

Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974

361-277-8653

Pastor John Boor

March 22, 2023

Lent 4

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

The bread we bake in our homes or buy from the store is good for today. But by tomorrow, it may be gone. The gifts we receive in this world satisfy us for a moment; however, the gifts we receive in the promised treasures of God's Word are gifts that are eternal. When Jesus describes Himself in John 6 as the bread of life, we know that He highlights for us His mission of salvation. As our bread of life, Jesus comes to forgive us, renew us, and lead us toward a meaningful life in relationship with Him. Let us taste and experience that life together this day as the Holy Spirit calls us to walk with Jesus and be satisfied by His presence among us.

THE PRELUDE

Announcements

HYMN

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

LBW #99

**O Lord, through-out these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin,
And free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and you won; Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us your nerve, your skill and trust
In God's eternal Word.**

**Through parched and hungry, yet you prayed
And fixed your mind above;**

So teach us to deny ourselves That we may know God's love.

**Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns,
We join in heaven's praise.**

Please stand

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

OPENING SENTENCES

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
But He was wounded for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1–11

Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

With humble hearts, let us pray together:

Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray. Even though You claimed us as Your own in the waters of Baptism, we often do not walk in the newness of life. Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God. With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who blesses us with new birth in the water and the Spirit and assures us that our lives belong to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reveal Yourself as the bread of life who satisfies all the hungry souls that return to You in repentance and faith. Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 16:2–5, 11–18

The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the sixteenth chapter.

²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” . . .

¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people 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, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” ¹⁷And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

PSALM

Psalm 19:7–10, 14

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the just decrees of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1–4, 15–17

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. . . .

¹⁵I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Gospel Verse

(sung)

**Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:32–37

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord. (*sung*)

³²Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to Him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.

³⁷All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung*)

Message

“Life Giving Bread”

Pastor John

Hymn

“There Is A Green Hill Far Away”

LBW #114

**There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all**

**We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us,
He hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiv’n
He died to make us good
That we might go at last to heav’n
Saved by his precious blood**

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER

- P Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.
- C **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**
- P Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**
- P Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.
- C **Enable us to see the blessings You have poured out into our lives through the washing of water with the Word.**
- P Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.
- C **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

- C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C **Amen.**

“The Old Rugged Cross” (Verse 1 & 2)

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

**To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.**

**And I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

(The congregation leaves in silence.)