

St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill
Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023



Worship Assistants

Pastor: Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

Accompanist: Linda Pieper

Acolyte: Elaina Morgan

Sanctuary Prep: Sandy Janner, Carol Haarmeyer

Tellers: Donna Skrla, Gary Schulze

Communion Bread: Donna Bentke

Screen Crew: Janice Fairlie, Kallie Krause

Memorial Committee: Deanna Giese, Susi Bentke

Ushers: Johnny Randermann Family

Council Members: Colton Maass, Jeannie Kroll

Lay Reader: Connie Rohde

Altar Preparations: Connie Rohde, Janet Wehring

Church Ministers: St John Members

Please tune to 87.9 FM for access to the service in the church parking lot on Sundays.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

THE PEACE

ELW Pg. 152

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you.

R. Peace be with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW Pg. 94-96

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love
you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of
sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and un-
known, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us
by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with
Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty
God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through
faith.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Lift High the Cross (v. 1, 3, 4)

ELW #660

INTROIT with Psalm 105:8

He remembers his covenant forever,

the words that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

KYRIE Psalm 105:4-8

Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He is the LORD our God;

his judgments are in all the earth.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God

ELW Pg. 148

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of your humble servants and stretch forth the right hand of your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING:

Genesis 12:1-9

¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved

and he who watches over you will not all asleep.

⁴**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵The LORD himself watches over you;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

⁶**So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;

it is he who shall keep you safe.

⁸**The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin." ¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring — not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord

ELW Pg. 151

***GOSPEL:**

John 3:1-17

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." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Norman Sulaica, Jr.

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Faith Looks Up to Thee (v. 1, 3, 4)

ELW #759

CREED

ELW Pg. 105

***Apostles' Creed**

**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,**

and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition of the prayers ends with the following response:

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #184

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW #884

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

ELW Pg. 152

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARIST PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

ELW Pg. 154

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS Come, Let Us Eat
 It Is Well With My Soul
 Blessed Assurance

ELW #491
ELW #785
ELW #638

DECLARATION OF GRACE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW #733

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and trust in God's promises.

Thanks be to God!

*Altar Flowers are given by Butch Seeker
in loving memory of
Lanell's baptism and birthday.*





CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 7:00PM, except for the Wednesday after singing during Worship Service being an off week for practice. The choir is looking for men of the congregation to join and share their voices. They sing on the last Sunday of each month and will also be singing on Easter Sunday. Come join and share your voice!



Luther League meets the first Sunday of each month. On March 5th, Luther League will meet at 2:00PM at the Bowling Alley. All Junior High and High School age students are invited to join in the fun and to bring a friend.

There will be no Sunday School class on March 19th.

2023 ST JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

President.....Herbert Klatte, Jr.
Vice-President..... Kenneth Seeker
Treasurer Sharon Neutzler
Secretary.....Rita Gaskamp
Community Concerns..... India Randermann
Evangelism.....Josh Clay
Financial Secretary..... Jeannie Kroll
Parish EdStephanie Koehler
Property..... Colton Maass
Worship & Music..... Virginia Altman

UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday, March 6th

10:00AM Bible Study

6:00PM Executive Meeting

Tuesday, March 7th

6:30PM Rachel Circle

Wednesday, March 8th

2:00PM Game Day

4:45PM Confirmation Class

5:00PM Soup Supper

6:00PM Worship Service

7:00PM Choir

Thursday, March 9th

2:00PM Ladies Aid

Watch for information regarding a silent auction the youth will be hosting During the Easter sunrise service.

Please remember to have any changes that may affect the weekly bulletin to the church secretary by noon on Mondays so that the bulletin can be updated with the correct information..

Contact Information for Pastor Norm

Pastor Norm can be reached in either of
the following ways:

Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108 Or

Email: pastornorm2003@yahoo.com



The Ladies of St. John will have Easter Lilies available again this year. The lilies are in a 6 inch pot wrapped with gold foil. The donations may be placed in honor of or in memory of your loved ones. Forms are located in the Narthex of the Church.



Bible Study Series

**A weekly Bible study is being
held each Monday at 10:00AM.**

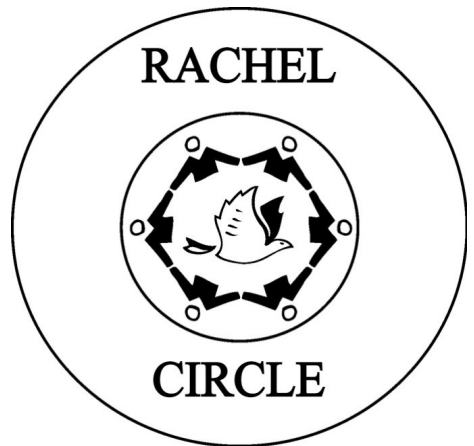


**Please join in this learning opportunity and for
the fellowship.**



Meetings are on the first
Sunday of each month @
4 pm @ St John's Activity
Center. Please join us.

The Rachel Circle meets the first
Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM.
The Circle's current Bible study is the
series "With the Master on the Mount"
by Susan Heck. New members are
always welcome.



Game Day

Each 2nd Wednesday of the month, there will be a Game Day at the church from 2:00PM - 5:00PM.

The next Game Day is March 8th. Join us for fun, games and fellowship. All ages are welcome.



Work is being done to reopen our church library. The library will be located in the meeting room across from the Pastor's office. Please feel free to help us fill out shelves by donating any Christian fiction or non-fiction books.

They can be new or used, and can be for adults or children. A box is located for the collection in the narthex of the church. Thank you for any help with this. We will keep you posted on the progress towards when the opening occurs.



Remember in Prayers Our Church Family:

Mavis Smith Janice Cordova Sydney Wagner Florence Bentke
Gilbert Spinn Helen Gaskamp Cynthia Wilson Justin Reuter
Linda King Jerry Randermann Mary Ann Luce Connie Seward Dorothy
Wiesepape Mark Marburger Tom Bentke Earline Moody Allene Holtkamp
Verna Mae Sefcik Ruth Finke Peggy & Milton Bosse Donald Lange Emery & Helen Schulze Carol Crosby
Mike Altman Dennis Moehlmann Sandy Kite Diana Williams Blake Becker Lloyd Neutzler



Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: Mary Longhofer, Brian Estes, Meredith Sommerfield, Joyce Richter, Brooklyn Randermann, Marcus Randermann, Paul Randermann, Robert Randermann, Mollie Grote, and Rhett Schroeder

Those celebrating wedding anniversaries: Lisa & René Chavelas and Mary & Robbie Roese.

Our Family and Friends:

Aaron Batot	Kennedy Altman
Amanda Gurka	Mark Hundemer
Ann Fogt	Marvin Surrect
Carol Lieber	Missy Goldmith
Christy Dallmeyer	Nicole Clark
Corrie Newland	Patty Addicks
Dorothy Bowles	Roger Ellermann
Gladys Schwartz	Shannon Wellmann

Sue Maass
Wayne Hueske

Please notify the church office of prayer requests by writing a note on the back of your attendance card. Thank you!

Remember to pickup your 2023 member offering envelopes in the Narthex.



The 2023 flower chart is posted in the Annex so that you may sign up to place flowers in the church. Please check the chart for available dates.

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Linda Crabtree prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org



Sermon Series: Promised Treasurers

This Lenten season, we have a fresh opportunity to embrace God’s amazing love for us, His baptized children, in new ways. St. Paul clearly says that “faith comes from hearing” (Romans 10:17), but the Gospel is also communicated through the physical senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well (see Matthew 13:52). So, each Wednesday in Lent, we will take a weekly journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical elements. Our Lenten series is called *Promised Treasures*. Just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land of heaven. Until we enter our eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world (see Colossians 3; Ephesians 4). This series will begin with ashes, then proceed to salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms. Then, during Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, fragrant oil, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind you of God’s eternal love in Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever.

<u>Worship Date</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Themes</u>
March 8, 2023	Midweek Lent 2	Sermon: "Psalms and Victory" Rev. Craig Dohse
March 15, 2023	Midweek Lent 3	Sermon: "Water Gives You Life" Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.
March 22, 2023	Midweek Lent 4	Sermon: "Light Shining in the Darkness" Rev. John Sutton
March 29, 2023	Midweek Lent 5	Sermon: "Bread of Life" Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.