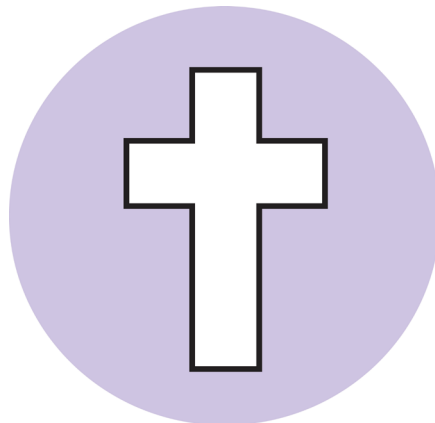


St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Hear the WORD!



***Receive the
SACRAMENTS!***



***The First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025***

**Serving Us Today:
Pastor Rob Schrader
Organist: Nancy Wallner
920-361-9935**

www.stjohnberlin.org

Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather...The cross has always been an offense. To this day, the same mystery stands: His royal throne is but a frightful cross of crucifixion—His kingdom hidden to the eyes. When confronted with the facts of God's Word, many cannot see past this mystery. Yet it is the power of God's Word that gives people the gift of faith and new eyes to see what was incomprehensible and secret now revealed by the Spirit of God. God's truth is that in the death of Christ, redemption and forgiveness of sin now avails for the entire world. Sinners are delivered, justified before God by faith in the blood of Jesus shed on the cross and given the ability to repent and believe and become children of God for eternity. For sinful mankind, this life-giving truth is impossible to believe or understand. Only because of the mighty Word of God proclaimed to the world by His church and by the power of the Spirit is that otherwise mysterious Word actually easy and powerful to understand and to believe.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS... Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation


1 Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word

We are gathered all to hear You.

**Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.**

**2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.**

**3 Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

 **4 Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.**

Text (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, 1707, Berlin; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt. Text: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—

**no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.**

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

**On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.

Kyrie *LSB 204*

**C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CAmen.

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus 26:40–42

⁴⁰“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, ⁴¹so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, ⁴²then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

St. John School Cherub Choir Sings

Epistle

Hebrews 10:19–25

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:4–6

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Sermon

524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

In a believer's ear!

**It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.**

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole

And calms the heart's unrest;

**'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.**

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,

My shield and hiding place;

**My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.**

**4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.**

**5 How weak the effort of my heart,
How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.**

**6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death!**

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon “Hear the Word and Receive the Sacraments”

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

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

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
shout the glory of Your name.**

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

`At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei LSB 210

***C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.***

***2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.***

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution Hymns

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!**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Text: Public domain

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.**

- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.**

- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.**

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*

- C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,**

**For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

537 Beautiful Savior

**1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,**

**Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss,
1823–1904 Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Attendance Last Week: 197

General giving last week: \$19,209.92

Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00

PASTOR ROB'S NUMBER: If you or a loved one are hospitalized or going through something difficult and need to speak with a pastor, please call or text Pastor Rob at any time at (920) 539-4603. He would be happy to speak with you and set up a time to visit.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES IN RECESS UNTIL AFTER EASTER:

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th. From then until after Easter, there will NOT be Thursday night church. Instead, please plan to attend Ash Wednesday service and the Wednesday Lent services each week until Holy Week. These services will be on Wednesday nights at the usual 6:30. Lent Suppers begin on Wednesday night, March 12th. Serving starts at 5:15 pm. ****No Lent Supper on Ash Wednesday.****

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

- 10 Monday Board of Trustees 6:30 pm
- 11 Tuesday Board of Education 6:00 pm
- 11 Tuesday Board of Elders 6:30 pm
- 12 Wednesday Lent Supper starts at 5:15 pm
- 12 Wednesday Lent Service 6:30 pm**
- 12 Wednesday Senior Choir after the service
- 16 Sunday Worship Service/HC 9:00 am**
- 16 Sunday Sunday School 10:15 am
- 16 Sunday Adult Bible Class (upstairs in sanctuary) 10:15 am

ST. JOHN SCHOOL 7TH & 8TH GRADE CLASS TRIP FUNDRAISER:

Chelsee's Mobile Café will be in the Dominoes Pizza parking lot on Friday, March 14th from 7:00 am to 10:00 am. Stop by for a coffee and help support our young people as they raise funds for their trip!

ASLEEP IN JESUS: It has pleased Almighty God to call from this veil of tears to Himself the soul of His servant Luanne L. Johnson. Luanne entered eternal life with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, February 5th and will receive Christian burial from St. John on Saturday, March 8th.

LENTEN SUPPER, WEDNESDAY MARCH 12TH will be served by St. John School PTL beginning at 5:15. Brats, burgers and hot dogs are the main fare. PTL supports the school with fun events for the kids and fund raising for various projects. Join us for supper, stay for worship!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! SECOND TIME-AROUND SHOP: Over the last 40 years the Second Time-Around Shop in Berlin has supported Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of WI (LCFS) with nearly \$3 million of their profits so that people in our community and around our state can receive life-changing Christian counseling and adoption services. Our thrift store has played a major role in bringing Christ and his love to numerous people! To provide so much money to LCFS, the Second Time-Around Shop relies on volunteers to run and organize their store, and they could use your help! A few hours of your time each week would be hugely beneficial for the store and for the ministry of LCFS. There are various duties available for people of all skills and ages. To ask about volunteering, call the store at: (920) 361-0334.

WEEKLY COPIES OF THE *BADGERBYTES*, the school newsletter, are available in the information rack in the Narthex.

LIGHTBULBS TO GIVE AWAY: We have LOTS of USED 200 watt incandescent light bulbs looking for a home. They came out of the Sanctuary when we put in the new LED bulbs. If you are interested in having some, talk to any Trustee.

FLOWER REMINDER: If you would like to donate or have flowers on the altar at any time for special occasions such as birthday, anniversary, in honor of or memory of for example, feel free to **sign up on the Flower Chart in the card room**. Flowers can be delivered by the local florist or brought in by you and put in the Altar Guild refrigerator. The flowers will be placed on the altar for the worship services."

TITUS 2 WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Titus 2 is a women's group dedicated to building Christian relationships between different generations. Their next gathering is March 8th from 5:00-8:00 at River Shores Church. If you are mature in your faith, please bring advice, wisdom, or scripture to share with others. If you're younger or new to your faith, please bring a dish to pass and any questions you have! Please RSVP or direct any questions to Rachel Cassidy (920) 290-4459.

**Sermon Notes – 3-9-25 –
Hear the Word & Receive the Sacraments**

-“Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him.” (Matthew 3:4-5)

-Would you go to someone who dressed funny, who was pretty weird, and who was maybe a little smelly in order to hear the Word of God and receive the Sacraments?

-You should come here not because of who the _____ is, how he dresses, how he acts, etc. – you should come here to hear the word of God and receive the Sacraments.

-Would you travel for days in _____ conditions to hear the Word of God and receive the Sacraments?

-No matter where church is held, if you're able to get here, you should come because this is where you hear the Word of God and receive the Sacraments.

-Think about your _____. Think about why you miss church. Is it for a legitimate reason or not?

-We find a way to do what we want to do and be where we need to be. Church should be what you want to do because it's where you need to be.

-“And they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.” (Matthew 3:6)

-Your biggest _____ is to have your sins taken care of.

-Here, in church, you still receive the forgiveness of your sins through Word of God and the Sacraments.

-Come to church. Make it a priority. Not because you have to. But because you get to, because you need to – this is where you hear the _____ and receive the _____ for the forgiveness of your sins.