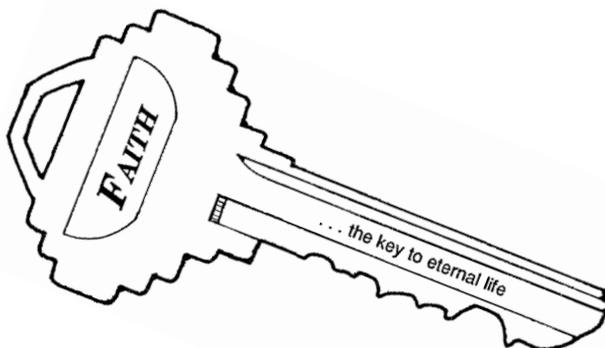


2nd Midweek in Lent
*“The Good News of a Savior
Who Conquers Evil”*
March 12, 2025



For the convenience of all worshippers at St. John, we have:

- **Large-Print Bulletins and Hymnals**
- **A Quiet Room** for families needing to take their child(ren) out of Worship, located at the back (left side) of Church, with a large window and speakers, so that families may still see and hear the Worship Service
- **Restrooms** located at the back of the Church in the Narthex
- **Activity bags for children** which are available in the Narthex, hanging on “Ginny the Giraffe”. Children may take home the pictures they color.
Please return books, crayons, and bags to “Ginny”.

(Please ask an Usher to direct you to any of the above)



St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
and Day Care & Development Center
4850 S. Lake Drive Cudahy, WI 53110
www.stjohncudahy.org

AS WE GATHER

Who is the greatest conqueror ever to have walked on Earth? Using the criterion of how much territory a conqueror ruled over, the Mongol warrior Genghis Khan could be considered the greatest conqueror in history. At the peak of his power in the thirteenth century AD, his rule extended over 4,860,000 square miles. Coming in at the second spot was the Macedonian ruler Alexander the Great. The borders of his empire in the fourth century BC included much of Europe and North Africa and parts of the Middle East and Asia, which totaled some 2,180,000 square miles. History reveals that those massive empires did not survive long past the deaths of these warrior leaders. In our worship, we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the “Conqueror renowned” (*LSB 554:1*) Who “Triumphed over Cross and Grave” (*LSB 551:4*). His Coming to Earth to bring about a Matchless Victory for us over evil and all that oppresses us is Eternal and limitless!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

PSALM 8

Pastor: O LORD, our LORD, how Majestic is Your Name in all the Earth! You have set Your Glory above the Heavens.

All: Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established Strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

Pastor: When I look at Your Heavens, the Work of Your Fingers, the Moon and the Stars, which You have set in place,

All: what is man that You are mindful of him, and the Son of Man that You care for Him?

Pastor: Yet You have made Him a little lower than the Heavenly Beings and Crowned Him with Glory and Honor.

All: You have given Him dominion over the Works of Your Hands; You have put all things under His Feet,

Pastor: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

All: the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our LORD, how Majestic is Your Name in all the Earth!

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.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN INTRODUCTION

Pastor: Although the deep and grand texts of many of the hymns of the Lenten season have been used in the church for centuries, there are also new texts in other sections of the hymnal that highlight certain features of the Passion of our Lord in this Holy Season. One of those hymn texts is “The Tree of Life,” written in the 1990s by Pastor Stephen Starke. It contrasts the tree in the Garden of Eden—having fruit eaten in disobedience to God’s Command by Eve and Adam—with the Tree of the Cross of Calvary, where Jesus overcame the power of Satan by His Sacrificial Death to pay the price of the sins of mankind. Both Trees have power, and each has beauty as well. Both are central to the Message of the Gospel.

One can expand their Lenten devotional life by meditating on hymn texts. “The Tree of Life with every good” is the type of text that invites prayerful reflection as it musically expresses the words of the Proper Preface for Holy Week that proclaim Jesus’ great Victory over Satan: “that the serpent who overcame by the Tree of the Garden might likewise by the Tree of the Cross be overcome.”

HYMN “*The Tree of Life*”

LSB 561

- 1 The Tree of Life with ev’ry good,
in Eden’s Holy Orchard stood,
and of its fruit so pure and sweet,
God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this Garden also grew, another tree,
of which they knew;
its lovely limbs with fruit adorned,
against whose eating God had warned.

- 2 The stillness of that Sacred Grove,
was broken, as the serpent strove,
with tempting voice Eve to beguile,
and Adam too by sin defile.
O, day of sadness when the breath,
of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
its awful poison first displayed,
within the world so newly made.
- 3 What Mercy God showed to our race,
a plan of rescue by His Grace:
in sending One from woman's seed,
the One to fill our greatest need—
for on a Tree uplifted high,
His Only Son for sin would die,
would Drink the Cup of Scorn and Dread,
to crush the ancient serpent's head!
- 4 Now from that Tree of Jesus' shame,
flows Life Eternal in His Name;
for all who trust and will believe,
Salvation's Living Fruit receive.
And of this Fruit so pure and sweet,
the Lord invites the world to eat,
to find within this Cross of Wood,
the Tree of Life with ev'ry good.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 / Text: © 1993 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission:
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+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

FIRST READING *Genesis 3:14–15*

ESV 3

¹⁴The LORD GOD said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, when we, by our sin, had fallen away from You, You graciously came down to us. You Became Man to save humanity. You lived among us in lowliness that we may live with You in Glory. You endured Satan's attacks for us that You could crush the serpent's head for us. By Your Humble Incarnation, Your Life of Purity and Selfless Service, and Your Sacrificial Death, You have Redeemed us. Therefore, God our Father has highly exalted You and put everything under Your Feet, and we humbly bow before You, for You are our Lord, and You Live and Reign with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

SECOND READING *Hebrews 2:11–15*

ESV 1188

¹¹For He Who Sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have One Origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹²saying, "I will tell of Your Name to My brothers; in the midst of the Congregation I will sing Your praise." ¹³And again, "I will put my trust in Him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given Me." ¹⁴Since therefore the children share in Flesh and Blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through Death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and Deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 12:20–33*

ESV 1068

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the Feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be Glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the Earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep

it for Eternal Life. ²⁶If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷“Now is My Soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this Purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, Glorify your Name.” Then a Voice came from Heaven: “I have Glorified it, and I will Glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An Angel has spoken to Him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This Voice has come for your sake, not Mine. ³¹Now is the Judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³²And I, when I am Lifted Up from the Earth, will draw all people to Myself.” ³³He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”* Vs 1,2

LSB 427

- 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.

SERMON

HYMN *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”* Vs 3,4

LSB 427

- 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

OFFERING *(received and brought to the Altar)*

OFFERTORY *(sung)*

LSB 159

All: **What shall I render to the Lord for all His Benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the Name of the Lord.
I will take the Cup of Salvation
and will call on the Name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord
now in the presence of all His people,
in the Courts of the Lord's House,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

NICENE CREED

All: **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.**

PASSION READING *John 18:1–14*

ESV 1074

¹When Jesus had Spoken these Words, He went out with His Disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a Garden, which He and His Disciples

entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with His Disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the Chief Priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to Him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So He asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He. So, if you seek Me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the Word that He had Spoken: "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost not one." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the Cup that the Father has given Me?" ¹²So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. ¹³First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that One Man should die for the people.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Pastor: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

All: Let our cry come to You.

Pastor: Almighty God, in the fullness of time, You sent the Promised Offspring, Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us.

All: By His Redeeming Death, He has crushed the serpent's head for us.

Pastor: Saved from sin, death, and the devil by His Holy, Precious Blood and His innocent Suffering and Death,

All: help us to find healing in His Wounds,

Pastor: and grant us eyes of faith

All: to see that His Cross is, for us, the Tree of Life.

Pastor: Throughout these forty days, O Lord, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus

All: and help us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Pastor: until the day when we and all the faithful rest and rejoice with You in Paradise

All: and experience the fullness of Your Peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Pastor: Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

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. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to Everlasting Life.

All: Amen. Amen. Amen (sung)

LSB 202

HYMN "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

LSB 883

- 1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night,
for all the Blessings of the Light.
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
beneath Thine own Almighty Wings.
- 2 Forgive me, Lord, for Thy Dear Son,
the ill that I this day have done,
that with the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
- 3 Teach me to live that I may dread,
the grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die that so I may,
rise glorious at the Awe-full Day.

4 Oh, may my soul in Thee repose,
and may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
sleep that shall me more vig'rous make,
to serve my God when I awake!

5 When in the night I sleepless lie,
my soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
no pow'rs of darkness me molest.

6 Praise God, from Whom all Blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him Above, ye Heav'nly Host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt. / Text: Public domain

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THOSE WHO SERVE

Officiant: Rev. Phillip DeVries

Elder on Duty:
Mark Baggenstoss

Usher on Duty
Jim Fahser

Organist:
Kristi DeVries

Altar Guild:
Pat Mueller



UPCOMING 2025 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES:

will be held at **6:30pm**,

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

Dinners will be served at **5:15pm before the services.**

LENTEN DINNERS

Take a break from cooking and join your family and friends for dinner prior to the Wednesday Lenten Worship Services. Sign-up sheets for the desserts are located in the Narthex. Dinner will be served starting at 5:15pm. Watch the weekly bulletin for menus and updates. A big thank you goes out to the groups who have graciously offered to sponsor the dinners! The schedule and sponsors are:

Mar. 19: Dorcas Society: Baked Ham & Turkey with sides

Mar. 26: Pot Luck



Apr. 02: Pulled Pork & Chicken Sandwiches with sides

Apr. 09: Buttke Family: Spaghetti from That's Amore



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILD DAY CARE

CHURCH 414-481-0520

DAY CARE 414-482-0554

Office Hours: M-F / 9:00am – 2:00pm

Hours M-F / 6:00am – 5:30pm

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Lutheran Counseling & Family Services

414-536-8333

www.lcfswi.org

UPCOMING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

At the **April 12 (3pm)** and **April 13 (9am)**
Palm Crosses will be shared at both Worship Services.

April 12: Palm Saturday

- Worship Service at 3:00pm



April 13: Palm Sunday – Sunday of the Passion

- Worship Service at 9:00am

April 17: Maundy Thursday

- Worship Service at 6:30
 - Bell Choir will play
 - Traditional Communion Liturgy
 - The Stripping of the Altar

April 18: Good Friday

- Worship Service at 6:30pm
 - The full Scripture report of Jesus' Condemnation, Suffering and Death

April 19: Easter Saturday – Easter Vigil Service

- Worship Service at 6:30pm

April 20: Easter Sunday – Alleluia!! He Is Risen!!

- Easter Breakfast 8:30am
(Registration for breakfast is appreciated)
- Easter Worship Service at 10:00am

