

# Rethinking Religion



**Part 5: Rethinking Devoted Commitment**

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

**Juneau**

**Salem-Lowell**

**Horicon**

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 16-17, 2024

---

Hymn 422

**“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”**

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## **Confession**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just**

**and will forgive us our sins**

**and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

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.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; 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

But now this is what the LORD says,  
the LORD who created you, O Jacob,  
the LORD who formed you, O Israel.

Do not be afraid, because I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you cross through the waters, I will be with you.  
When you cross the rivers, they will not sweep you away.  
When you walk through fire, you will not be burned,  
and the flame will not set you on fire.

<sup>3</sup> Because I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior,  
I gave Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious and honored in my eyes,  
and I myself love you,  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
and peoples in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid, because I am with you.  
From the east I will bring your offspring,  
and from the west I will gather you.

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them back!"  
and to the south, "Do not hold them."  
Bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
everyone I created for my glory,  
everyone I formed,  
yes, everyone I have made.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 121

*Printed on page 121 in the blue hymnal.*

## “I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains”

### Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9 EHV

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, he offered prayers and pleas with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup>Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. <sup>9</sup>After he was brought to his goal, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation

Mark 10:45 EHV

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

### Gospel

John 12:20-33 EHV

<sup>20</sup>Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it continues to be one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain. <sup>25</sup>Anyone who loves his life destroys it. And the one who hates his life in this world will hold on to it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, let him follow me. And where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, this is the reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name!”

A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again.”

<sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice was not for my sake but for yours.

<sup>31</sup> “Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

**Hymn 808**

**“Drawn to the Cross”**

**Sermon**

**Hebrews 5:7-9**

*Rethinking Devoted Commitment*

*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*

**Hymn 748 v.1**

**“Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”**

## 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 700**

**“Draw Us to Thee”**

## Acknowledgments

Preacher: Duke Backhaus

Liturgist: Joel Luetke

Organist: Matthew Lober/ Becky Schultz

Songs are reprinted under Onelicense.net A-720071 and CCLI License 11520516\* The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved.\* Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

\* Artwork from [www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com), used with permission or ChurchArt Pro, license #74051531.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. Setting Three from Christian Worship.



# Announcements

---

**Parsonage Updates Needed:** The window treatments at the Caroline House, where the Mount family resides, need updating! Total cost is estimated to be around \$2,500. If you are interested in helping offset this expense, donations may be dropped off at the Juneau church office or specified on your offering envelope. Thank you!

**Easter for Kids:** Children, please join us for our upcoming Easter for Kids on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 9-10:30 AM at our St. John's School! Easter for Kids is a fun-filled morning complete with an egg hunt and games for children ages 0-6<sup>th</sup> grade. The morning is designed for children and their parents/caregivers to participate in together. Please pre-register by scanning the QR code or visiting our website: [stjohnsdodgecounty.com](http://stjohnsdodgecounty.com)



If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Char at 920-219-0122 or email [volunteer@stjohnsjuneau.org](mailto:volunteer@stjohnsjuneau.org).



**Easter Flowers:** There are sign-up sheets in the narthex at the Juneau and Lowell Campuses for bringing your own Easter Plants/Flowers to decorate our churches on Easter Sunday!

**Easter at our Salem-Lowell Campus:** Please check out the sign-up sheets located in the narthex regarding Easter breakfast!

- Sign-up sheet is in the narthex for items needed for the Easter Breakfast.
- Sign-up sheet is in the narthex to sign up for those who will attend Easter Breakfast. This is for an estimate on how much food is needed.

**Lenten Meal:** Would you be willing to provide a salad or dessert for our upcoming Lenten Meal on Wednesday, Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>? The main course will be provided, but salads and desserts would be appreciated! If you are able, please bring your treat to our Juneau Fellowship Hall prior to the 3:30pm service on Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**Soup-making Night for Soup for Souls:** We're looking for help to make soup and other items that we'll freeze for our Soup for Souls program. The work night will be on Tuesday, April 2 starting at 6pm at our Juneau kitchen. Help is needed to do chopping, mixing, packaging, washing containers and more. Also, we will accept any individual wrapped dessert items that can be frozen.

**St. Mark's Watertown Special Services:** St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Watertown (215 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St.) will be having a German worship service for Good Friday at 10 AM on March 29<sup>th</sup>. They also have weekly worship in the Spanish language Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM. This includes a special Spanish service for Easter on March 31<sup>st</sup>! The public is invited to attend! For more info call 262-8500.

**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, giving envelopes with more information can be found in the narthex!



## Help Needed!

# Easter Breakfast

### Juneau Campus' Breakfast

Would you be able to donate any of the following items?

- Muffins
- Kringles
- Quick Breads
- Donuts
- Fruit

*We are also looking for volunteers to help – see signup sheet.  
Please deliver items to the Juneau Campus on Good Friday,  
March 29<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> between 8:30-11:00am.*

---

Please join us at the Juneau Campus for Lenten worship on March 20<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 our: *Ladies' Aid*

**MENU**  
*Sloppy Joes*



*The congregation is asked to bring salads and desserts!*

*There is a free-will offering to help offset the cost of the meal and be put towards the ministry of the Ladies' Aid. Donations may be given with cash/check at the meal or on our website and app (enter "ladies aid" into the memo line).*

---

St. John's Ev. Lutheran School  
invites children with their family and friends to

# Easter for Kids

A free community event!

Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> @ 9 - 10:30 AM

Ages 0-6<sup>th</sup> grade

- ✓ Egg Hunt
- ✓ Activities
- ✓ Fun!!!

Register Here



Register at [www.stjohnsjuneau.org](http://www.stjohnsjuneau.org)  
920-386-3313 // 402 S. Main Street, Juneau

# Holy Week Schedule



## ❖ Palm Sunday (March 24<sup>th</sup>)

- Juneau
  - Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 AM
  - Bible Class: 9:30 AM
- Lowell
  - Worship: 9:30 AM
  - Bible Class: 8:15 AM

## ❖ Maundy Thursday (March 28<sup>th</sup>)

- Worship with Holy Communion at Juneau 3:30 & 6:30 PM

## ❖ Good Friday (March 29<sup>th</sup>)

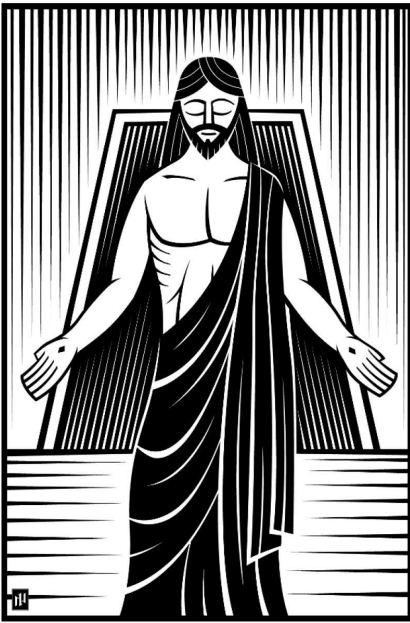
- Worship at Juneau: 1:30 PM
- Worship at Lowell: 6:30 PM- Led by the choir

## ❖ Easter Saturday (March 30<sup>th</sup>)

- Easter Vigil Service 7:00 PM at Good Shepherd in Beaver Dam
- (No Worship at our Horicon Campus)

## ❖ Easter Sunday (March 31<sup>st</sup>)

- Juneau
  - Sunrise Service: 6:30 AM
  - Breakfast: 7:30 AM
  - Easter Festival Service: 9:00 AM
- Lowell
  - Breakfast 8:00 AM
  - Sunrise Service 9:30 AM



# **The Great Vigil of Easter: Celebration of our Lord's Resurrection and of our Baptism**

**March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:00 PM  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Beaver Dam**

## **What is the Easter Vigil?**

In the Old Testament, believers waited through the night of the Passover for God to deliver them from the Egyptians. For nearly two-thousand years now, Christians have gathered for worship in anticipation of the celebration of God's greater deliverance: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

## **What is the history of the Vigil?**

Since it is through Baptism that the Christian is united to Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4), the Easter Vigil has always had a strong connection to Baptism. Dating back to 2<sup>nd</sup> century Jerusalem, it was in this service that new adult Christians were baptized and brought into full membership.

## **What happens at the Vigil today?**

Even if most Baptisms take place outside of the Easter Vigil today, there is still the opportunity for a period of beautiful worship, following the ancient pattern, rejoicing in the Means of Grace, and anticipating the celebration on Easter morning.

*We gather in the evening, but introduce light – signifying that the light of salvation is finally realized in Christ's resurrection.*

*With unhurried Scripture lessons and prayers, we contemplate God's goodness all throughout history in bringing his plan of salvation to glorious fulfillment.*

*We remember our own baptismal connection to Christ's death and resurrection.*

*We celebrate the reality of the resurrection in Holy Communion and, with sins forgiven, anticipate our own.*



**Please join our fellow-area WELS congregations for this historic and beautiful Easter worship opportunity!**

## Volunteers (3/17)

### **Greeters:**

8:00 AM Carol Soldner, Lexi Voigt  
10:30 AM Diane Pamperin, Linda Tonn

### **Ushers:**

8:00 AM Chuck Wolfram, Bruce Soldner, Nick Voigt, Rick Cody  
9:30 AM Ken Leistico, Larry Westenberg, Wyatt Stowell, Oscar Stowell  
10:30 AM Marty Weinheimer, Blake Tonn, Blake Tonn II, Blake Tonn III

### **Juneau Snow Removal:** (*Week of Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>*)

Team 4 Mark and Andrew Buelter

## Statistics

### ***Offerings given to our Lord***

#### 2/28-3/3

General	\$ 18,640.92
Debt	\$ 472.10
Improvement	\$ 140.00
Lakeside	\$ 139.90
Missions	\$ 1,059.90
Total	\$ 20,452.82

### ***Attendance***

Weekend of Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> 636 (197,27,196,76,140)

*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!*

# **This Week at St. John's**

## **Sunday (3/17)**

**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 (3/18)**

Readings Bible Class 6:30 PM- J

## **Tuesday (3/19)**

Jesus Cares 1:30 PM- Clearview

## **Wednesday (3/20)**

### **Midweek**

- Clearview 10:00 AM
- Juneau 11:00 AM
- Hillside Manor 2:00 PM

**Worship 3:30 & 6:30 PM- J**

Lenten Meal 4:30 PM- J

Confirmation 5:00 PM- J

## **Thursday (3/21)**

Church Council 6:30 PM- J

## **Saturday (3/23)**

**Worship 5:00 PM- H**

## **Sunday (3/24)- Palm Sunday**

**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)

# 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!*

