

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church (NALC)
"A Christ Centered Mission Driven Community"

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Announcements and Prelude

We Stand

Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

P) In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P) 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.

C) Amen.

P) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John:8-9**

~ Silence is kept for reflection ~

P) Most merciful God,

C) We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P) Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

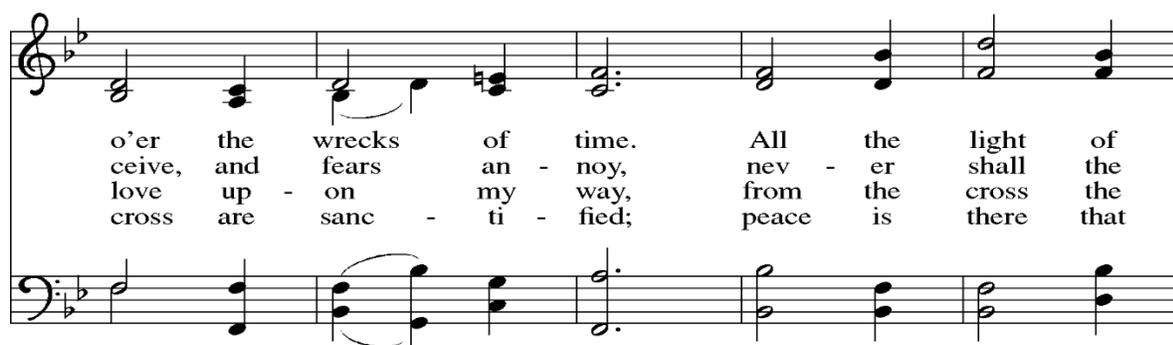
C) Amen.

Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

Apostolic Greeting:

P) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:13

C) And also with you.

Kyrie



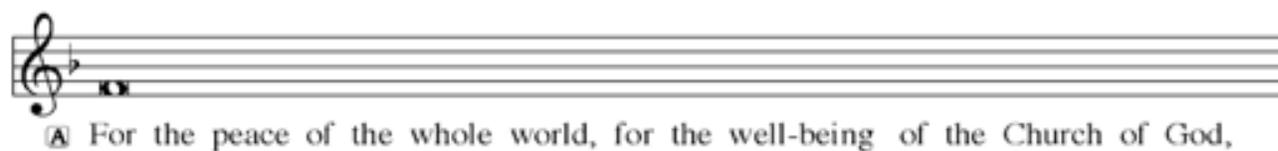
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



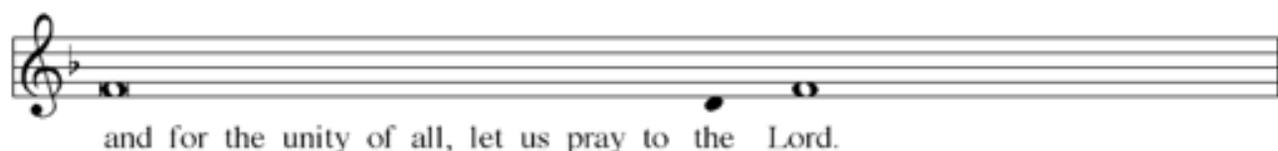
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



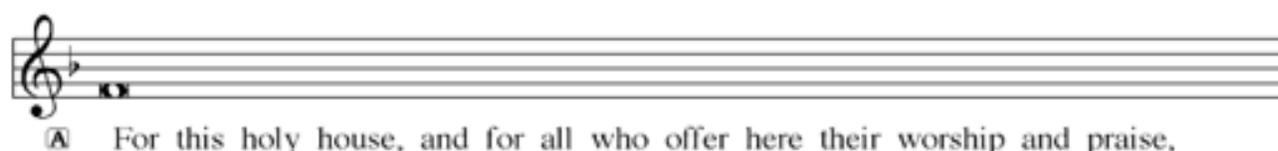
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

We Sit

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P) The Lord be with you.

C) **And also with you.**

P) Let us pray

C) **Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace, may mercifully be relieved; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 12:1-6

¹You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ²"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵"Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

L) The Word of God for the people of God.

C) **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 32 is read responsively by whole verse.

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

⁶ **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

9 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L) The Word of God for the people of God. C) **Thanks be to God**

We Stand

The Gospel Acclamation



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.

3¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.
 3²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

P) The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Pastor Sheldon

We Stand
Hymn

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 because thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

P) In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C) We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13-14

P) Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the 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**

We Sit

The Prayers

P) Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

P) Lord, in your mercy, **C) hear our prayer.**

We pray this day for Ray, Carolyn, Gloria, Faye, Clyde, and those who are on our lips, in our hearts, and on our minds.

P) Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C)Amen**

HOLY COMMUNION

P) Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. **2 Corinthians 13:11**

Offering: *Please leave your offering in the plates near the exit as you depart. You may also mail in your offering or just simply put it in the church mailbox.*

We Stand

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with a supporting bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The score consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff.

P) The Lord be with you.

Ruth 2:4

C) **And also with you.**

P) Lift up your hearts.

C) **We lift them to the Lord.**

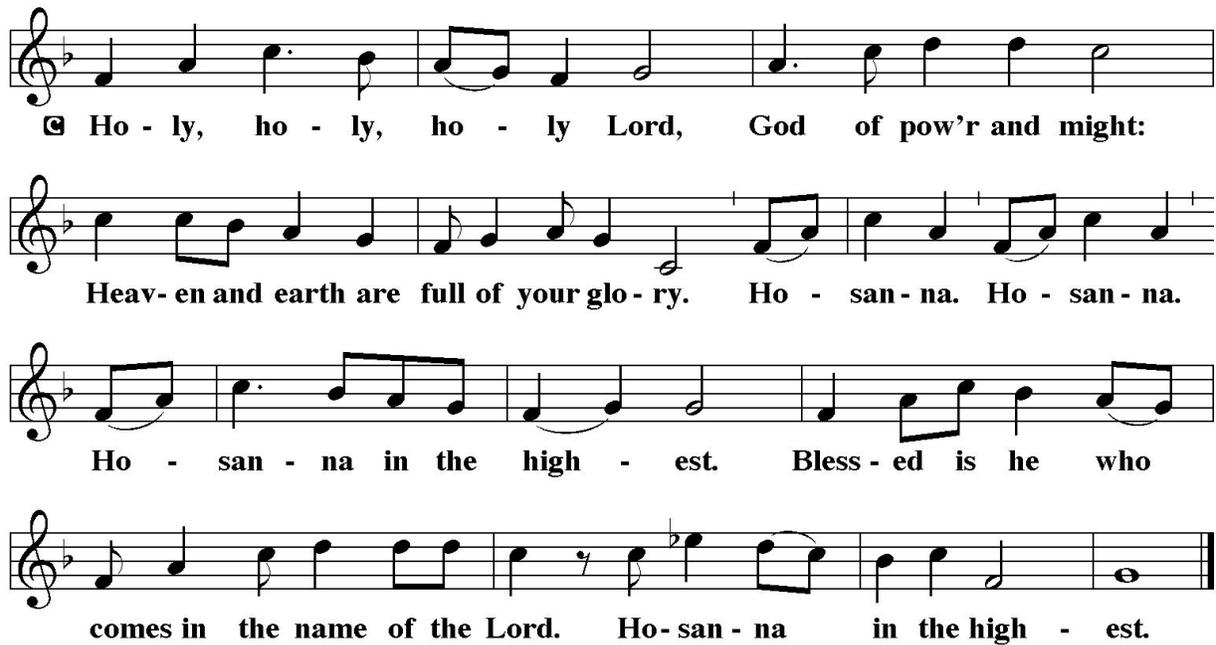
P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C) **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE PREFACE

The Pastor

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

P) Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world You gave your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to You for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in His holy supper.

C) **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to the 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.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

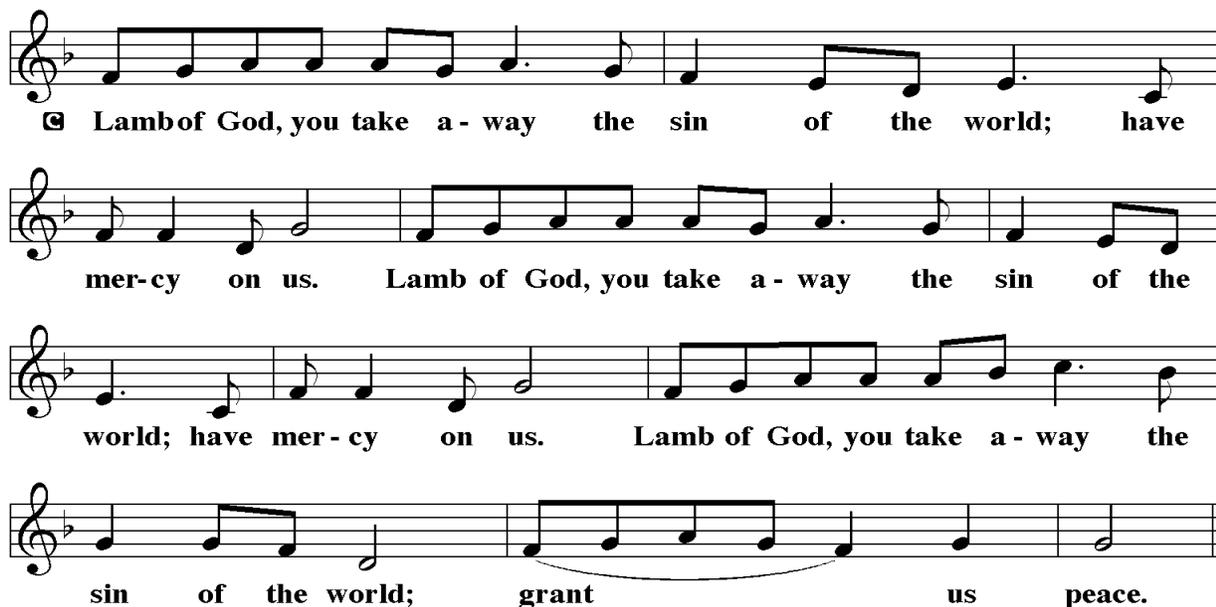
Lord's Prayer

P) Let us pray with confidence the words our Savior taught us:

**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.**

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11: 28-29

We Sit



☐ 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 peace.

The wearing of masks is an individual decision at the altar. If you do not feel comfortable coming to the altar for the sacrament, you are invited to the table in the front of the nave. If you have physical limitations, we will come to you. All participants will wear masks in the distribution of the sacrament in the nave.

Communion Hymn

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of the Man and . . .
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of God, who have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Refrain
 All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

Post Communion Blessing

P) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

We Stand

The Post Communion Canticle



G Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo- ple Is - ra - el.



Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev - er. A - men

Post Communion Prayer

C) We give your thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Blessing

Pastor

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.

Numbers 6: 24-26

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

Hymn

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Jesus said to his disciples: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. **John 14:27 C) Amen**

P) Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **C) Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Disciples Serving Today

Pastor: The Reverend Ernie Sheldon

Organist: Darin Kennedy

Parish Administrator: Susan Free

Crucifer: Chuck Goode

Lector: Carol Lewallen

Communion Assistant: Carol Lewallen

Altar Guild: Roger & Ann Bejcek

Usher Team: Scott Neely

Video Team: Bill Muffley, Alonzo Burger, Cecil Talbot, Randy Tedder

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St. John's Lutheran Church Covid-19 Guidelines, 2022

The virus that causes Covid-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone as public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. All should stay informed and take action based on common sense and wise judgement. Below are the protocols the congregation should follow:

1. If you do not feel well, please stay at home.
2. If you do not feel comfortable about a situation, for any reason, stay at home
3. Social distancing is always encouraged along with mask wearing as it applies to your health concerns
4. If the virus numbers are rising in the community, the pastor will decide the appropriate steps for the congregation to take as it applies to worship.
5. Individual organization (choir, Wings, etc.) will make their own decisions about meeting.
6. If word is received that there is a firsthand exposure in the church, we will notify the congregation. The individual will not be revealed unless they give permission to do so.
7. Additional actions can be implemented as required.

This guideline was approved by council at the March 14, 2022 meeting.

We are thankful and blessed that you chose to worship with us this morning.

We recommend and respect social distancing and the wearing of a mask appropriate to individual health concerns. ***Please see page 12 of the bulletin if you do not feel comfortable coming forward for the sacrament.***

Read St. John's covid guidelines on page 17 of this bulletin.

Birthdays in April

April 4 Sandor McSwain
April 8 - Diane Harrington
April 15 – Tracy Ryan
April 19 – Lucille Carl

April 6 - Steve Horinka
April 12 – Caleb Hager
April 17 – Frances Coffey

Tuesday March 29 – 9:00 am “Coffee Fellowship” at Lake Mountain Coffee 110 W Broad Street.

Tuesday March 29 – 7:00 pm-Young Life

Wednesday, March 30 5:30- Soup and Sandwich followed by Evening Prayer at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

WINGS Mission Project for March is cans of soup for Iredell County Christian Ministries. Everyone can bring cans of soup on Sunday's and place in the *Big Soup Pots located in the WINGS corner in the Narthex.*

Wednesday, April 6 at 5:30 we will have a **“Soup and Sandwich”** meal followed by Evening Prayer (Vespers) at 6:30. Sermon theme is “Who is Jesus?” A sign-up sheet for soup and sandwiches is in the hall.

Lessons for Next Week:

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 8-14; Luke 20:9-20

Sunday School Isaiah 55