

Whiter than snow,
yes, whiter than snow;
Now wash me,
and I shall be
whiter than snow.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 8 and
Monday, February 9, 2026**

Matthew 5:17 – “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” We cannot keep the Law of God perfectly. We are sinners. For us to be saved, Jesus had to fulfill the Law in our place so that the threat of the Law is abolished and the Law itself is upheld. Now, in Christ, we do desire to fulfill the Law, to live out a godly Christian life, precisely because we are so full of thanksgiving toward God for His salvation in Christ.



WELCOME VISITORS: We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding. Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register,

located in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible Based Church family.

PRINTED ORDER OF WORSHIP

Special Music today by Ed Stiver, Jeremy Fromm

OPENING HYMN

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

LSB #650

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

P “God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.

C **If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.**

P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

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

P If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

C **If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.” (1 John 1:5b-10)**

P Let us then confess our sins:

*(A moment for silence for private personal confession
to the One Who created us and redeemed us)*

C Gracious Father, we come before You as a rebellious and sinful people. We have disobeyed Your commandments; we have worshipped ourselves and the things we have made. We have rejected Your will for our lives; we have preferred our way to that of Christ. Forgive us, O Lord, for straying away from that which You intended us to be, and for failing to follow the example of Christ.

P “Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.” *(based on Ps 32:1,2)* Upon, This your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the Grace of God unto you, and by the command and in the stead of the Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 18:18; John 20:23) “Be of Good Cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” *(Matt. 9:2 KJV)* Now, go live a life worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus, and produce fruit in keeping with true repentance. *(Eph 4:1)*

C Amen! By God’s Grace in Jesus Christ I am saved. By grace I am forgiven. By Grace I am set free.

HYMN OF RESPONSE *(Ed Stiver and Jeremy Fromm)*

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”

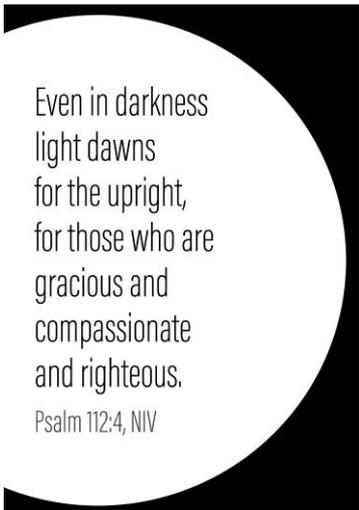
1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—

**All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86
Text: Public domain



Even in darkness
light dawns
for the upright,
for those who are
gracious and
compassionate
and righteous.

Psalms 112:4, NIV

PSALM 112:1–9

P ¹Praise the LORD!
Blessèd is the man who fears the
LORD,
who greatly delights in his
commandments!

C ²His offspring will be mighty
in the land;
the generation of the upright
will be blessed.

P ³Wealth and riches are in his
house,
and his righteousness endures
forever.

- C** ⁴Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.
- P** ⁵It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.
- C** ⁶For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.
- P** ⁷He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.
- C** ⁸His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.
- P** ⁹He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

- P** Jesus replied to Satan “Man does not live on bread alone
- C** But on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:4)

CATECHISM REVIEW

Office of the Keys

- P** *What is the Office of the Keys?*
- C** The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.
- P** *Where is this written?*
- C** This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22–23)
- P** *What do you believe according to these words?*
- C** I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from

the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:3–9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,

and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day

will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,

a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,

and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,

and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

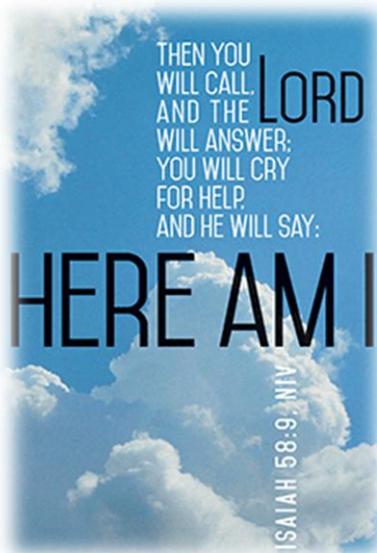
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?



⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"

P "and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures,
which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith
in Christ Jesus.

C **All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for
teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in
righteousness, so that the man of God may be
thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy
3:16-17)**

EPISTLE READING

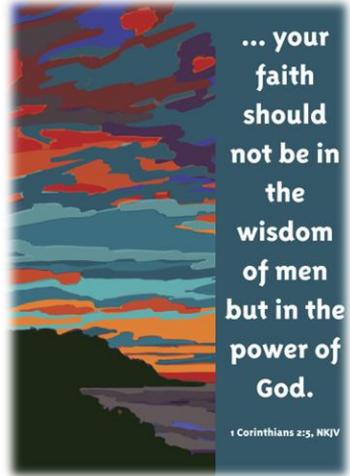
1 Corinthians 2:1–16

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come
proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or
wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except
Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in
weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech
and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but
in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith
might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom,
although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this
age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret
and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the
ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood
this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of
glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.



¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13–20

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least

of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”



P “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God
C **And keep it.”** (*Luke 11:28*)

SERMON HYMN

“Holy Spirit, Light Divine”

LSB #496

SERMON

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

LSB #806

THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

C 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.

BENEDICTION

P “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (*Number 6:24*)

C Amen!

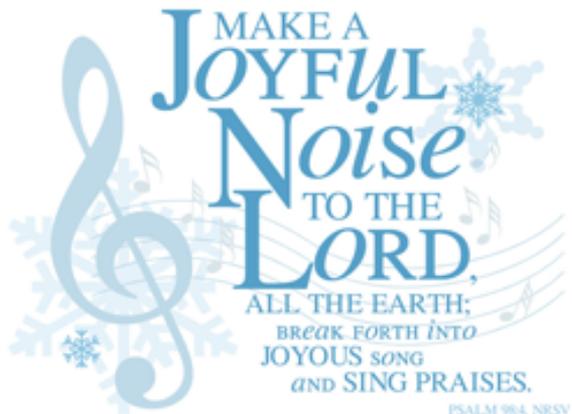
CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

LSB #924

Acknowledgments from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.





Sunday: Job 5:1-27; John 2:13-25
Monday: Job 6:1-13; John 3:1-21
Tuesday: Job 6:14-30; John 3:22 – 4:6
Wednesday: Job 7:1-21; John 4:7-26
Thursday: Job 8:1-22; John 4:27-45
Friday: Job 9:1-35; John 4:46-54
Saturday: Job 10:1-22; John 5:1-18

FAITH and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES



*Please remember the following in
your prayers:*

Gary Baumann Lisa Burish
Joe Calmes

David Czech Rodney Dahlke
Alice Fromm Christopher

Emmerich Wallace Emmerich

Duane Grunenwald Gerhard Hannemann

Angie Harkner Dale Janisch Cecelia & Lucille Klade

Jordan Knoble Rob Koebe Hugo Koppa

Karen Love Bob Meyer Gene Mootz Debbie Olson

Mark Pester Marge Radenz Karen Rajek Jo Schedler

Audrey Steckling Lorraine Steckling

Carl Uttech Deb Wiederhoeft Florence Williamson

Laurie Young Susie and Ellie Zastrow

Missionary Sunday

Sunday, February 15

Worship at St. John's at 8:30 a.m.

Worship at Faith at 10:15 a.m.

Special Guest Speaker

Rev. Cory J. Rajek

Former member of Faith

Currently Executive Director

LCMS Office of International Mission

Also Bring a Friend Sunday





ST. JOHN'S and FAITH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 8

8:30 a.m. **Worship at St. John's**
Sunday School during Sermon

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

10:15 a.m. **Worship at Faith**

10:30 a.m. Youth Circuit Event at

Trinity, Merrill

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

12:30 p.m. Inspired Singles meet at Pine Ridge, Merrill

Monday, February 9

5:30 p.m. No choir rehearsals until week of February 23

6:30 p.m. **Worship at Faith**

7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting at Faith

Tuesday, February 10

6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's

7:15 p.m. Elder's Meeting at St. John's

Wednesday, February 11

10:00 a.m. Ablelight

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

Thursday, February 12

1:00 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's

Sunday, February 15 *Missionary Sunday*

8:30 a.m. **Worship at St. John's**

Sunday School during Sermon

9:15 a.m. Sunday School at Faith

10:15 a.m. **Worship at Faith**

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

Monday, February 16

NO MONDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 18 *Ash Wednesday*

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at St. John's

6:30 p.m. **Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's**

Thursday, February 19 *Ash Wednesday*

11:00 a.m. **Worship with Holy Communion at Faith**

1:00 p.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's

6:30 p.m. **Worship with Holy Communion at Faith**

INSPIRED SINGLES
will meet on **Sunday, February 8**
at **12:30 p.m. at Pine Ridge Restaurant**
Plans include a guest speaker.

Grief SUPPORT Group

friend, spouse, parent, sibling or child, all are welcome, For more information or to register, call 715-536-5482.

GRIEFSHARE begins February 23, 2025 and meets weekly for 13 weeks from 6-7:30 p.m. at Trinity, Merrill Whether it has been recent or many years since the loss of a

IT'S WINTER with unpredictable weather! Be

sure to pick up scrip cards for your upcoming events in 2026 including family gatherings, sporting events and all other dates on your calendar.. Pick up scrip for all your household needs as well. Help support the ministry of our church through the Scrip program. ... *All without it costing you an extra penny!*



St John's - Hamburg Spring Hanging Basket Sale

Order forms are in the back of church. Your order needs to be paid in full, and submitted to St.

John's Lutheran Church by February 28. Please include your name, address and phone number. Orders will be ready for pickup on Friday, May 8 in St. John's parking lot between noon and 4 pm. Please mail your orders and a check for the balance to St. John's Lutheran Church 134058 County Road L, Hamburg, WI 54411. Attention Diane Hinz.
(At Faith, order forms are on the Scrip table in the narthex)

2026 Lenten Midweek Series

Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus—



Ash Wednesday, February 18-19

*The Good News of a God Who Hears and Answers Cries
Exodus 2:23–25*

Lenten Midweek 2, February 25-26

*The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us,
Exodus 3:1–15*

Lenten Midweek 3, March 4-5

The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer, Exodus 4:1–20

Lenten Midweek 4, March 11-12

*The Good News of a God Who Passes over Us in Mercy,
Exodus 12:1–14*

Lenten Midweek 5, March 18-19

*The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us,
Exodus 14:5–31*

Lenten Midweek 6, March 25-26

*The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey,
Exodus 16:1–18*



Jesus

*paid for our sins not only
in part but in full.*

So if the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed.

John 8:36

Wednesday Services

6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at
St. John's

6:30 p.m. Worship at
St. John's

Thursday Services

11:00 a.m. Worship at
Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship at
Faith

**YOUTH EVENT: Watch for details! CIRCUIT
ROLLERSKATING at Melody Gardens, Marshfield, March 27.**
Register by emailing youthgroup@stjohnmerrill.com

**NOTE CHANGE IN COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY
on Thursdays at St. John's is at 1:00 p.m.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank You for your generous sacrificial offerings to the
Lord, to help us keep our ministry going. You can also
mail your offerings to Our Churches at**

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

15425 County Road K South, Merrill, WI 54452 or

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

134058 County Road L, Athens, WI 54411

(Please do not send hard cash through the mail)

**Please help us spread the Word. Visit us online at
Pastor's (Don Love) Facebook Page, or Faith Lutheran
Church, or on the church website at**

www.faithlutheranmerrill.com

