



***Second Sunday in Lent***  
***March 16, 2025***

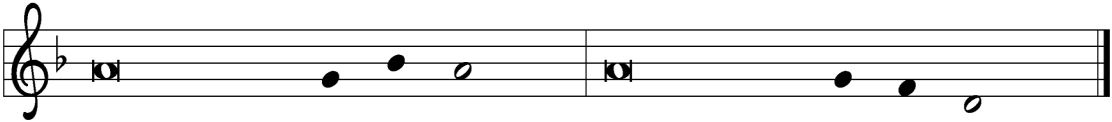
***St. John's Lutheran Church***  
***1000 Helena Ave.***  
***Helena, MT 59601***  
***406-442-6270***

***“Growing in Grace, Walking by Faith, Serving in Love”***

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in **bold print** and stand, as you are able at the places marked with an \*.)*

## **Prelude:**

## **Welcome and Announcements**



## **Psalm 27:**

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- <sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**
- <sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.  
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.
- <sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon  
the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**
- <sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up on a rock.
- <sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will  
sing and make music to the LORD.**
- <sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- <sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message—“Seek my face.”  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my sal-  
vation.

- <sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me in.**
- <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.
- <sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**
- <sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!
- <sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD and be strong.  
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness:**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Let us pray. Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In Christ + your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever..

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn..... “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” ELW 597**



1 My hope is built on nothing less than  
 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I  
 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sus -  
 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness; no merit of my  
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -



own I claim, but wholly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

**Greeting:**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

## **\*Prayer of the Day:**

Let us Pray. God of the covenant,

**in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**First Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1:**

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God .**

**\*Lenten Acclamation:**



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

**\*Gospel: Luke 13:31-35:**

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter, beginning with the thirty first verse.

**Glory to you, o Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Time:.....Pastor Keith Weatherford**

**Sermon:.....Pastor Keith Weatherford**

*Silence for reflection*

**\*Hymn of the Day:** ..... **“Thy Holy Wings” ELW # 613**



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.



**\*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,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession:**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world,  
and all those in need.

**\*Prayer Response:** *(Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.)*

God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in  
the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

**\*The Peace is Shared:**

*(...Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” (John 20:19))*

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

*(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace and may say “Peace be with you” or similar words.)*

**Offering:**

*(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need and the communion table is set.)*

Please use the code here for a mobile device online giving.



**Offertory Anthem:..... “Celtic Communion”**

arr. M. Hayes

St. John’s Sanctuary Choir

Flute by Abby Nyhof

*The third verse of today’s anthem is taken from the ending section of “St. Patrick’s Breastplate”, also known as the “Lorica of St. Patrick”. A lorica is a type of prayer of protection (literally meaning “breastplate” in Latin) which was popular in Celtic countries. According to tradition, St. Patrick wrote this prayer in 433 A.D. to strengthen himself with God’s protection as he prepared to confront and convert Loegaire, the High King of Ireland. In it are some similarities to Paul’s exhortation to “put on the whole armor of God” (Ephesians 6:10-18). The words were translated into English verse by Cecil Frances Alexander in 1889 at the request of the Dean at the Chapel Royal of Dublin Castle and set to two traditional Irish tunes, “St. Patrick” and “Deirdre”. The resulting hymn is known as “I Bind Unto Myself Today”. In today’s anthem, the words are set to the Scottish Gaelic tune, Bunessan.*

*“Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, One in Three;  
Christ above me, Christ beneath me, Christ within me, Three in One.”*

*Submitted by Laura McDonald, member of the Sanctuary Choir*

**\*Offertory Response:**

## Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on five staves in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, along with rests and slurs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

## **Offering Prayer:**

Let us pray, Gracious Provider,

**you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **\*Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

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

## *Great Thanksgiving*



### **\*Words of Institution:**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them  
as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

### **\*Lords Prayer:**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily  
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the  
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**\*Invitation to Communion:**

*(We celebrate this meal together at Christ's table, and all are welcome and encouraged to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Ushers will invite you forward starting from the rear of the sanctuary. Wine is the darker liquid on the outer portion of the tray. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.)*

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of Grace is spread.

Jesus, Lamb of God



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Communion Music: .....“The Old Rugged Cross”  
arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski  
Bells of St. John’s**

**Prayer after Communion:**

Let us pray. Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set  
tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love  
might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*Blessing:**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,  
+ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn: ..... “Here on Jesus Christ I will Stand” ACS 1024**

*Refrain*

Here on Jesus Christ I will stand. He's the solid rock of my life.  
He's the solid rock of my life. He's the solid rock of my life.

- 1 There's no other place I can hide till the storm that rages subsides.  
My voice cries to God from the flood, and I'm saved because of his blood. *Refrain*
- 2 It is not the work of my hands that has washed away all my sins.  
I'm redeemed, and all of my days, Jesus Christ will be my heart's praise. *Refrain*
- 3 When my days on this earth are done, and I stand at God's holy throne,  
my heart will not have any fear; in Christ's righteousness I am here. *Refrain*

**\*Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**



## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Sunday, March 16**

**9:30 am -Worship with Holy Communion**

**10:30 am -Fellowship**

**10:45 am –New Member Class**

### **Monday, March 17**

**10:00 am– Staff Meeting**

**6:00 pm- Celebration Ringers Rehearsal**

### **Wednesday, March 19**

**9:00 am– Quilting**

**5:15 pm-Bells of St. John’s Rehearsal**

**5:30 pm– Lenten Soup; Donations to HARRT**

**6:30 pm Midweek service, Space of Grace**

### **Sunday, March 23 New Member Sunday**

**9:30 am- Worship with Holy Communion,**

**10:30 am– Fellowship**

**10:45 am–Peter Elverum**

### **Lenten Soup Supper Collections:**

**3/19: HARRT**

**3/26: Cruzando Fronteras**

**4/2: Global Refuge**

**4/9:Lutheran Social Services**

**First communion Instruction:** First communion classes for students and their parents will be held March 26th, April 2nd, and April 9th. Classes will take place during the regularly scheduled Faith Formation time during Wednesday Midweek Connection at 7:00pm. The celebration of First Communion with students, families, and the congregation will take place during regular church service on Palm Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Please talk to Pastor Keith or email him at [pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org](mailto:pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org) or call the church office at 406-442-6270 with any questions.

### **Prayers for SJLC Flock:**

Prayer is a vital part of our faith journey, a practice that deepens and transforms our relationship with God, with ourselves, and with one another. This year, the council members at St. John's Lutheran Church have chosen to focus on discipleship as a key aspect of our shared ministry.

In response to this, the council and ministry team have decided to engage in a special prayer initiative over the next 12 to 18 months. Each month, they will randomly select a member or family from our congregation to lift up in prayer. As part of this, you may receive a phone call or a letter asking for any specific prayer requests you might have.

I have also invited the council members to share any prayer requests with me so that I, too, can include you in my prayers and the prayers of the church. It is always comforting to know we are held in prayer, and it can be a powerful experience to hear our prayers voiced by others.

May we continue to support one another in prayer as we “walk in faith, grow in grace, and serve in love.”

In Christ Love  
Pastor Keith

*Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12*

**Family Promise of Greater Helena:** Comfort Food Challenge on Sunday **March 23rd from 3:00 pm to 6:00pm** at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 per family. In person tickets are available from the church office, Birds & Beasley's, the Blackfoot River Brewing Co., and the Myrna Loy. Contact: Randal Rake, randalrake@gmail.com.

### **Curious About the Legislative Session?**

Ever wondered what happens during the legislative session in our community? Come and find out! On **Sunday, March 23rd**, following the **9:30 AM worship service**, Saint John's member **Peter Elverum** will be sharing his experience as a freshman legislator during the 2025 legislative session. Join us in the **Fellowship Hall** for coffee, cookies, and a time of community engagement, learning, and fellowship. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect and learn more about how our local government works!

**In our prayers:**

Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Ken Downing, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, Kamila Ruth Baker, Vicki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland, Jana Clark, Ann Hadley, Mary Lou Hadley, Dan Jacobson

**For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound:**

Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

**For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy:**

Evan Ceaicovschi

**For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care:**

All the Saints in Heaven

**For Missionaries:** Missionaries around the world; Willie Langdji in Cameroon

**For World Leaders:** We pray for the health and recovery of Pope Francis.

**Social Ministry for March: HARRT to help purchase lambs/food**

**WELCA:**

May 13, Luncheon at 12, Noon

May 16-18, Women's Spring Retreat at FLBC

July 13, Summer Social at 2 pm at Spring Meadow Pavilion

September 9, Fall Luncheon at 12, Noon

September 20, Synod Gathering

November 16, Thank Offering

December 6, Festival of Angels

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

**Pastor:**

Keith Weatherford 406-442-6270  
pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org

**Choir Director/Music Coordinator:**

Connie Conley 406-431-6835  
connieconley@yahoo.com

**Youth and Family Ministry:**

Gretchen Munding 917-439-0093  
youthandfamily@helenastjohns.org

**Church Office:**

Bonnie Stevens 406-442-6270

**Worship Assistants**

**Presiding:** Pastor Keith Weatherford

**Cantor:** Frederick Frey

**Head Usher:** Gail Vennes

**Communion:** Mary Ruedisili, Neal Ruedisili, Karen Tobel, Susan Frey

**Lector:** Neal Ruedisili

**Streaming/Power Point:** K'Lynn Harris

**Pianist/Organist:** Gretchen Munding

**Prayer Station:** Bette March

**Altar Guild:** Laura Nachtsheim, Kari Christensen, Annette Jacobson

**Sacristan:** Laura Nachtsheim

**Acolyte:**

**Greeter/Coffee Servers:** Holy Grounds Coffee Bar is closed for Lent

**Church Council**

**President:** Paul Hilchen — 406-202-8988 — paulwithstjohns@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Lee Rhodes — 406-366-2089 — lee.rhodes3032@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Jennifer Wintersteen — 406-459-1378 — jenwintersteen@gmail.com

**Bing Crosby:** 714-883-0601 — bingcroz@yahoo.com

**K'Lynn Sloan-Harris:** 406-438-5404 — klynn@gmail.com

**Teresa Kinley:** 406-443-5587 — tkinley@mt.gov

**Brian Tetrault:** 406-461-5389 — brian.m.tetrault@gmail.com

**Paul Gronbeck:** 913-680-7285 — paul.gronbeck@gmail.com

**Jenny Taylor:** 406-459-4376 — Jennytaylorlea@gmail.com