

Welcome to Worship  
St. John's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



*Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 22, 2026*

CHURCH: 419-293-3445  
Pastor: SAM Paul Brooks - 419-722-8625

[SJLCMcComb@gmail.com](mailto:SJLCMcComb@gmail.com)  
and Rev. Ken Pollitz

**5th Sunday of Lent**

**March 22, 2026**

**Welcome:** Thank you to those who join us for Worship. We hope you will be blessed as we pray and sing together, as we hear God's Word read and proclaimed. We gather as equals in the sight of God, who loves us, forgives us, and is WITH US. Peace be with you.

**Serving at Worship Today:**

READER: Linda Ross  
ACCOMPANIST: Linda Ross

**Your Servant Leaders:**

Worship Leader: SAM Paul Brooks  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dave Sharninghouse, 419-293-2322 Hm.  
419-429-2391 Cell

NWOS BISHOP: The Rev. Daniel Beaudoin

ELCA BISHOP: The Rev. Yehiel Curry

**St. John's email address:** [SJLCMcComb@gmail.com](mailto:SJLCMcComb@gmail.com)

**St. John's Facebook page:** <https://facebook.com/SJLCMcComb>

**Attendance Last Sunday:** 7

**Offering Last Sunday:** \$625.00

**Direct Deposit:** \$20.00

**Mile of Pennies:** \$.00

**Good Friday:** \$.00

**Food Pantry for March:** We will be requesting Canned Meats of all kinds, boxed dinners such as Tuna Helper & Etc., Macaroni and Cheese.

**We Have A New Mission Statement:**

**Serving the community by sharing the love of God by example.**

**FYI:** On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Michele Robles and Linda Ross will be attending Synod Assembly 2026 in Bowling Green, OH. Sent by the Crucified and Risen Jesus: For the Renewal of Northwestern Ohio and the World.

*Worship Assistants*

# Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 22, 2026

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.*

*\*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

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## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER REQUESTS

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to listen."*

### THE GREETING

Leader: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**

### \*GATHERING HYMN #325

I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

### \*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**ALL: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. Amen.**

**\*KYRIE**

1, 3 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
 2 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

**\*THANKSGIVING RESPONSE**

Leader: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **ALL: Amen.**

**\*GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

*Refrain*  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God. heav-en - ly King. al - might-y God and Fa - ther. we  
 wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

*Refrain*  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer of the Day.

**ALL: In this season of contemplation, help us to recognize that you revealed yourself in Jesus, who walked among us and was handed over to be crucified. May we be strengthened by his presence among us today. Amen.**

## PSALM READING

*(responsively)*

PSALM 146

Reader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**ALL: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Reader: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

**ALL: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.**

Reader: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

**ALL: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

Reader: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

**ALL: Praise the Lord!**

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg 142 Setting 3



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## \*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 19:1-16A

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 19. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

<sup>8</sup>Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to

“speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” <sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar.”

<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew [\[c\]](#) Gabbatha. <sup>14</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” <sup>15</sup> They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” <sup>16</sup> Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY #843**

PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS

### **\*THE APOSTLE CREED**

**ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: For your whole church: breathe your life-giving Spirit upon us, raising us from spiritual dryness and fear. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized to proclaim Christ as the resurrection and the life, especially where hope feels buried. Hear us, O God, **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: For peace in the nations, particularly amid the escalating war between the United States, Israel, and Iran: out of the depths we cry to you. End the cycle of violence, airstrikes, and suffering. Open graves of hatred and bring forth reconciliation; guide leaders to choose life over destruction and dialogue over destruction. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: For those in authority: set their minds on the Spirit, granting wisdom, humility, and courage to pursue just peace rather than endless war. Inspire policies that protect the vulnerable and honor your call to life. Hear us, O God, **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: For U.S. service members and all in harm's way in the region: guard their lives, comfort their families waiting in anxiety, and bring them safely home. Shield civilians, refugees, medical workers, and the grieving; raise up hope where death seems to reign, as you raised Lazarus. Hear us, O God, **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit: we pray today for John, Gary, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Don, Ashley,

Brandt, Mary, Pat, Gordon, Vicki, Jim, Josh, Linda, Russell, Ruth, Steve, Karen, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Granger, Owen, Mike, Diana, Sean, Judy, Christina, Mike, Riley, Dennis, Anita, Amy, Nickie, Eli, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Michael, and Cindy. Bring relief to every place of pain and sickness. Hear us, O God, **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: For this congregation and our neighbors: deepen our compassion, equip us to serve those affected by global unrest, and make us instruments of your peace in daily life. Hear us, O God, **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: For all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Hear us, O God, **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader Trusting in your mercy, we commend all for whom we pray to your loving care, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying,

## **\*THE 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**

## \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

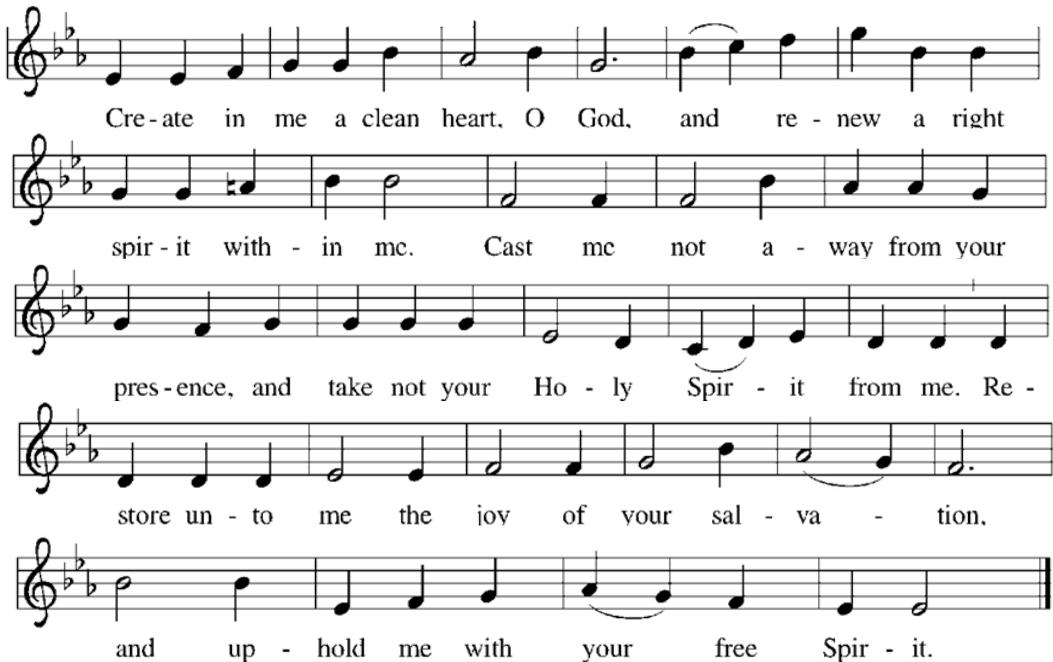
*Please share God's peace with those worshipping around you.*

## INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Today, let us joyfully offer our time, our treasure, and our talents, not because we feel that we have to, but because we are thankful for the blessings and the community we have.

## \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #188

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. In this season of Lent, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## \*BLESSING

Leader: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

## \*The Amen



## \*SENDING HYMN #697

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

## \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Believe the good news. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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*"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"* TEXT: African American Spiritual MUSIC: African American Spiritual; arr. hymnal version Arr: © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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*"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* MUSIC: J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739 PUBLIC DOMAIN

*"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"* PUBLIC DOMAIN

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*Looking ahead –*

*Last Lenten Bible Study @ 6 p.m.*

*March 25 - St Luke's Church*

*Maundy Thursday Worship @ 5 p.m.*

*Easter Worship @ 8 a.m.*

*Easter Breakfast 9 a.m.*



**Calendar of Events:**

Sun. Mar. 29 – 8:00 A.M. Worship Service

Sun. Mar 29 – 9:30 A.M. Sunday School

Sun. Apr. 5 – 8:00 A.M. Worship Service w/Holy Communion

Sun. Apr. 5 - 9:30 A.M. Sunday School

**Readers for January**

Mar. 29 – Jerry McCullough

Apr. 5 - David Sharninghouse

Apr. 12 - Lori McDaniel

Apr. 17 - Carol Cary

Apr. 24 – Linda Ross

**In Our Prayers:** John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Sue Maki, Carol & David Cary, Betty Hornbeck, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Teri Zent, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Kris, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Brandt Edler, Mary Scroll, Pat Newell, Gordon Myers, Vicki Shoop, Jim Cary, Josh, Linda Hoops & Ellery Paige Robinson. Please pray for the victims of all natural disasters, our shut-ins, others absent from our worship this morning, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.

**Reminder:** We have the new group here every Sunday at 11:00A.M. They are very happy to be able to meet here.

**Celebration of Life:** For Paul Maki will take place on April 11, at 12:00 P.M. The family and friends will gather in our Parish Hall for a meal and remembrance of Paul. There is no set time limit. So, if you knew Paul, please plan to be here,

**FYI:** Don't forget to Direct your Choice Dollars before March 31, 2026.

**Easter Breakfast:** We will be having our usual Easter Breakfast this year. We will be having an Egg Casserole, Sausage Gravy & Biscuits, Fruit, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Juice & Punch, Coffee and Milk. As always there will be a basket for donations. Your Church Council Members will be providing the meal. Please let us know that you will be attending, so we can make sure we have enough for everyone to enjoy. Encourage your family members to come and enjoy it with you.

# Sermon Notes

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

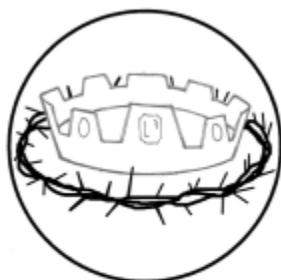
1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

—John 19:5

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What do you understand? What questions do you have?***

Sunday	John 19:1-16a	Jesus Is Sentenced
Monday	John 16:8-12	The Spirit Will Teach
Tuesday	John 16:13-16	The Spirit Will Guide You to Truth
Wednesday	John 16:17-22	The Disciples Will See Jesus Again
Thursday	John 16:23-28	Ask and You Shall Receive
Friday	John 16:29-33	The Disciples Will Be Scattered
Saturday	John 17:6-9	Jesus Prays for His Disciples
Sunday	John 19:16b-22 [12:12-27]	A Different Kind of King

*If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!*

## SERVICE CHALLENGE

*SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.*

Make a plan to do some outside spring cleaning in your neighborhood.

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