



**St. John Lutheran Church and School**  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Reverend Jeff Caithamer  
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School Principal: Tim Gabbert

**Divine Service II**

**OPENING HYMN 702** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

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!

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.

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;  
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

**\*INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

**C Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what**

**we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**\*KYRIE**

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** 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.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

**\*SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray... *(The Collect of the Day is spoken.)*

**C Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Numbers 21:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the

wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.”

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup> And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

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

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

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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

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

\*VERSE FOR LENT

**Return to the Lord, Your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter. (14-21)

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

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

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY 571**    *God Love the World So That He Gave*

1 God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

4 Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus’ blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Δ6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

SERMON    *“The Bronze Serpent and the Cross”*    John 3:14-21

\*APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

**\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*COLLECT**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN 744** *Amazing Grace*

1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

2 The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;

His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,

Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

## SERVING –

**Preaching:** Rev. Jeff Caithamer

**Organist:** Keith Williams

**Videographer:** Lou Ann

**Premier Conference For Lutheran Laity** - You're invited to attend the Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference Friday, July 23 and Saturday, July 24 at Concordia University Chicago. Speakers include: Mark & Mollie Hemingway, Lawrence Rast, Bryan Wolfmueller, Will Weedon and Robert George. Early bird registration is \$135 and includes three meals. For more information, visit [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org) or call (618) 223-8385.

**OUR CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY** –We remember the following people in our prayers: *following surgery:* Starley, Cindy; *hospitalized:* Roger; *for healing and recovery:* Maelynn- granddaughter of Rick & Rita, Karla, Pastor Ehlers, Esther, Judy, Martin-son of Letty, Aidan, Whitney-wife of Ellie's grandson, Barbara-friend of the congregation, Ashlyn-infant relative of Joyce, Jan, John, Tom, Opal, Hendricks-grandson of Dan & Joanie, Jacob-great grandson of Bob & Joan, Maria, Brett-cousin of the Kindts', Merv, Jessica-granddaughter of Bob & Joan, Joan-mother of Bill, Judy-mother of Rochelle, Rebecca-daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy-father of Anne, Dan-brother of Bonnie, Todd; *for successful treatments:* Luke, Kendra (school parent), Cari (school parent), Nicole (school parent), Earl, Jayne, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy; *for our college students:* Rachel, Allie, Jaclyn; *for those in the military:* Roberto, Adam, Joshua, Andy, Brandon, Ben, Allyson, Zachary; *for our homebound:* Paul, Geneice.

For requests for the prayer chain or to be added to the chain:  
<http://stjohnmedia.org/church/PrayerList.html>

**Thank You** - Esther Berg would like to thank St. John's congregation for the many wonderful birthday cards and wishes that she received. She said that it made her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday a much more memorable event.

**Enrollment for 2021-2022** – St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool offer a Christ-centered education for students age three through eighth grade. Our caring, skilled teachers use a variety of strategies to engage students' minds in a safe learning environment, with the focus on teaching every subject with a Biblical worldview. Little Lamb Preschool offers morning and full day classes. Two-day (T/TH), three-day (M/W/F), and five-day options are available. Tell everyone about our wonderful school. Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year has begun. For more information, contact the school office at (217) 359-1714.

**Teachers' Wish List for the School** – 6 Epson Bright Link Interactive Projectors; 6 wall mounts and accessories; Outdoor Pavilion; new flooring in grades 2/3 & 4/5; 10 new Chromebooks; 3 desktop computers for school office. To view this list and estimation of expense, please see the bulletin board in the hall way by the fellowship hall.

### **OUR WEEK AHEAD**

**Today** 4<sup>th</sup> *Sunday in Lent; Daylight Savings Time Begins*; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 1:00 New Member Class

**Monday** *Day School Spring Break*

**Tuesday** 10:00 Adult Bible Class; 6:00 Council, Handbells

**Wednesday** 8:20 Chapel; 3:30 Lenten Service; 5:45 Lighthouse; 7:15 Lenten Service

**Thursday** 9:00 Lighthouse; 6:00 Lighthouse; 6:30 Men's Choir

**Sunday** 5<sup>th</sup> *Sunday in Lent*; 8:00 Holy Communion; 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School; 10:45 Holy Communion; 1:00 New Member Class

### **LEARN BY HEART THE FAMILY ALTAR**

The families of St. John are encouraged to learn these words from the Small Catechism by heart this week:

The Table of Duties - What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors

The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. 1 Cor. 9:14

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Gal. 6:6–7

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 1 Tim. 5:17–18

Hymn 450 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (st. 1-3)

Psalm 29

Bible Readings for the Week:

Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest – John 18:1-27

Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate – John 18:28-40

Jesus Is Crucified – John 19:1-24

Jesus' Side Is Pierced – John 19:25-42