

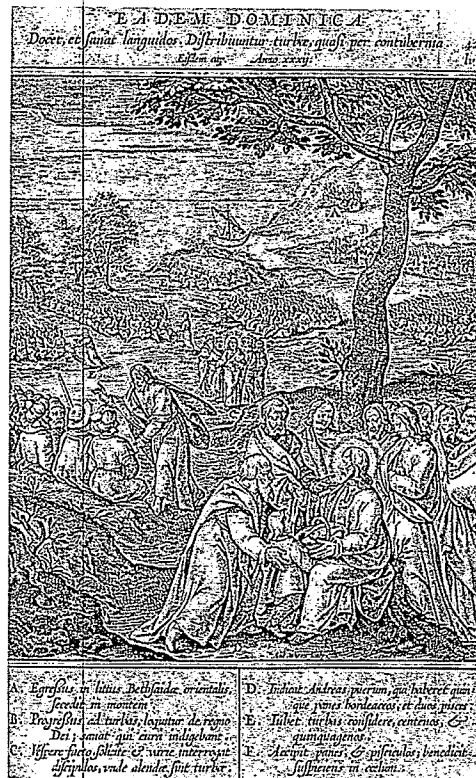
# St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*Laetare*

## Divine Service Setting Three

### MARCH 29&30, 2025



**St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool**  
**520 Paddock Avenue**  
**Meriden, CT 06450**

**Church Office 203-238-2331 Hrs. Mon-Wed: 9am-2pm**  
[office@saintjohnmeriden.org](mailto:office@saintjohnmeriden.org)

**Reverend Scott M. MacDonald 203-238-2332**

[Pastorsaintjohn@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorsaintjohn@gmail.com)

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**Preschool 203-630-3997**

**Church Website:** [www.saintjohnmeriden.org](http://www.saintjohnmeriden.org)

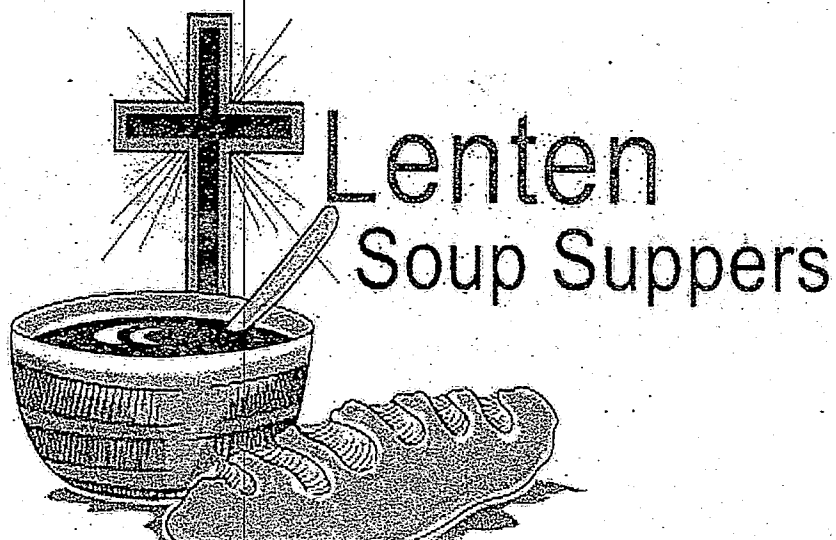
**Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool**

**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><b>As we prepare for worship together please remember to set your phone to silent mode. Thank You!</b></p>
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**Mission Statement: Growing a Christian Community  
rooted in Faith, Fellowship, and Service**

Cover Image: *Woodcut – Nadal, Jerome, Evangelicae Historiae  
Imagines, Antwerpen 1593*



*Join us for Wednesday Lenten Soup  
Suppers and 7pm Service.*

*5:45-6:45 pm*

Wednesday, March 12

March 19

March 26

April 2

April 9

April 16

Sign Up today to bring your favorite soup and dessert.

Lenten Service begins at 7 pm. All are Welcome.

**March 29&30, 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** – Rathbun – K. Hildebrand (*We reflect in silent prayer during the time of the prelude*)

**Hymn:**     *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*     **427**  
              *(As the music begins, please rise to sing)*

**Confession and Absolution**     **p. 184**

**Introit:** *Psalm 122:1, Isaiah 66:10–11a (Mode II)*



Antiphon: I was glad when they said / unto me,  
              Let us go into the / house of the LORD.

A: Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye /  
that love her.

Rejoice for joy, all ye that have / been sorrowful:  
that ye may rejoice and be / satisfied  
with the breasts of her / consolations.

**C: Glory be to the Father and / to the Son\***  
              **and to the Ho-/ly Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be-/ ginning,\***  
              **is now, and will be forev-/er. Amen.**

Antiphon: I was glad when they said / unto me,  
              Let us go into the / house of the LORD.

**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:** *Exodus 16:2-21*

In those days: The whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily." Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?" Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD." Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.' " Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the

children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' " So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat. This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.' " Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

A: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Epistle:** *Galatians 4:22—5:1a*

Brethren: It is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren, you who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband.” Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free, in the liberty by which Christ has made us free.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:** *Psalm 122:7, 1 (Mode II)*

Peace be with-/in thy walls,  
     and prosperity with-/in thy palaces.  
 I was glad when they said / unto me,  
     Let us go into the / house of the LORD.

**Lenten Verse:** *Psalms 125:1-2 (Mode II)*

They that trust in the LORD shall be as / mount Zion,  
which cannot be removed, but abid-/eth forever.

As the mountains are round about Jer-/usalem,  
so the LORD is round about His people from henceforth  
ev-/en forever.

*(Please rise for the Gospel after the Lenten Verse)*

**Holy Gospel:** *John 6:1-15*

P: The Lord be with You.

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

At that time: Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had



given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Nicene Creed** p. 191

**Hymn of the Day:** *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* 743

**Sermon**

**Offertory Music**

**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

**Closing Hymn:** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* 411

*(We reflect in silent prayer following the closing hymn)*

**Postlude**

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

**Church Attendance**

Wednesday.....27  
Saturday .....19  
Sunday .....60

**Assisting with our service:** Assistant: Bill Leon (Sat)  
Nathan Moran (Sun), Lead Deacon: Diane Foell (Sat) Faith  
Twining (Sun), Reader: Lois McCutcheon (Sat) Lisa  
Barillaro (Sun), Altar Guild: Lois McCutcheon (Sat) Faith  
Twining (Sun)

**Church Directory Pictures:** We will be taking updated Church  
Directory photos starting on the weekend of March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.  
The camera studio will be in a determined location coming soon.

**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](mailto:snowjay456@yahoo.com).

<sup>1</sup> *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, **March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

**We Welcome Our New Members!:** *Lewis and Denise Balsizer, Donald Andersen, Mary Alling, Stephanie Twining, and Alexander Pelletier, Anne Levix*

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

**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.

## **The Lord Feeds His People**

The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2–21). Now He who is Himself the living bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand (John 6:1–15). This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise (Gal. 4:21–31). Five loaves become twelve baskets—that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in the prayers (Acts 2:41–47). So it is that God's people “shall not hunger or thirst” (Is. 49:8–13). For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul. ([lcms.org/worship](http://lcms.org/worship))