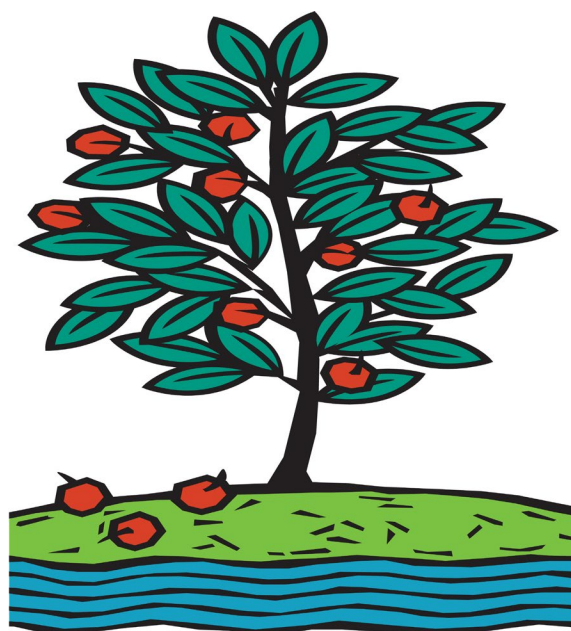


St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



PRODUCE FRUIT
IN KEEPING WITH
REPENTANCE.
MATTHEW 3:8, NIV

The Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025

Serving Us Today:
Pastor Rob Schrader
Organist: Amanda Tetzlaff
920-361-9935
www.stjohnberlin.org

Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather... A main emphasis of our Lenten discipline is our struggle against temptations to sin and toward true repentance that leads to living faithful Christian lives. As our physical well-being depends in part on healthy choices of diet, in today's Readings God uses the metaphor of eating and drinking to warn and encourage His people to avoid the temptations of the world and our own sin that leads us away from God and to rely constantly on the forgiveness and faith that God provides to enable us to lead godly lives. In the Epistle, Paul has in mind how God provides for us in His Word and Sacraments. We are to remember not only that we *were* baptized but that we *are* baptized, meaning God still provides us with saving, bold faith that relies on His mercy and grace because we belong to Him now. The center of the Divine Service is the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, through which we are given forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation—all the benefits won for us by the cross and sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. Today we are encouraged to receive and rely on God's gifts and provision constantly, that we may maintain a healthy and strong faith in the face of all adversities and challenges.

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

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
 On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
 And pour contempt on all my pride.

- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
 Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to His blood.

- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
 Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
 Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
 Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748Text: Public domain

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 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.

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

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.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 5:4–8; antiphon: Psalm 1:6

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.**

The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;
you hate all evildoers.

**You destroy those who speak lies;
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.**

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter
your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the
fear of you.

**Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my
enemies; make your way straight before me.**

**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.**

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**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 also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 1

¹Blessèd is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
²but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
³He is like a tree
planted by streams of water

that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 7:4–6

⁴Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:7–10

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁷But 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? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰Even 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 to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

742 For Me to Live Is Jesus

- 1 For me to live is Jesus,
 To die is gain for me;
So when my Savior pleases,
 I meet death willingly.

- 2 For Christ, my Lord, my brother,
 I leave this world so dim
And gladly seek another,
 Where I shall be with Him.

- 3 My woes are nearly over,
 Though long and dark the road;
My sin His merits cover,
 And I have peace with God.
- 4 Lord, when my pow'rs are failing,
 My breath comes heavily,
And words are unavailing,
 O hear my sighs to Thee.
- 5 In my last hour, O grant me
 A slumber soft and still,
No doubts to vex or haunt me,
 Safe anchored in Thy will;
- 6 And so to Thee still cleaving
 When death shall come to me,
I fall asleep believing
 And wake in heav'n with Thee!

Text: Ein schön geistlich Gesangbuch, 1609, Jena; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon “The Fruit of the Repentance Tree”

Stand

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.**

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Stand

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

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 saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

**C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

Sit

746 Through Jesus' Blood and Merit

1 Through Jesus' blood and merit

I am at peace with God.

What, then, can daunt my spirit,

However dark my road?

My courage shall not fail me,

For God is on my side;

Though hell itself assail me,
Its rage I may deride.

2 There's nothing that can sever
From this great love of God;
No want, no pain whatever,
No famine, peril, flood.
Though thousand foes surround me,
For slaughter mark His sheep,
They never shall confound me,
The vict'ry I shall reap.

3 For neither life's temptation
Nor death's most trying hour
Nor angels of high station
Nor any other pow'r
Nor things that now are present
Nor things that are to come
Nor height, however pleasant,
Nor darkest depths of gloom

4 Nor any creature ever
Shall from the love of God
This ransomed sinner sever;
For in my Savior's blood
This love has its foundation;
God hears my faithful prayer
And long before creation
Named me His child and heir.

Text: Simon Dach, 1605–59; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text: Public domain

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: Refrain

**Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. **Refrain**

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: **Refrain**

4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. **Refrain**

5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;

It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. **Refrain**

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

Stand

Post-Communion Collect

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.

Benediction

LSB 166

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.

921 On What Has Now been Sowed

1 On what has now been sown

Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;

The pow'r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

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

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Concordia Publishing House.

Attendance Last Week: 384
General giving last week: \$12,938.84
Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

26 Wednesday Lent Supper starts at 5:15 pm

26 Wednesday Lent Service 6:30 pm

30 Sunday Worship Service/HC 9:00 am

30 Sunday Sunday School 10:15 am

30 Sunday Adult Bible Class 10:15 am

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.

THE LENTEN SUPPER ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 26TH will be served by the Ladies Aid. The menu features BBQ Sandwiches. 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.

NO COMMUNION ON 5TH SUNDAYS: On the 5th 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.

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL IS HIRING a part-time food service employee for the 25/26 school year. Please call the school office to inquire, 920-361-0555.

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.

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.

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!

ELECTRONIC GIVING: Would you like your stewardship to be automated? St. John enables you to give your church offering by using electronic funds transfer (EFT). You may already be using EFT to have your mortgage, car payment and bills automatically paid using this method. Now your gift to God can be regular and "off the top," just like these other commitments.

There is no cost to you for this service. Just think – you won't have to write 52 checks a year! And you won't have to wonder where you put your church offering envelopes.

If you would like to participate, contact Amy Radliff by phone 920-361-1437 or by email at theradliffs@gmail.com for an enrollment form.

You can give weekly or monthly. Your giving is recorded at the church office and will reflect on your annual statement.

OLD BLUE AND RED HYMNALS (TLH): We have quite a few old blue and red THL hymnals in the basement. If you would like to have one (or more!) please see Trustee Keith Krause or ask Cathy in the Office to help you find one.

.....

Sermon Notes – 3-23-25 – The Fruit of the Repentance Tree

-How is _____ like a pear tree?

-Just like our pear trees automatically produced pears, so also repentance automatically produces _____.

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

-You’ll be able to tell if you truly repent by the fruit that you bear.

-More specifically, what is the fruit of the repentance tree?

-“So, every _____ tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.” (Matthew 7:17-18)

-“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 _____.” (Matthew 3:10)

-Jesus is looking for repentant people of faith to be in his Kingdom. And if we’re not bearing the fruits of repentance, it shows that we haven’t really repented, don’t have faith, and don’t belong in his Kingdom.

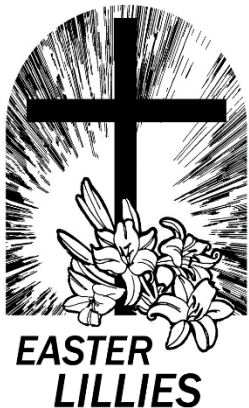
-Jesus decided to _____ to us, and, through his work, we are able to bear the fruit of the repentance tree.

-Because of what Jesus did – you are _____ for all of your selfishness, for all of the 'me tree' fruit you have born.

-When you see the Son of God hanging on the cross, it moves you to realize that there is something greater than yourself – there is a God who loves you so much he died for you.

-It moves you to repent, to stop living for yourself and to start living for the one life is really about – _____.

-Having faith in God changes how you live; when you trust in what he has done for you in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, you can repent – you don't have to live for yourself, instead you can live for God.



St. John Altar Guild would like to carry on the tradition of banking the Altar and the cross with masses of Easter Lilies or Spring plants to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to share your Easter flower, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. **Deadline for signing up and having your dedication in the Easter morning bulletin is Palm Sunday, April 13th.** Anyone signing up after that will have their dedication appear in the bulletin the week following Easter, when we will reprint all of the flower memorials.

You may bring your plant to the church on Saturday, April 19, between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. You may take your flower(s) home following the service on Easter morning. **Please LABEL your flower with your name so you can identify it to take home!**

If it would be more convenient for you to bring your flower at another time, please feel free to set it in the Altar Guild workroom. You should check with Cathy in the office (920-361-9935) or a committee member to make sure the church will be open when you want to bring it. Also, a reminder, the church is always open at least thirty minutes before a service begins.

Altar committee ladies for the month of April are Robin Henriksen (920-361-2863), Deb Wissell (920-361-0791) and Joyce Parsons (920-369-6828.) If you have any questions or concerns please contact one of these ladies. Thank you for your help in beautifying the church at this special time.

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Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday service/Communion

Thursday, April 17 6:30 pm

Good Friday Services on Friday, April 18

Afternoon Service 1:00 pm

Evening Service 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday April 20

Sunrise Service with Communion 6:30 am

**Easter Breakfast between services
in lower level**

Morning Service with Communion 9:00 am