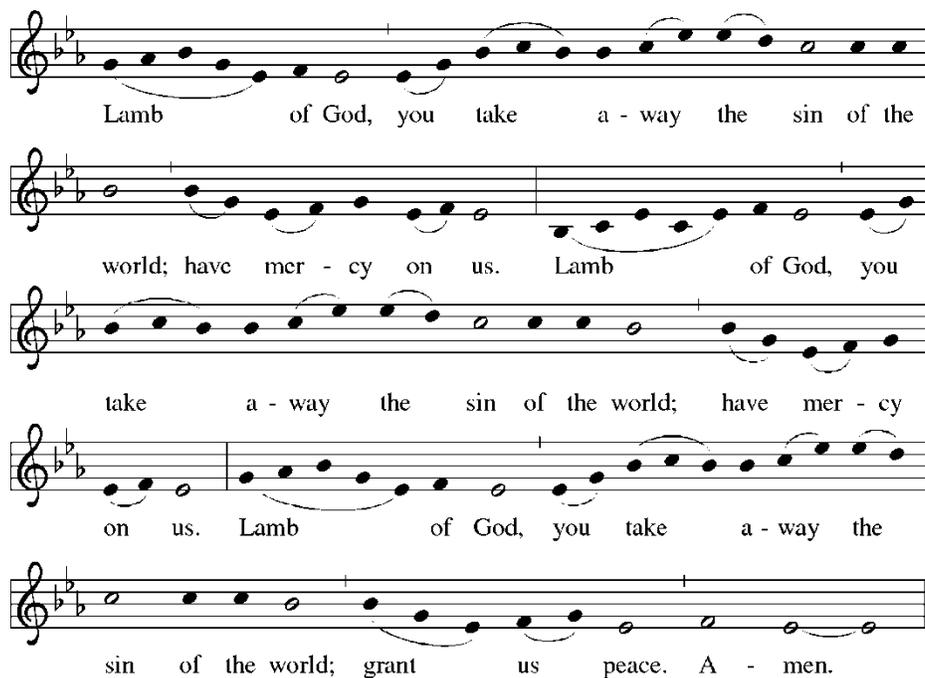


## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.  
Come to this meal and be fed.

*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. Come forward by family to receive the elements, please keep your masks on and maintain at least six feet distance from those ahead of you. Gluten free wafers are available. When you have received the elements, proceed to the small table and then remove your mask to consume them. Replace your mask and return to your seats.*

## 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. A - men.

## COMMUNION

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

## \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of steadfast love,  
at this table you gather your people  
into one body for the sake of the world.

Send us in the power of your Spirit,  
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## \*BLESSING

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG #538 – *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth (All)*

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta, es - tá  
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor:  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Fuga in F* – J.S. Bach

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**8:00 AM**

**Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Lector:**

**Usher: Bob Davidson**

**Attendance Last Week: 30**

**Attendance This Week Last Year: 37**

**10:30 AM**

**Assisting Minister: Keith Cardinal**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:**

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