

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Saint John Lutheran Church

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

March 10, 2024

Welcome!

"How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us!" (1 John 3:1).

We are thankful that you are joining in the worship of the people of God this day. Ushers at the door are glad to assist you at any time.

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located on the right in the lobby and down the bell tower hallway to the right towards the fellowship hall.
- Prayer requests may be written on the white cards in the pew rack and given to an usher before worship begins, or as you leave.
- A self-staffed nursery is available to parents as needed, passed the wooden double doors on the left.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner of the sanctuary.

Notice to Worshipers: Today's service is livestreamed and recorded. It is available for public viewing and playback at www.SaintJohnHattiesburg.com by clicking on the 'Watch Live' button.

About the Offering

Gifts are gathered today at the offering plate near the sanctuary entrance. Here the people of God bring their tithes and sacrificial offerings as an expression of their discipleship, and for the continuation of Jesus' mission work, both in this community and to the ends of the earth. Guests are not expected to bring financial gifts but are welcome to join the congregation in offering their prayers and praises.

About Holy Communion

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. In this, we remember that the divine is united with the created as one in the person of Jesus.

This altar is the Lord's table. Here all are welcome who acknowledge their need for a Savior and look to Jesus. We believe what he simply says about the bread – "This is my body, given for you." – and about the wine – "This is my blood, shed for you." Thus, the Lord Jesus is truly present for his redeemed people in this holy meal. In this we retain the divine mystery in the midst of his ordinary creation. From the many seeds of wheat come one loaf. From the many grapes are pressed one cup. His many diverse people constitute one body and community of faith.

Young children are welcome to this altar to receive a blessing, as are those who have not been instructed in the Christian faith. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest or by simply asking for a blessing.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray have white grape juice for those who desire it. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

We are imperfect people, and we live in an imperfect world. We are all in this together. So when we believe or act wrongly towards someone, or when we feel that another has wronged us, we commit ourselves to the humble teaching and forgiving pattern of Jesus in Matthew 18.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

+ GATHERING +

Prayer As We Begin — *Please stand.*

C Heavenly Father, as we come before you this morning in Jesus' name, we pray all that we say and do in our worship will give you glory. Help us, Lord, to focus our thoughts on you, so your Word will find fertile ground in our minds and hearts. May the worship service today accomplish in us the purpose you desire. Amen.

The Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. Then the confession.

P I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

C The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

P Amen.

C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C Amen.

Salutation and Collect Prayer

P The LORD be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children, and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give

thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

℣ *The Old Testament Reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is from Numbers, Chapter 21, Verses 4-9. The Israelites' contempt for the heavenly bread (manna) was more serious than one might think. It was tantamount to spurning God's grace.*

⁴From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So, Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

℣ This is the Word of the LORD.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem ~ Amazing Grace

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

℣ *The Epistle is from Ephesians, Chapter Two, Verses 1-10. Apostle Paul explains the steps by which God will accomplish his purposes, beginning with the salvation of all people.*

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

L This is the Word of the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

The Lenten Verse — *Please stand.*

LSB 157



C 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.

Holy Gospel

John 3:14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the Third Chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴[Jesus said:] "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

P This is the Gospel of the LORD.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all
△ 6 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To You, O bless - ed



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, Be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

The Message ~ Pastor Scherbarth ~ on *John 3:14-21*

The Prayers of the Church (*Please stand*)

Apostles' Creed

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen. *Please be seated.*

+ MEAL +

This is Christ's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast which he has prepared. In this meal we truly receive the body and blood of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a great and divine mystery! Here we are joined with God and all the saints, and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Young children and those who would prefer to receive a blessing are welcome to come forward.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

The Preface and Hymn of Praise

P The LORD be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the LORD.

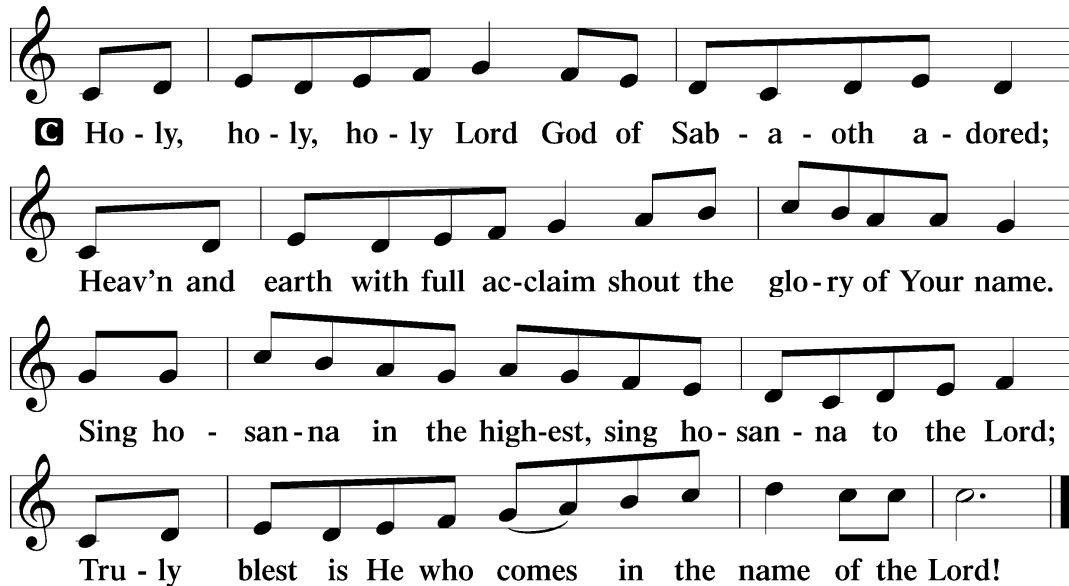
P Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Our Father

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.

The Words of Institution and Agnus Dei

LSB 962

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

Please be seated.

Distribution Hymns

What Wondrous Love Is This

LSB 543

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And
won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be-
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll
caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing





soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

LSB 702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
 My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
 Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.

+ SENDING +

Dismissal, Concluding Prayer, Benedicamus, and Blessing

P Let us bless the LORD.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P We speak the Romans 15 blessing to one another:

**May the God of HOPE
 fill you with all JOY and PEACE
 as you TRUST in him,
 so that YOU may overflow with HOPE
 by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen**

Sending Hymn on Next Page

Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

LSB 918



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
 Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
 Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
 strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more; Feed me till I want no more.
 shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.
 Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

THIS WEEK

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>10:30am</u> Worship			<u>10:0am Avenues</u> Bible Study			
<u>5:00pm</u> Bell Choir			<u>Midweek Lent</u> <u>4pm</u> -SOUP-			

Take Home Announcements — Sunday, March 10, 2024

Serving the Lord Today

Pastor	Rev. Chet Scherbarth 619.385.2094 pastorscherbarth@gmail.com
Pastor's Office hours:	Tue-Thu 9-1, Fri-Sun, by appt; Mon-off
Pianist	Lewei He
Altar Guild	Debbie Frederick & Diana Rymarz
Lector	Elaina Potesta
Acolyte	Corbin Blair

Altar Flowers: Aubry Canfield
In memory of Doris Canfield

Eternal Candle: Christina Keiper
Grateful for new beginnings

Today's Theme

Moses lifts up a serpent in the wilderness so that Israel might live. Christ is lifted up on a cross so that all who believe in Him may live. Despite God's unrelenting faithfulness, we may, at times, still loathe His blessings, yearning for something different. But in mercy, God turns toward us in kindness, forgives sin, and grants new life. Finally, in Christ, He gives us absolute grace, saving us from rebellion and preparing us for good works in Him.

Birthdays

Tessa Blair	Mar 11
Terry Lovdahl	Mar 14
Cameron Karle	Mar 15

Anniversary

Van & Mary Lowry, 56yr	Mar 14
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Baptisms

Warner Boortz	Mar 15
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Live Streaming of Worship Services —

www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com.

Online Giving — Online giving is available to members and friends of Saint John via the 'Give' tab on our webpage. Thank you for supporting our work together in Jesus' name.

Midweek Lenten Schedule – services at 4:00pm. A soup supper will be held in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

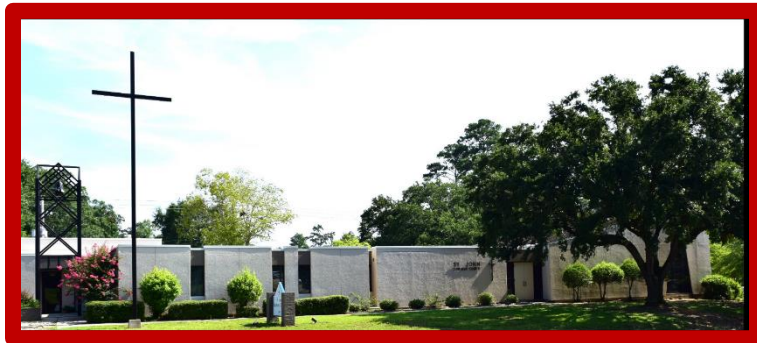
Easter Plants – Order forms are now available. Please have money and forms turned in by March 24th.

HOLY WEEK						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
PALM SUNDAY 10:30am Worship <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">31</div>				<u>MAUNDAY</u> <u>THURSDAY</u> 6:00PM	<u>GOOD</u> <u>FRIDAY</u> 6:00PM	<u>HOLY</u> <u>SATURDAY</u> 1-2PM
Resurrection Sunday 10:30 Worship						



Prayers Needed			
Chris Thiel	Serving Stateside (FL)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	10/1/16
Kelly Thiel	Serving Stateside (NC)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/16
Cory Thiel	Serving Overseas (Germany)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/22
Matt Geroux	Serving Stateside (TX)	Son of Kerry and Debbie Geroux	04.09.2022
Scott Chaney	Serving Stateside	Member	5/6/18
Bill Lowry	Serving Overseas	Member	4/15/19
John Krahlung	Recurring Cancer	Son of Joyce Coll	7/15/18
Eric Martin	Health & Strength	Member	9/17/23
Kenneth Johnson	Prostate Cancer	Brother of Wayland Johnson	10/18/20
DuWayne Lemke	Hospitalized with pneumonia	Brother of Shirley Thone	3/3/24
Doug Taylor, Bo Cleveland, Judy Lacey	Seriously ill	Friends of Don Shields	1/26/22
Yvonne Lee	Health and Strength	Mother of Patrice Lovdahl	6/29/22
Josephine Nwachuku	Prayers for Health and Strength	Member	9/11/22
Ian VanWinkle	Started infusions/Crohn's Disease	Nephew of Terry & Patrice Lovdahl	10/9/22
Geraldine Wheeler	Health and strength	Member	2/12/23
Doris Schneider	Prayers for Health & Strength	Member	2/22/23
Cheyenne Thiel	Prayers for Health & Strength	Member	3/3/23
Cindy Landry	Health & Strength	Member	4/23/23
Shelly Pardue	Strength & Healing	Doris Schneider's son	6/11/23
Ricky Myers	Now at home recovering from liver transplant	Friend of Jane & Wayland Johnson	9/10/23
Vanessa Ajayi	Breast cancer	Friend of Lillian Smith	9/10/23
Lisa Boswell	Colon cancer	Friend of Lillian Smith	9/10/23
Vic Miller	Cancer	Friend of the Lovdahl's	9/17/23
Joye McNelis	Cancer	Cousin of Patrice Lovdahl	9/17/23
Sandy Barnett	Heart concerns	Member	10/18/23
Trenia Thiel	Health & strength during recovery	Member	11/19.23
Trace Fisher	Health, Strength & Recovery/ Prayers for Tom & Erica Fisher as they care for Trace	Nephew of Pastor Scherbarth	11/21/23
Warner Boortz	Health and Strength	Member	2/25/24
Grace & Ivy	Grace-health & strength Ivy-Born 12/30/23; 2lbs, 5oz-many needs for this newborn.	Granddaughter & Great Granddaughter of Susan & W.F. Perkins	12/30/23
Kaitlyn Radavich	Post COVID problems since 2021	Granddaughter of Julie Radavich	1/17/24
Glen Stengrim	Continued strength and healing	Member	2/25/24
Mini Jasper & Family	Serious burns		1/28/24

Ruby Ezell	Mobility difficulties	Mother of LaToursha Ezell	1/28/24
Tanya	Fighting Staph infection (MRSA)		1/28/24
Aubrey Canfield	Home and still recovering	Member	2/13/24
Beth Scherbarth	Has concussion from recent auto accident	Member	2/4/24
Chloe	Recovery from foot issues	Member	2/4/24
Lisa Case	Major surgery scheduled	Member	2/13/24
Hillary Odom & Family	Had a stroke; prognosis not good		2/18/24
George Trotter	Comfort & healing	Former member	2/18/24
Kiri	Deliverance from Islam	Daughter of Josie Nwachuku	2/18/24
Bonnie Houser	Health and strength	Former member	3/5/24
Amanda Howell	Surgery recovery	Patrice Lovdahl	3/3/24
Tanya Schlamann	Surgery recovery	Beth Scherbarth	3/3/24



Saint John Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: 8:00am – 12:00pm, Monday – Thursday

Pastor’s Office Hours: Tue-Thu: 9:00am – 1:00pm; Fri – Sun: by appt;
Mon: off