

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



***The Second Sunday in Lent***  
***March 16, 2025***

**Serving Us Today:**  
**Pastor Rob Schrader**  
**Organist: Amanda Tetzlaff**  
**920-361-9935**  
**[www.stjohnberlin.org](http://www.stjohnberlin.org)**

***Large Print Bulletin***

**As We Gather...** How's your faith? Is it firm, steadfast, and strong? Or do you find that it seems to be growing weak, uncertain, or even in danger of disappearing at times? As we follow our Lord in this Lenten season, leading up to the distressing events of Holy Week, we are warned today that the same opposition, rejection, and betrayal faced by prophets like Jeremiah, and even Jesus, will also face us as His followers. What did He mean when He said, "You will be hated by all for My name's sake"? (Luke 21:17). But rather than a dire prediction, Jesus said, "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11–12). When challenges arise and temptations overwhelm, we are reminded to remember and observe examples of faith, such as the apostle Paul in his many struggles and even our Lord Himself whose faith and confidence in His Father's gracious design made Him endure "the cross, despising the shame" with the prospect of His certain victory and eternal placement at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). That certainty is ours. Faith hangs on to the promise "I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown" (Revelation 3:11). Or as Paul says, "Therefore, my brothers, . . . my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord" (Philippians 4:1).

**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**

### **593 See This Wonder in the Making**

**1 See this wonder in the making:  
God Himself this child is taking  
As a lamb safe in His keeping,  
His to be, awake or sleeping.**

**2 Miracle each time it happens  
As the door to heaven opens  
And the Father beams, "Belovèd,  
Heir of gifts a king would covet!"**

**3 Far more tender than a mother,  
Far more caring than a father,  
God, into Your arms we place him/her/them,  
With Your love and peace embrace him/her/them.**

**4 Here we bring a child of nature;  
Home we take a newborn creature,  
Now God's precious son or daughter,  
Born again by Word and water.**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Text: © 1984 Concordia  
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## **The Rite of Holy Baptism for Gabriella Ruby Kropp**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C 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.**

*Stand*

*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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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**

**Kyrie**

*LSB 186*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Jeremiah 2:21–25*

<sup>21</sup>Yet I planted you a choice vine,  
wholly of pure seed.

How then have you turned degenerate  
and become a wild vine?

<sup>22</sup>Though you wash yourself with lye  
and use much soap,  
the stain of your guilt is still before me,  
declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>23</sup>How can you say, 'I am not unclean,  
I have not gone after the Baals'?

Look at your way in the valley;  
know what you have done—

a restless young camel running here and there,

<sup>24</sup>a wild donkey used to the wilderness,  
in her heat sniffing the wind!

Who can restrain her lust?

None who seek her need weary themselves;  
in her month they will find her.

<sup>25</sup>Keep your feet from going unshod  
and your throat from thirst.

But you said, 'It is hopeless,  
for I have loved foreigners,  
and after them I will go.'

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## St. John Seraphim Choir sings

### Epistle

*Romans 9:6–8*

<sup>6</sup>But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, <sup>7</sup>and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” <sup>8</sup>This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 3:7–10*

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

**C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**



## Children's Sermon

### 783 Take My Life and Let It Be

- 1 Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
  
- 2 Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
  
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.
  
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
  
- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.
  
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;

Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Text: Public domain

## **Sermon “The Seriousness of Self-Righteousness”**

### **Offertory**

*LSB 192*

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

### **Offering Saint John Hand Bells play during the Offering**

*Stand*

### **Prayer of the Church**

### **Service of the Sacrament**

### **Preface**

*LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C It is meet and right so to do.**

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

## **Sanctus**

*LSB 195*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in  
the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 196*

**ALL 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.**

(sung) **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 197*

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**

*LSB 197*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C Amen.**

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

**C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

## **Distribution Hymns**

### **637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord**

1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

### **715 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me**

1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me  
Over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.  
Chart and compass come from Thee.  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

2 As a mother stills her child,  
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;  
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will  
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"  
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

3 When at last I near the shore  
And the fearful breakers roar  
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,

Then, while leaning on Thy breast,  
May I hear Thee say to me,  
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818–88 Text: Public domain

## **Thanksgiving**

*LSB 200*

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C and His mercy endureth forever.**

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

## **Benedicamus**

*LSB 202*

P Bless we the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Benediction**

*LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you  
And+ give you peace.

**C Amen, amen, amen.**

## **842 Son of God, Eternal Savior**

- 1 Son of God, eternal Savior,  
    Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
    Hallows all our human race,  
You our Head, who, throned in glory,  
    For Your own will ever plead:  
Fill us with Your love and pity,  
    Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
  
- 2 As You, Lord, have lived for others,  
    So may we for others live.  
Freely have Your gifts been granted;  
    Freely may Your servants give.  
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,  
    Yours the wealth of land and sea;  
We but stewards of Your bounty  
    Held in solemn trust will be.
  
- 3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,  
    King of love and Prince of Peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion,  
    Bid its cruel discords cease.  
By Your patient years of toiling,  
    By Your silent hours of pain,

Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,  
Stem our selfish greed of gain.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior,  
Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us  
Hallows all our human race:  
By Your praying, by Your willing  
That Your people should be one,  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:  
Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt. Text: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book  
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**Attendance Last Week: 284**

**General giving last week: \$8381.92**

**Budget giving needed: \$7500.00**



**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.

**Calendar of Activities this week at St. John**

|                     |                           |                   |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 17 Monday           | LWML Meeting              | 6:30 pm           |
| 18 Tuesday          | Council Meeting           | 6:00 pm           |
| 19 Wednesday        | Lent Supper               | starts at 5:15 pm |
| <b>19 Wednesday</b> | <b>Lent Service</b>       | <b>6:30 pm</b>    |
| <b>23 Sunday</b>    | <b>Worship Service/HC</b> | <b>9:00 am</b>    |
| 23 Sunday           | Sunday School             | 10:15 am          |
| 23 Sunday           | Adult Bible Class         | 10:15 am          |

**HOLY BAPTISM:** Being received through Baptism into the covenant and kingdom of God's grace Sunday at the 9:00 am service is Gabriella Ruby Kropp, daughter of Eli and Deborah Kropp, who entered this life on January 24, 2025 and is being given new life in Christ through this washing of regeneration. Serving as her sponsors are Reagan Kropp and Laura Tsao.

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** this Thursday and Sunday celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Bill and Deb Wissell. Congratulations!

**THE LENTEN SUPPER ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 19TH** will be served by the Board of Christian Education. The theme for the evening is Pasta Night. Serving starts at 5:15 pm and goes until 6:15. Please join us for our Weekday Lenten service after supper at 6:30 pm.

**FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE USING THE SCREENS EXCLUSIVELY** and may not want or need a full bulletin...we have available in the back of church and from the ushers a "news" sheet which contains the same calendar, announcements and sermon outline found in the regular bulletin. If interested, please pick one up and see if it meets your needs.

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES IN RECESS UNTIL AFTER EASTER:**

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 12<sup>th</sup>. Serving starts at 5:15 pm. **\*\*No Lent Supper on Ash Wednesday.\*\***

**NO COMMUNION ON 5TH SUNDAYS:** On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month throughout the year, we will not have communion and will do Matins for the liturgy instead of one of the Divine Services. If you have any questions, please talk with one of the elders or Pastor Rob.

**SCRIP NEWS:** Scrip has added another Berlin business, Bays Beards & Cuts. The gift cards are \$25 and have a 20% rebate.

We are looking for volunteers to assist in selling Scrip after Sunday services. Please contact Julie Snow 920-745-0977 or the school office if you can help.

**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.

**HAVE YOU SEEN A PLASTIC TOTE AT CHURCH** filled with materials used to make the Confirmation Stoles? It was in the Card Room before the renovation. It was last seen in a pile of things taken out of the room before the new counter and cabinets were done. When the room was finished, the tote was nowhere to be seen. If you have seen it or know anything about its whereabouts, please tell Cathy in the office.

**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.

**FOOD PANTRY:** St. John is collecting non-perishable food and paper products this month for the Berlin Food Pantry. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Suggestions for items to donate are in the March newsletter.

**GET MORE OUT OF THE SERMON:** On the wood box underneath the "Hearing Loop" sign in the Narthex are a stack of sheets used by our confirmation students to take notes on the sermon. The sheets ask three basic questions that will help you focus on what the sermon is about, learn more, and grow in your faith. Please give it a shot to get more out of each sermon!

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### **Sermon Notes – 3-16-25**

#### **The Seriousness of Self-Righteousness**

-“Brood of vipers!” (Matthew 3:7)

-“Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Matthew 3:7)

-“And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have \_\_\_\_\_ as our father,’” (Matthew 3:9)

-“The Pharisees and Sadducees failed to reckon with their own need to \_\_\_\_\_ and be converted to truth faith in Christ in preparation for the coming of the End.”

-This is an incredibly serious subject – we’re talking about “the wrath to come” – judgement day – either eternal life or eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

-Am I like these religious leaders? Am I self-righteous?

-By self-righteous, I mean: Are you \_\_\_\_\_ in yourself for righteousness through which you’ll be saved?

-“Bear \_\_\_\_\_ in keeping with repentance.” (Matthew 3:8)

-“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:14)

- We’ll all find some self-righteousness in ourselves – like I said, that is our default mode. But it’s a problem.

-“God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.” (Matthew 3:9)

-You are not righteous in yourself. But as you rely on Jesus’ death and resurrection instead, God \_\_\_\_\_ his righteousness to you!

*-As you go from here, pay attention to your thoughts, your words, and your actions and ask yourself – are they the fruits of self-righteousness or are they the fruits of repentance?*

*-Do you look down on others because of their race, social standing, cognitive abilities, work ethic, or criminal record? Or can you admit that, before God’s judgement seat, you’re in the same position?*

*-Do you refuse to hang out with or help certain people because of what they’ve done or who they are? Or are you willing to spend time with any and all people?*

*-Do you think you're entitled – deserving of this or that – because of who you are or what you've done? Or are you willing to accept the lot in life that God has given you no matter what it is?*

*-Do you believe that everyone must like you because you're pretty good or because you're special. Or do you realize that people might have reasons to not like you – because you're not always great or special?*

*-Do things always have to be your way? Or are you willing to listen to others and consider doing things their way?*

*-Do you have a hard time coming up with things that you've done wrong? Or do you readily admit you're a sinner?*

*-Do you have a hard time apologizing when someone confronts you with something you've done wrong? Or is it pretty easy to repent?*

*-Do you have to be in charge? Or can you let someone else take the lead?*