



First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025

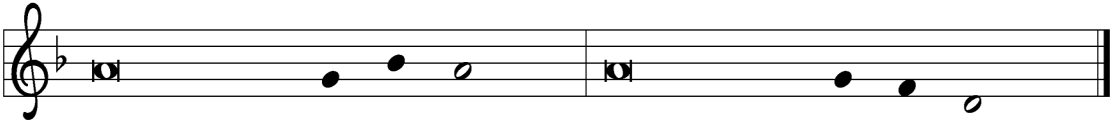
St. John's Lutheran Church
1000 Helena Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-6270

"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 91:1-2, 9-16:

- ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—
- ² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust.”**
- ⁹ Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,
- ¹⁰ **no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**
- ¹¹ For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.
- ¹² **Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**
- ¹³ You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.
- ¹⁴ **I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**
- ¹⁵ They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.
- ¹⁶ **With long life will I | satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation.**

***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.

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..... “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” ELW# 774**



1 What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



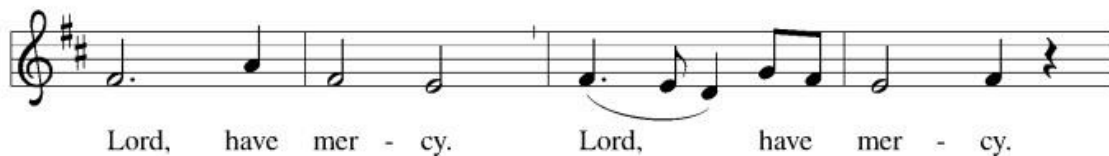
lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Greeting:

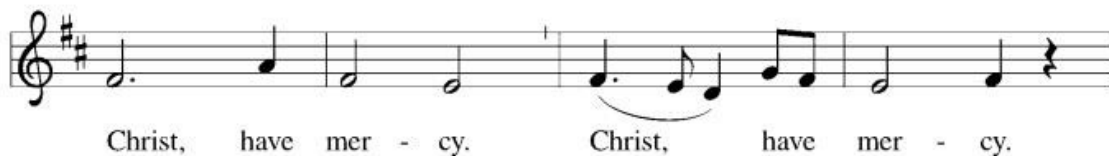
The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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. O Lord God,

you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Romans 10:8b-13:

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b} “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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 4:1-13**

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

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

Glory to you, o Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Time:.....Pastor Keith Weatherford

Sermon:.....Pastor Keith Weatherford

***Hymn of the Day:** “When We are Tested” ACS #922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

***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,

Hear 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:..... “Lonesome Valley/We Shall Walk”
arr. T. Mabry & V. Schwarz
St. John’s Sanctuary Choir**

Today’s anthem is 2 songs: “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” and “We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace”, paired together to make a lovely, poignant Lenten message. This technique is called Partner Songs and is often the first step in helping singers learn to sing “parts”. The first song is an American folk-tune (and considered an African American spiritual), and the 2nd (sung by the women) is a traditional spiritual.

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley.
He had to walk it by Himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for Him.
He had to walk it by Himself.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.
Oh, if Jesus Himself will be our leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.
We must walk this lonesome valley...*

***Offertory Response:**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music is in a common time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final note of the piece is a double bar line.

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.

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 you 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 our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who is your light made manifest to all nations. So with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, Holy, Holy Great Thanksgiving



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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***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:“Be Thou My Vision”
Four Hand Piano Duet
Connie Conley, Angela Conley**

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:** “Bless Now, O God , the Journey” ELW#326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be-side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth-er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

***Dismissal:**

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

Thanks be to God.

Pray for one another:

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

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 as he battles multiple health issues that have left him in Intensive Care.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 9 Daylight Savings Time

9:30 am -Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am -Fellowship

10:45 am -Bible Study

Monday, March 10

10:00 am– Staff Meeting

6:00 pm- Celebration Ringers Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 11

Noon– WELCA

Wednesday, March 12

9:00 am– Quilting

5:15 pm-Bells of St. John’s Rehearsal

5:30 pm– Lenten Soup; Donations to Global Refuge

6:30 pm Midweek service, Space of Grace

Thursday, March 13

Noon– Book club

2:00 pm– Touchmark Service

7:00 pm-Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 16

9:30 am- Worship with Holy Communion,

10:30 am– Fellowship

10:45 am– New Member Class– No Bible Study

Thursday, March 20

NO Choir practice

Sunday, March 23 New Member Sunday

9:30 am– Worship service with Holy Communion

10:30 am– Fellowship

10:45 am– Peter Elverum

Monday, March 24

10 am– Staff meeting

6pm-- Celebration Ringers Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 26

9am-Quilting

5:15 pm– Bells of St. Johns Rehersal

5:30 pm-Lenten Soup Supper

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

**The Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday, March 12 at 5:30 pm.
Sign up downstairs if you want to bring soup.**

Lenten Soup Supper Collections:

3/12: Energy Share

3/19: HARRT

3/26: Cruzando Fronteras

4/2: Global Refuge

4/9:Lutheran Social Services

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.

New Member Class: It is with great joy and excitement that we are able to announce we are going to be holding a New Members class for those who are new to Saint Johns along with some who are returning to St John's. Our time together will be on Sunday, March 16th. We will gather in the Fireside Room at 11:00am following worship. Refreshments will be available and accompany a time of fellowship and getting acquainted. We are looking forward to this time together as we live into the Baptismal covenant that weaves our faith journeys together in our ministry at St John's. Any who are interested in attending please talk to Pastor Keith or email him at pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org or call the church office at 406-442-6270.

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 13th at 9:30 am. Please talk to Pastor Keith or email him at pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org or call the church office at 406-442-6270 with any questions.

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!

Women of St. John's Lutheran Church

Women of the ELCA(WELCA)

Please join us!

May 13-Luncheon at 12 noon

May 16-18-Women's Spring Retreat

July 13-Summer Social @2pm-Spring Meadow Pavilion

Sept 9-Fall luncheon @noon/ Hosted by WELCA Board

Sept 20-Synod Gathering-SWO/Hosted by St. John's

Nov 16- Thank Offering

Dec6- Festival of Angels



<p><u>St. John's Lutheran Church Staff</u></p> <p><u>Pastor:</u> Keith Weatherford 406-442-6270 pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org</p> <p><u>Choir Director/Music Coordinator:</u> Connie Conley 406-431-6835 connieconley@yahoo.com</p> <p><u>Youth and Family Ministry:</u> Gretchen Munding 917-439-0093 youthandfamily@helenastjohns.org</p> <p><u>Church Office:</u> Bonnie Stevens 406-442-6270</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Worship Assistants</u></p> <p><u>Presiding:</u> Pastor Keith Weatherford</p> <p><u>Assisting Minister/Sermon:</u> Lorrie Vennes, LMA</p> <p><u>Head Usher:</u> Gail Vennes</p> <p><u>Communion:</u> Mary Ruedisili, Neal Ruedisili</p> <p><u>Lector:</u> Jeannie Kieckbusch</p> <p><u>Streaming/Power Point:</u> Angela Conley</p> <p><u>Pianist/Organist:</u> Connie Conley</p> <p><u>Prayer Station:</u> Lorrie Vennes</p> <p><u>Altar Guild:</u> Laura Nachtsheim, Kari Christensen, Annette Jacobson</p> <p><u>Sacristan:</u> Laura Nachtsheim</p> <p><u>Acolyte:</u></p> <p><u>Greeter/Coffee Servers:</u> Holy Grounds Coffee Bar is closed for Lent</p>
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Church Council

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