

Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches of Martin County, Minnesota



Pastor John Henry



The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

Regarding Membership and the Holy Communion:

We believe that, in the Holy Communion, the bread is truly Christ's Body and the wine is truly His Blood, given to us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive this gift individually, we profess that we are truly one body in Christ—that we are united in one faith and teaching (doctrine). Ordinarily, full participation in this Holy Communion is reserved for those who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *Any visitors or guests who desire to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ are asked to please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service.*

Welcome to worship.

Isaiah announced God's invitation: "Is anyone thirsty?

Come and drink ... it's all free!" (55:1, NLT).

Are you thirsty for good news, peace, hope, love?

Christ is the water of life.

Opening Hymn *Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart* **708**

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P ... in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Entrance Psalm

Psalm 25:15



¹⁵My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Kyrie *sung; repeated ten times. LSB pg. 204*

P ...let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Lesson

Exodus 8:16–24

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” ¹⁷And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²²But on that day I will set

apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. ²³Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.””” ²⁴And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants’ houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 32:1–5



¹*Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,*
whose sin is | covered.*

²*Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,*
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.*

³*For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away*
through my groaning | all day long.*

⁴*For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;*
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.*

⁵*I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my in- | iquity;**
***I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.***

Second Lesson

Romans 1:16–32

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 11:14–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits

more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* **685**

Sermon

Nicene Creed *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

Offering

Offertory for Lent *LSB pg. 422*

C *On my heart imprint Your image, blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures, never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
And my glory and salvation!*

The Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

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 pg. 208*

C *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav’n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*

The Prayers & Lord's Prayer *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

The Consecration

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C *O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.*

Communion Hymns

The Infant Priest Was Holy Born 624

O Lord, We Praise Thee 617

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness 563

Post-Communion Hymn for Lent

LSB pg. 632

C *O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.*

*Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!*

Thanksgiving & Benediction

P Let us pray... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give ✠ you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* 922

Acknowledgments

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Lutheran Schools in Martin County
St James Lutheran School, Martin Luther High School
All Schools and places of learning



St James

Baptism Birthdays: Tanner Howe, Saylor Garlick, Tara Bohlsen

Serving our Country: Sean McCroskey

Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Tom Koeritz, Myla Roskop,

Webb Quade, Ronald Schultz, Dennis Hagen, Bonnie Baarts

Homebound: Carl Luhmann, Ardis Osborn

Zion

Baptism Birthdays: Braxtyn Roberts, Cody Roberts, David Hinz

Seminary Student: Timothy Schleusener

Serving our Country: Ben Peymann, Kory Brown, Jesse Peterson,

Lili Bulfer

Sick & In Distress: Greg Wallace, Marsha Peterson, Mike Sandersfeld,

Duane Behrens, Myrna Behrens

Homebound: Norma Patsche, Yonsey Karasek, David Hinz

You can sponsor the bulletins (\$10 per congregation) or **online broadcast** (\$25) anytime throughout the year, in honor of a special event or giving thanks to God. Call the church office with your request.

Bulletins are sponsored this week by Kurt & Pat Steuber in thanksgiving to God for 50 years of marriage on the 22nd. May God continue to bless your marriage.

Our condolences to the family of Craig Carrigan who went home to our Lord this past week. May God bring you comfort, peace and strength at this difficult time.



Special Zion Voters Meeting next Sunday (3/30) after church. We need to accept a bid for the parsonage windows and their installation. Voters please plan to stay for this short, but important, meeting. Thank you to everyone who has financially donated towards this project.

Tuition Angel egg fundraiser: Look for eggs in the Narthex at SJL most Sundays. Call/text Lynn Becker 507-230-2700 if want direct from the farm... Thanks!

Large Print Hymnals are available at SJL on the right side of the bulletin boxes, and at ZION on the back table by the communion cards.

A Guide for Daily Devotions

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, use this bulletin for daily devotions. On these days, pray the Collect of the Day each day, and reread the Lessons as follows: Monday, First Lesson; Tuesday, Second Lesson; Wednesday, Gospel Lesson. You may also want to pray or sing one of the hymns from the previous Sunday.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, follow this plan to prepare for the coming Sunday.

Each day, pray:

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.

On Thursday, read *Exodus 16:2-21*

On Friday, read *Romans 5:1-11*

On Saturday, read *John 6:1-15*

You may also want to pray or sing the Hymn of the Day for the coming Sunday:

Hymn: 563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

If you wish to use the fellowship hall at Zion, please: 1. Contact one of the elders for permission, and 2. Contact Heather in the office to make sure the day and time you want are free. Both of these steps need to be done to complete a reservation. Thank you.

April Newsletter Deadline is Tuesday 3/25.

SJL School Watercolor Workshop Fundraiser, Friday March 28th.

Two sections available 4:45pm & 6:45pm. In addition to the painting workshops there will be a silent auction of Caroline Porter artwork. For more information and to register scan the code or go to caroline-porter-art.square.site/product/preorder-northrop-st-james-lutheran-school-fundraiser/14



That's My Pan fundraiser for SJL School. Contact a student, teacher or the office to place an order. You can also view items and order online at thatsmypan.biz/SJL_Northrop_MN.

Parenting Workshop Sundays: March 30, April 6, & 13, 4:30pm at Dell Church, 47500 97th St., Frost MN. Todd Dube, a certified family and marriage counselor, will be leading our sessions and will be available as a resource to those interested. Limited childcare available. Please reserve your spot by calling 507-526-5000. \$20 per couple for all three sessions which includes a meal each night.

LWML Save the Date for the annual LWML Mn South District retreat at Camp Omega on September 12-13th. Topic by Rebecca Curtis, author of “Ladylike: Living Biblically”.

LWML Zone Spring Mission Rally, Tuesday, April 8th at St John’s Lutheran, 317 S Main St, Sherburn. Light supper starts at 5 with the rally beginning at 6pm. Dr Jeffrey E Burkart will speak on “Five Women Hymn Writers—Everything you wanted to know about hymns, but were afraid to ask.” Gifts from the Heart to benefit Healing Hearts Housing in Sherburn.

Choir practice for Easter services will be held Wednesdays, after Lenten worship at Zion. All voices are welcome to join us as we prepare for the Easter celebration.



Order your
Easter
Flowers

Easter Flowers available through Dee’s Floral & Designs
235-9856. Last day to order is **April 7th**.

Easter Lily - \$18	Cyclamen - \$18
Calendiva - \$18	Hydrangea - \$40

A special page will be reserved in the bulletin for anyone wanting to give Easter flowers in memory of a loved one or in recognition of a special event. **Bulletin deadline is no later than, Monday, April 7th;** call the church office (436-5289) or email your information to sjlnorthrop@gmail.com.

Camp Omega is the mission for our Lent III offerings. Established in 1964 and located just north of Waterville, Minnesota, Camp Omega has been serving for nearly 60 years as a Christian retreat facility and summer camp. Rooted in Christ, Camp Omega is dedicated to nurturing the spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual growth of people of all ages.

	LENT III: March 26th @ Zion Lutheran
	6:00-6:45pm Supper
	NFL will be serving Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwiches, Assorted Salads, Desserts and Beverages
	7:00pm Annunciation Divine Service



MARTIN LUTHER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
SJL & Zion are full association members

Enrollment for students in grades 7-12 for 2025-2026 at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School is open. All students are welcome to enroll no matter what religion they are. www.martinlutherhs.com. Principal David Stuckwisch is available any time to answer any questions. Call 507-436-5249.

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Get your tickets for the "Boots & Bling OH! What a KNIGHT! Dinner Auction" at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School, Northrop on Saturday, April 5. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for auction preview and appetizers. A catered dinner of Grilled Boneless Pork Chop w/smoked bacon glaze, Sunrise Cashew Salad, Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Breadstick and Assorted Cheesecakes will be served at 6:00 p.m. The Live Auction will follow with Land Services Unlimited serving as our gratis auctioneers. Be ready for a spectacular night of fun with lots of games to win prizes. The committee is looking for donations of new items, handmade creations, unique packages, stay and plays, or gift certificates. Notification and pictures are appreciated before March 10th. Go to www.martinlutherhs.com to see pictures of Silent and Live Items. Tickets are \$40 and should be purchased by March 20th. They are available from the church office, MLHS office and website.

The **Spring Rummage and Bake Sale** will be held at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School, Northrop on Thursday, March 27, 4-8 pm.; Friday, March 28, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, March 29, 8 a.m. to noon (\$3 bag sale). Donations will be accepted beginning Saturday, March 22nd. Volunteer help setting up and running the sale is most appreciated. Come when you can, leave when you wish!

The Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School **Knights4Life** Group is putting together **Personal Care Kits** to be distributed to shelters in our community. They would appreciate donations of travel size toiletries or cash to purchase those items. They are collecting until April 15.

Genesis Classical Academy will be holding their **Spring Fling** on Saturday, April 5th, at the Winnebago Elementary School gym located at 132 1st Ave SE, Winnebago. Dinner includes tiki-style pork on a bun, with sides, dessert and beverage, served from 5-6:45pm. Dinner is \$15 per adult and \$7 per child 12 and under. The even also includes a silent and live auction, raffle and entertainment. Tickets available in advance at Genesis Classical Academy or at the door. Genesis Classical Academy is a nondenominational Christian classical school serving students Preschool - 12th grade.




Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class.

- **Zion:** 8:45am, Narthex. Please join us as we study topics in The Lutheran Witness. Please bring your Lutheran Witness magazine if possible. Extra copies are available.
- **SJL:** 9:45am, Sanctuary. Bring your coffee and join us as we “discover how the events of Jesus’ day impacted his life, ministry and communication. Then let them impact yours.”

Thursday Adult Bible Class will not meet in March and April.


Friday Morning Bible Study at 8am in the Fellowship Hall at SJL. We are studying the book of Hebrews.

 **Issues, Etc.**

Sundays on KSUM AM 1370 or FM 97.1 @ 9 am

3/23 Handel’s Messiah On The Passion of Christ - Dr. Joseph Herl

3/30 The Deconstruction of Christianity Movement - Alisa Childers & Tim Barnett

 **THE LUTHERAN HOUR TODAY**

Sundays on KSUM AM 1370 or FM 97.1 @ 11 am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

"Even Me, Even You" Jesus the Good Shepherd invites all to be His sheep and find pasture. His words of promise will amaze some but anger others. (John 10:1-21)

Those Serving our Lord			
		Greeters	Acolyte
SJL	3-23	Dereck & Chris Bartz	Oakley Bohlsen
	3-30	Warren & Carole Schultze	Christian Drayer
ZION	3-23	Chelsey Armbrust Family	Max Wirth
	3-26	Curt & Denise Wille	7pm
	3-30	Darren & Caitlin Balcom	Harper Armbrust
SJL Ushers: Lynn Becker, Levi Becker, Al Egeness, Jacob Mortenson			
Elders: Doug (Z), Larry (SJ) SJL AG: Kay Vogt, Sandra Luhmann			

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD:		Mar 23 - 30, 2025
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri 8:00 AM - Noon		
Office phone: 436-5289 Pastor phone: 219-713-1604		
Email: sjlnorthrop@gmail.com Website: sjlnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com		
Sunday	Divine Worship	(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM
	Sunday School/Bible Class	(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM
Tuesday	Newsletter Deadline	
Wednesday	NO Confirmation Class	
	Lent III Supper	(Z) 6:00 - 6:45PM
	Lent III/Annunciation Divine Service	(Z) 7:00 PM
	Joint Choir Practice	(Z) 8:00 PM
Thursday	Eve Circle	(SJ) 7:00 PM
Friday	NO Joint Morning Bible Study	
	SJL School Painting Fundraiser	(SJ) 4:45 PM
Sunday	Divine Worship	(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM
	Sunday School/Bible Class	(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM
	Special Zion Voters Meeting	(Z) 11:00 AM

Lent I 3/12
Jt Attend. 43

Online giving is an easy and reliable method to contribute to your church while you are out of town, or if you are interested in eliminating the need to remember your envelope on Sunday morning. You can make a one time donation or save time and schedule recurring contributions. This option is available for either congregation through the website; sjlnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com, or through the tithe.ly church app.

Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion			March 16, 2025
Attendance	102 (HC 71)	Home	\$3,902.20
Loose Plate	\$48.00	MN South	\$250.00
Windows	\$6,082.00	MLHS	\$65.00
Lent I-KSUM	\$355.00		
Parsonage Window Total Donations: \$48,752.00			

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			March 16, 2025
Attendance	108 (HC 81)	Home	\$3,266.50
Loose Plate	\$212.00	Tuition Angel	\$350.00
Online	\$2,191.70	Memorials	\$10.00
Lent I-KSUM	\$154.00	MLHS	\$125.00

Annual Operating Expense: \$580,000.00	
Average Weekly Need: \$11,154.00	
Giving to date: \$115,710.62	Projected Shortfall: (\$33,004.34)