



# St John's

Fourth Wednesday of Lent

*The Rhythm of Ritual*

March 11, 2026

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## ✠ GATHERING ✠

*The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.*

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### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### 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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray.* O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

### 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 wĩnds 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.

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## ✠ WORD ✠

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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### **READING: JOSHUA 4:1-9**

A reading from Joshua.

When the entire nation had finished crossing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup> “Select twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup> and command them, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood, carry them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you camp tonight.’ ” <sup>4</sup> Then Joshua summoned the twelve men whom he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe. <sup>5</sup> Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, <sup>6</sup> so that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ <sup>7</sup> then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever.”

<sup>8</sup> The Israelites did as Joshua commanded. They took up twelve stones out of the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua, carried them over with them to the place where they camped, and laid them down there. <sup>9</sup> (Joshua set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood, and they are there to this day.)

The word of the Lord. **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

### **SERMON**

The Rev. Matt Hansen

### **SILENT PRAYER**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

*As our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say: 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.*

HYMN

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (sing 3 times)

ELW #751

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a hymn. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system includes the lyrics: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.' The second system includes the lyrics: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.'

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✠ SENDING ✠

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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**BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Believe the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**