The Worship of God

at St. John Church
The Season of Lent
March 8, 2026 | 10:30AM

Welcome!

No matter who you are
or where you are on life's
journey you are welcome here.

Assistive listening devices are available at the Welcome Table.
Nursery (Room 103) for children under 6 with parents/guardians only. No staff provided.
Offering plates are in the front and back of the Church.
Restrooms are through the single doors in the front.
The people rise in body or spirit at this sign:
The people's responses are in **bold print**.
Masks are optional.

Allen Fluent, preacher; Bobby Moreland, liturgist; Brandon Stroup, director of music, piano.

MUSIC AS WE GATHER AND LIGHT THE CANDLES

Eliza Palm, acolyte

I Love to Tell the Story – arranged by Dan Musselman

WELCOME & CHURCH MATTERS

Allen Fluent

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.
Jesus didn't reject people. Neither do we.

You are invited to visit the Welcome Table in the back by the red banner.
Please fill out the INFORMATION CARD on the back of the pew in front of you and place it in an offering plate at the front or back as you leave.

SILENCE IS KEPT

MORNING PSALM

Allen Fluent

O come, let us sing to the Holy One; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!
For you our God are great, a power above all gods.
In your hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it, and the dry land, which your hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before God our maker!
For you are our God and we are the people of your pasture, and the sheep of your hand. O that today we might listen to your voice!

OPENING HYMN — *Jesus, You Once Called Disciples*

Jesus, you once called disciples, choosing twelve to follow you:
Simon (also known as Peter), Andrew and Bartholomew,
Philip, Thomas, James and Matthew, Simon, Thaddaeus, John, and James —
Then there was the one called Judas. These were your disciples' names.

Women, too, were your disciples, sitting, learning, at your feet.
Mary knew your word was precious, even more than food to eat.
Martha trusted in your power when her brother Laz'rus died.
Women shared your journey, Lord, and stayed when you were crucified.

Lord, so many heard and followed, like the woman at the well.
Meeting you, the living water, she sought others she could tell.
Like the boy with loaves and fishes, like Zacchaeus in the tree,
Many gladly heard your message; many shared your ministry.

Jesus, still you call your people, "Come and follow me today!"
Some, like Paul, feel sudden wonder; some are brought up in your way.
Lord, no matter how we meet you, by your Spirit, make us new.
May we know your living presence; may we daily follow you.

CONFESSION OF SIN — Allen Fluent

God, you know who we are. You know everything we have done. We thirst for things that will never satisfy us. We commit ourselves to things that will never last. We worship things that will never bring salvation. Still, you offer us the gift of life in you. Forgive us, God, and give us this living water, so that we may never thirst again. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Christ is our life and salvation. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

SONG OF THANKSGIVING, 22, v. 1 — *Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(With a word, a smile, a handshake, an embrace, greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC — Chancel Choir

Lonesome Valley/We Shall Walk, - arranged by Tyler Mabry and Victoria Schwartz

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: EXODUS 17:1-7

(Page 64 – Old Testament section of the pew Bible) Bobby Moreland

Here ends the reading inspired by God.
May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 4:5-42

(Page 94 – New Testament section of the pew Bible) Bobby Moreland

Here ends the reading inspired by God.
May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *"LIVING WATER"* Allen Fluent

HYMN *The Water God Gives Us*

The water God gives us in wondrous supply
Is water that's living and never runs dry.
For everyone drinks and is thirsty again,
But God's living water gives life without end.

O God, we confess that we seek empty things;
We strive after wealth and the comfort it brings.
We buy things in hopes that our spirits will soar
Yet still we are thirsty and left wanting more.

Then just like that woman who went to the well,
We hear you, O Christ, and the truth that you tell.
You know who we are and you know what we've been;
You know us and love us in spite of our sin.

The gift that you give is the greatest of wealth;
You give living water! You give us yourself!
May we, like that woman, go back where we live
And tell those we know of the life that you give.

AN AFFIRMATION Bobby Moreland

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to God's grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. If while we were

enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

An Invitation to the Offering — Bobby Moreland

From God's generous mercy we have all received grace upon grace. Therefore let us give in gratitude for our lives and our inheritance as part of the family of Christ.

(Offering plates are in the front and back of the Sanctuary. QR code to give online.)

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, may our offerings to you be love and care for our neighbors, advocacy for those who are oppressed, and ministry to those who live in need. We dedicate to you our works and our treasures, and we pray that the ministries of our church may reflect your will. Amen.

Prayers of the People — Allen Fluent

God of abundant grace, **hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

Loving and beloved One, eternally present in our midst, may we know your sacred truth, and seek the goodness you desire for all the creatures of the earth. We ask for what we need to sustain us each day, and we pray that we may learn to share the rest. Teach us to forgive, so that we may learn to accept your forgiveness. And let us not be tempted by the anxious days to come. For the power of your love will rule our hearts forever. Amen

Closing Song/Hymn, 18 — *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

Benediction — Allen Fluent

Parting Music

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me – arranged by Mary McDonald

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Except as noted here, this worship service was created by Allen Fluent. **Morning Psalm**, Psalm 95:1-7 adapted by Allen Fluent; **Opening Hymn** *Jesus, You Once Called Disciples*; Tune: Traditional Dutch melody; Text: ©2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; **Exodus 17:1-7** and **John 4:5-42** from *New Revised Standard Version Bible* © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; **Hymn**, *The Water God Gives Us*; Tune: Traditional American melody; Text: ©2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; **Affirmation** from Romans 5 adapted by Allen Fluent;

Stay Connected at St. John Church!
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