

# Rethinking Religion



**Part 1: Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations**

**St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church**

**Juneau**

**Salem-Lowell**

**Horicon**

# First Sunday in Lent

February 15-18, 2024

## Hymn 404

## “Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing in your ho - ly  
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion fas - ci - nate my  
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es with the broad and  
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me by your wounds, Lord,  
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, grant that in your



wounds I find, ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing pains of  
sin - ful mind, let me think a - bout your pas - sion, and new  
eas - y road, with se - duc - tive, sin - ful vic - es, let me  
is made whole; when I'm weak, your cross re - vives me, grant - ing  
death I trust, know - ing death has lost its pow - er since you



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in  
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,  
weigh the aw - ful load you were will - ing to en - dure.  
new life to my soul. Yes, your com - fort ren - ders sweet  
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let your ag - o - ny



tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, show the per - il,  
let me then be on my guard, say - ing, “Christ for  
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure, mas - ter - ing each  
ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; for your all - a -  
ev - er help and com - fort me; when I die be



We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.  
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives  
**we confess to you, O Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people,  
our anger when our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate than  
ourselves  
**we confess to you, O Lord.**

Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us  
**we confess to you, O Lord.**

Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and  
suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and  
contempt for those who differ from us,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.  
**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ,  
who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a  
called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the  
Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil's temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan's lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Genesis 22:1–18 EHV

Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, “Abraham!”

Abraham answered, “I am here.”

<sup>2</sup> God said, “Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct you.”

<sup>3</sup> Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

<sup>5</sup> Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you.” <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.

<sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father?”

He said, “I am here, my son.”

He said, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

<sup>8</sup> Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them went on together. <sup>9</sup> They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

<sup>11</sup> The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!”

Abraham said, “I am here.”

<sup>12</sup> He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

<sup>13</sup> Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> Abraham called the name of that place “The LORD Will Provide.” So it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

<sup>15</sup> The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, “I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### ***Refrain***

Refrain Tune: Marty Haugen. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **Second Reading**

*Romans 8:31–39 EHV*

<sup>31</sup> What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

<sup>33</sup> Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! <sup>34</sup> Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! <sup>35</sup> What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long.

We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

**8:00 & 10:30 AM**

**Adult Choir**

*Stand*



## Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 4:15 EHV

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin.

## Gospel

Mark 1:12–15 EHV

<sup>12</sup> The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him.

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time is fulfilled,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Hymn of the Day 863

## “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield  
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss  
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to  
4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one  
de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain

that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old  
whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,  
they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's  
with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take

e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;  
"Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,  
prince may still scowl fierce as he will,  
they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,

deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;  
the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;  
he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;  
though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;

on earth is not his e - qual.  
he holds the field for - ev - er.  
one lit - tle word can fell him.  
the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Genesis 22:1–18

### *Rethinking Trials, Tests, and Temptations*

Stand

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

*Be seated*

## Prayer of the Church

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

**We confess that without your love we are lost.**

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

**Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

**By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

**Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

**Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

Hear us as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**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.**

## Offering

*Stand*

### Offering Hymn 749 v1

**“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”**

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
end - less store: na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom,



cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door— gift - ed by you, we turn  
to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise; thank - ful  
songs shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006 Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844  
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Tune: Public domain

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

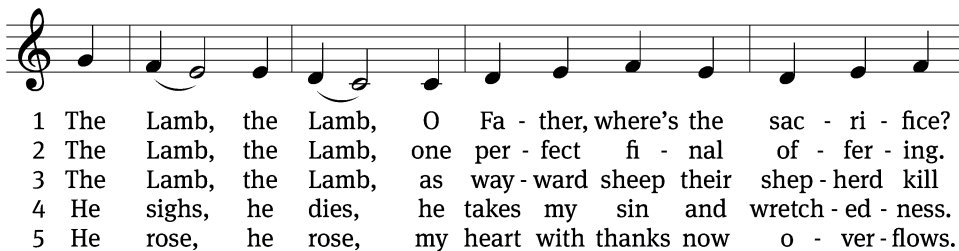
The Lord look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Hymn 525

## “The Lamb”

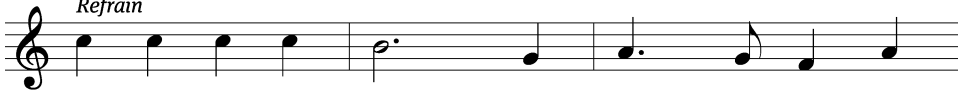


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, one per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.  
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, as way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill  
4 He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.  
5 He rose, he rose, my heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
 The Lamb, the Lamb, let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.  
 so still, his will, on our be - half the law to fill.  
 He lives, for - gives, he gives me his own right - eous - ness.  
 His song pro - long till ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

*Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953 Tune: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953  
 Text and tune: © 1987 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 720071

## Acknowledgments

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Pastor: Nicholas Mount

Liturgist: Duke Backhaus

Organists: Ruth Affeld / Becky Schultz

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## Announcements

**Special Gift Envelopes:** During this season of Lent, St. John's has extended the opportunity for you to direct a special gift toward our two upcoming projects: Funding for the celebration of the Juneau campus' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the construction of an age-appropriate playground for our Pre-K students. If you are interested in dedicating a gift to either of the projects, extra giving envelopes can be found in the narthex with more information!

**Friends of Christian Education Day:** Friends of Christian Education Day will be held on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. On this day we are inviting parents, grandparents, and supporters of Christ centered education to come for a meal with your child(ren) or grandchildren, and fellowship in the church basement. We will have a hot turkey sandwich lunch (includes chips and pickles) starting at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$2.50 per person. If you would like to attend or you have any questions, please call Mrs. Leissring in the school office at 920-386-4644 or email her at school@stjohnsjuneau.org. by Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Join us Sunday mornings for more Timely Topics, Timeless Truths. We'll begin a new round of topics that will include the proper use of social media, tattoos, and more. The Timely Topics series will run from February 25 through April 21 at 8:15 AM Lowell and 9:30 AM Juneau!

**Tuesday bible class now in Lowell!** Pastor Mount's new study on the end times will be held at both the Juneau and Lowell Campuses on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Join us at 4:00 PM in Lowell or 6:30 PM in Juneau to learn what the bible says about death, judgement, heaven, and hell.

**WELS Youth Rally:** The WELS Youth Rally with the theme "From the Mountaintops" will be held June 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in beautiful Fort Collins, CO. The rally is designed with teens in mind from 8<sup>th</sup> grade through high school seniors! If you (or your child) fit into this age group and would like to attend, please sign-up in the narthex or call the church office by March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Chaperones- over the age of 20- are also needed to encourage and supervise the youth who will be attending from our congregation. If you would be interested in this role, please sign-up or call the church office by March 18<sup>th</sup>.  
More information on the Rally can be found at: [welsyouthrally.net](http://welsyouthrally.net)

**Blood Pressure Checks:** This Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 9-9:30am at Juneau, stop by in the narthex to get a Free BP check by one of our parish nurses and bring your health related questions. We also have a nurse at Lowell who can do BP checks by appointment, call or text Karen at 920-386-2419 to schedule.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee:** Next meeting will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in Juneau. All are welcome to attend!

**Salad & Dessert Donations:** Would you be willing to provide a dessert for our upcoming Lenten Meal on Wednesday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>? The main course will be provided, but we are looking for salads and desserts. If you are able, please bring your salad or dessert to our Juneau Fellowship Hall prior to the 3:30pm service on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**Every Member Visits:** Sign up for a time to connect with Pastor Mount and build the foundation for a relationship with our newest full-time pastoral member! Meetings are informal and held at the Juneau church office, unless otherwise noted. To access the sign-up, scan the QR code or find it on our app or website. If you need assistance, please call the church office at 920-386-3313.



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*Please join us at the Juneau Campus for Ash Wednesday worship on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 or 6:30 PM. You are also invited to the meal served between the services!*

*This week's meal is hosted by:  
The Parent Teacher Society (PTS)*

*MENU  
Pasta bar  
with various salads and desserts!*



*There is a free-will offering to help offset the cost of the meal and be put towards purchasing non-budgeted items that are needed for our school's ministry. Donations may be given with cash/check at the meal or on our website and app (enter "PTS" into the memo line).*



You're Invited to our

**OPEN  
HOUSE!**

Now Enrolling  
2 Year Old  
through  
Kindergarten



Sunday, March 3, 2024

9:15-10:15 A.M.

& 11:30-1:00 P.M.

*4K*

*Kindergarten*

*3K*

St. John's Lutheran School

402 South Main Street, Juneau WI



## **Volunteers** (2/18)

### **Greeters:**

8:00 AM Becky Zimmerman, Alexis Voigt

10:30 AM Carol Leissring, Linda Tonn

### **Ushers:**

8:00 AM Chuck Wolfram, Nick Voigt, Rick Cody

9:30 AM Ken Leistico, Larry Westenberg, Wyatt Stowell, Oscar Stowell

10:30 AM Rick Leissring, Blake Tonn, Blake Tonn II, Blake Tonn III

### **Juneau Snow Removal:** (*Week of Feb 19<sup>th</sup>*)

Team 1 Rick Leissring and Kris Heinzen

# This Week at St. John's

## Sunday (2/18)

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM- J

Worship 9:30 AM- SL

Bible Class 8:15 (SL) & 9:30 AM (J)

Sunday School 8:30 (SL) & 9:15 AM (J)

Blood Pressure Checks 9:00 AM- J

## Monday (2/19)

Readings Bible Class 6:30 PM- J

## Tuesday (2/20)

Jesus Cares 1:30 PM- Clearview

## Wednesday (2/21)

Mid-week Worship

- Clearview 10 AM
- Juneau 11 AM
- Hillside Manor 2 PM

Worship 3:30 & 6:30 PM- J

Lenten Meal 4:30 PM- J

Confirmation 5:00 PM- J

Adult Choir 7:15 PM - J

## Thursday (2/22)

Church Council 6:30 PM- J

## Saturday (2/24)

Worship 5:00 PM- H

## Sunday (2/25)

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM- J

Worship 9:30 AM- SL

Bible Class 8:15 (SL) & 9:30 AM (J)

Sunday School 8:30 (SL) & 9:15 AM (J)

## Statistics

### *Offerings given to our Lord*

	<u>2/1-2/4</u>
General	\$ 28,113.59
Debt	\$ 548.55
Improvement	\$ 70.00
Lakeside	\$ 114.90
Missions	\$ 599.90
Total	\$ 29,446.94

### *Attendance*

Weekend of Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>

368(25,36,127,52,128)

*At our Voter's Meeting, our congregation approved a weekly budget with an average total of \$20,246 (includes General, Lakeside and Missions) needed every week. Since the beginning of 2022, our congregation has gone from zero debt to drawing a total of \$158,513.40 from the line of credit. Please continue to support St. John's through your time, talents, treasures, and prayers. Thank you!*

# Welcome to St. John's

## WELCOME

We are so glad you joined us to worship our Lord Jesus today! St. John's is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are happy to answer your questions about our service, our beliefs, or communicant membership at any of our campuses. Please join us again soon!

## PERSONAL PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you. Amen.

### Pastors & Assistant

David Brandt 608-343-2206  
Nicholas Mount 920-344-1524  
Joel Luetke 920-285-1351  
Duke Backhaus 414-559-6107

### Principal

Richard Cody 920-386-4644

### Staff Minister

Ryan Kummerow 608-345-1900

### Worship Services

#### Thursday

6:30 PM Juneau

#### Saturday

5:00 PM Horicon

#### Sunday

8:00 AM Juneau

9:30 AM Lowell

10:30 AM Juneau

### Bible Classes

#### Sunday

Juneau Campus

9:30 AM

Salem-Lowell Campus

8:15 AM

#### Monday

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

#### Tuesday (2nd, 4th, 5th)

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

### St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

#### Juneau Campus

920-386-3313

400 S. Main St.

Juneau, Wisconsin

#### Horicon Campus

920-386-3313

716 Clinton St.

Horicon, Wisconsin

#### Salem-Lowell Campus

920-386-3313

105 Juneau Rd.

Lowell, Wisconsin

#### School Office

920-386-4644

402 S. Main St.

Juneau, Wisconsin

[www.stjohnsdodgecounty.com](http://www.stjohnsdodgecounty.com)

*Download our St. John's Dodge County app today!*



