

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974

361-277-8653

Pastor John Boor

February 21, 2024

Lent 1

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

Since the fall into sin, no part of our human nature has escaped the ravages of original sin. Not only has sin separated us from God to our spiritual detriment, but our bodies, created for perfect health, endure sickness and injury. King David announces God's answer to this catastrophe in Psalm 41:3: "The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health." This is a beautiful promise, but what does it mean for you and your infirmities? As all the Scriptures bear witness to Jesus, the gifts contained in these words are only revealed by your Baptism into Him by whose wounds we are healed.

THE PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

P O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

**C 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.**

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

HYMN

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

LBW #294

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
In Him, my righteousness, alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Please stand

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

Amen

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.

Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, through water You reshape and restore Your fallen creation, entering our lives in Baptism so that we may be cleansed by Your Spirit.

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.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

James 5:7-18

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

¹²But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

¹³Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the

prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

SERIES PSALM

“Be Gracious to Me” (Psalm 41:3-5)

- A May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.
- C **May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.**
- A The LORD sustains him on his sickbed;
in his illness You restore him to full health.
As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against You!”
My enemies say of me in malice,
“When will he die and his name perish?”
- C **May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.**

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 3:1-8

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

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

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher

come from God, for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”
³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE

Pastor John

HYMN

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

LBW #115

**Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy Passion;
Let Your Spirit now endow
Me for meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suffering, pain and death
That I may not perish.
Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails, did wound You,
How You died for those, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.**

**Let, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see your Passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
For I also and my sin
Wrought your deep affliction;
This the shameful cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.**

Let me view Your pain and loss
With repentant grieving,
Nor prepare again your cross
By unholy living.
May I give you love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in Heav'n above
Sing your praise forever.

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

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.

Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.

Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.

Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

Enable us to see the blessings You have poured out into our lives through the washing of water with the Word.

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.

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

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

HYMN

"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
And 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
It's 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
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

(The congregation leaves in silence)