

St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Judica

Divine Service Setting Three

April 5&6, 2025



St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool

520 Paddock Avenue

Meriden, CT 06450

Church Office 203-238-2331 Hrs. Mon-Wed: 9am-2pm

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Reverend Scott M. MacDonald 203-238-2332

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Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool

Holy Communion The Lord welcomes to his table all who repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. In this meal the Lord is present by a mystery in his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. As the Lord's Supper is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar and lest any eat and drink unworthily, those who are not yet instructed as members or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Lord's Supper, are asked to first speak to the pastor. Those who are not communing but wishing to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward. Simply bow your head to indicate that a blessing is desired.

<p>As we prepare for worship together please remember to set your phone to silent mode. Thank You!</p>

**Mission Statement: Growing a Christian Community
rooted in Faith, Fellowship, and Service**

Cover Image: Christ healing a bleeding woman

The Catacombs of Marcellinus and Peter, Rome, 4th Century

Saint John Lutheran Church and Preschool

Holy Week Schedule

April 13th – Palm Sunday 10 AM

April 16th – Holy Wednesday 7 PM

April 17th – Holy Thursday 7 PM

April 18th – Good Friday 7 PM

April 19th – Easter Vigil 5 PM

April 20th – Easter Morning

6:30 AM Sunrise Devotion

at St. John Park

196 Bee St. Meriden

8 AM Resurrection Service

9 AM Easter Breakfast

10 AM Resurrection Service

April 5&6, 2025 *As we gather for this service let us take time to lay aside our thoughts of other things as we prayerfully prepare for the worship of our Lord. Inside the front covers of your hymnal are Prayers For Worship. Additionally inside the back cover of your hymnal are the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds as well as the Lord's Prayer.*

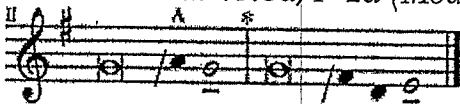
Bell tones and Prelude – *Erhalt Uns, Herr* – (We reflect in silent prayer during the time of the prelude)

Hymn: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* **655**
(As the music begins, please rise to sing)

Confession and Absolution

p. 184

Introit: *Psalm 43:3a, 1-2a (Mode II)*



Antiphon: Oh, send out Thy light / and Thy truth:
let them lead me; let them bring me unto / Thy holy hill.

A: Judge / me, O God,
and plead my cause against an un-/godly nation:
oh, deliver me from the deceitful and / unjust man.
For Thou art the / God of my strength.

Antiphon: Oh, send out Thy light / and Thy truth:
let them lead me; let them bring me unto / Thy holy hill.

(The Gloria Patri is omitted in these last two weeks of the season)

Kyrie - Lord Have Mercy**p. 186***(During the Season of Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted)***Salutation and Collect of the Day****p. 189****First Reading: Genesis 22:1-19**

In those days: God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said,

“Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

A: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Epistle: *Hebrews 9:11–15*

Brethren: Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the

purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: *Psalm 18:48, Psalm 143:9a, 10a (Mode II)*

He delivereth me from mine / enemies:

yea, Thou liftest me up above those that rise / up against me:

Thou hast delivered me from the / violent man.

Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: teach me / to do Thy will.

Lenten Verse: *Psalm 129:1-4 (Mode II)*

Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Isra-el now say:

Many a time have they afflicted / me from my youth:
yet they have not prevailed / against me.

The plowers plowed / upon my back:
they made long / their furrows.

The LORD is righteous: He hath cut asunder the cords / of the wicked.

(Please rise for the Gospel after the Lenten Verse)

Holy Gospel: John 8:46–59a

P: The Lord be with You.

C: **And with your Spirit.** (*Spoken*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

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

At that time Jesus said to the multitude of the Jews and the chief priests: "Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God." Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges. Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed p. 191

Hymn of the Day: *The Only Son from Heaven* 402

Sermon

Offertory Music *Beneath the Cross of Jesus – L. Larson*
(Sunday)

Offertory *Create in Me A Clean Heart* p. 192

(As the music begins, please rise to sing)

Prayer of the Church

Preface p. 194

Sanctus - *Holy, Holy, Holy* p. 195

Prayer of Thanksgiving 1

The Words of Our Lord p. 197

Lord's Prayer p. 196

Pax Domini – *The Peace of the Lord* p. 197

Agnus Dei - Lamb of God**p. 198****Distribution****p. 199**

The Lord welcomes to his table all who repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. In this meal the Lord is present by a mystery in his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. As the Lord's Supper is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar and lest any eat and drink unworthily, those who are not yet instructed as members or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Lord's Supper, are asked to first speak to the pastor. Those who are not communing but wishing to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward. Simply bow your head to indicate that a blessing is desired.

Communion Prayers *Prayers are provided for before and after communing inside the front cover of the hymnal under "Prayers for Worship". Please make use of these prayers or your own prayers during the time before, during and after communion*

Post Communion Collect**p. 201****Salutation and Benedicamus****P. 201****Benediction****p. 202****Closing Hymn: When I Survey the Wonderful Cross** 426

(We reflect in silent prayer following the closing hymn)

Postlude *Fugue in d minor – F. Mendelssohn*

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Offerings for God The offering box continues to be available in the narthex for our giving.

Church Attendance

Wednesday.....21
 Saturday21
 Sunday62

Assisting with our service: Assistant: Hector Rodriguez (Sat) Don Andersen (Sun), Lead Deacon: Wayne Sasso (Sat) Cissy Kulakowski (Sun), Reader: Beth Johnson (Sat) Joanne Outlaw (Sun), Altar Guild: Cathy Poulin (Sat) Kathryn Chester (Sun)

Lunch Bunch: Join the St John Lunch Bunch on Tuesday April 15th at 12 noon in the church lounge. For more information contact Laurie at - snowjay456@yahoo.com.

Thank you from Birthright of Greater Meriden: Dear Pastor, Wendy, and congregation, your generosity and kindness was awesome. The baby bottle Drive raised \$574.50 for our pregnant moms and babies...We all appreciate and are grateful for your support.
 God bless, Kate Suzio, Director, Karen Perzanowski, Co-director.

Lenten coverings

The Gospel text for the 5th Sunday of lent reminds us that Christ *went out from the people and hid himself from them*. It is customary at this time of the season to veil or hide some of the crosses and images in the sanctuary as a reminder that our sins create a separation between us and our God. So we seek him in this season anticipating his revealing in his cross and resurrection, the Easter celebration soon to be!

¹ *The Prayer of Thanksgiving III – adapted from Apostolic Tradition, Worship Supplement, CPH 1969*

News At St. John Church

The Season of Seeking: As we enter this season called Lent additional worship opportunities are offered. Each **Wednesday night at 7:00 PM** we will meet in the sanctuary for the Vespers evening service followed by a brief Divine Service with Communion. Toward the end of Lent **Compline devotional services** will also be offered in the Saint John Chapel on Sunday nights, **April 6th and 13th at 7pm.**

The Season of Seeking – Absolution: This will be offered again this year. Personal confession to another can be comforting and necessary. A time will be set aside for private **Confession and Absolution** in the church sanctuary on **Saturdays, April 5th and 12th from 1-3 PM.** Members can also make an appointment to meet with Pastor anytime.

The Season of Seeking: Finally during this season of seeking we would like to make available additional **opportunities for prayer at our facilities.** Members are invited to make use of our church sanctuary or the Saint John Chapel for prayer. The church office is open Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please come anytime and you will be let through the office side of the building. Outside of these times please contact Pastor to make arrangements. The Lord bless this season of seeking!

Church Directory Pictures: We will be taking updated Church Directory photos starting on the weekend of April 5th from 4:30 to 6:30, and April 6th and April 13th after worship.

Easter Memorials: Easter Memorials are available in the narthex. The plant deadline is April 6th, and monetary memorials are due by April 13th.

Ladies Book Study: If you are interested in attending a ladies' Christian book study, please text or call Wendy at - 860-975-8170. Dates and times TBD.

Jesus Is Our Redemption

In the temple Jesus said, “If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death” (John 8:51). For Jesus came to taste death for us—to drink the cup of suffering to the dregs in order that we might be released from its power. Clinging to His life-giving words, we are delivered from death’s sting and its eternal judgment. Christ is our High Priest, who entered the Most Holy Place and with His own blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people (Heb. 9:11–15). He is the One who was before Abraham was, and yet is his descendant. He is the promised Son who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, who is bound and laid upon the altar of the cross. He is the ram who is offered in our place, who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, and who wears the crown of thorns upon His head (Gen. 22:1–14). Though Jesus is dishonored by the sons of the devil, He is vindicated by the Father through the cross. (lcms.org/worship)