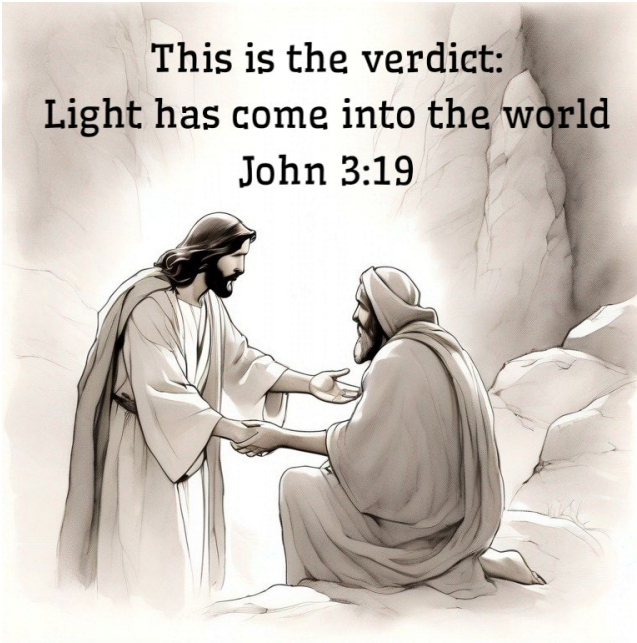


FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
RETHINKING RELIGION:
RETHINKING THE SOLUTION TO SIN

This is the verdict:
Light has come into the world
John 3:19



Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:
John 3:14-21
"The Light Has Come"

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

We pray that you find comfort, peace, and motivation through God's Word today. In our worship bulletin, you will find an outline of **today's order of worship**. The entire service can be found in the hymnal, up on the screen on Sunday at St. John's and Emmanuel and livestreamed at www.stjohnsmontello.org and also at St. John's in the Lower Level. At St. John's, the **restrooms** are located in the link way, out the church entry way, to the left and down the stairs. At Emmanuel, they are located in the Parish Hall. You may also find a **nursery changing station** in the lower level of St. John's.

**ST. JOHN'S & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCHES**

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Emmanuel 8:00am—St. John's 10:00am

RETHINKING RELIGION

Everyone has assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone has assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Americans are walking away from Christianity in breathtaking numbers. It raises the question. How do those people know if their assumptions about religion are correct? Do they really understand Christianity at all? Do we? Do we truly understand this religion? In the season of Lent, as much as any other, Jesus teaches things that turns the world's assumptions about religion completely upside down. We call it "Christianity." So, in this holy season, let us go straight to Christ and let him replace assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

THEME OF THE DAY: RETHINKING THE SOLUTION TO SIN

While not every religion uses the word "sin," they all embrace the concept. Every religion acknowledges that mankind's flawed attitudes or misguided actions are a source of pain, both now and potentially in eternity. So, every religion offers a solution: a set of laws, a moral code, a path to more enlightened behavior. What do they have in common? We are to solve sin through human effort. Be better! Try harder! This is the heart of every false religion. Those who correctly understand they will never overcome their sin are crushed by guilt. Those who ludicrously believe they have defeated their sin are killed by pride. True religion offers a better way—one that frees us from guilt and has no room for pride. Jesus teaches that the solution to our sin is not to work harder. It is to trust in the work he has done for us. Salvation comes through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ.

ORDER OF SERVICE: Setting Two with Communion; Hymnal Pages 172-187

HYMNS: 409, 652, 433, 562, 519 (Hymns also posted on the screen)

PSALM: Psalm 32 "I Turn to You, O LORD" (Hymnal/Screen)

SERMON: John 3:14-21 "The Light Has Come"

OPENING HYMN: 409 "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

CONFESSIONAL HYMN: 652 v. 1-2 "Lord, Have Mercy"

SPECIAL MUSIC: At St. John's the Sunday School choir sings: "As the Tree Bears Fruit For You"

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

(The LORD promised a solution for the bite of venomous snakes. That solution perhaps seemed nonsensical. Yet, all those who trusted God's promise lived.)

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" ⁶Then the Lord sent

venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

PSALM: Psalm 32 "I Turn to You, O LORD"

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:-10

(God's solution to sin is offered by grace and received through faith.)

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION FOR LENT: Hymnal Page 179

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21 (Sermon Text)

(Christ is the solution to sin. Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have eternal life.)

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the

verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 433 "God Was There on Calvary"

SERMON: John 3:14-21 "The Light Has Come" 1. Look to God's Son 2. Lean on God's love 3. Live by God's truth"

NICENE CREED: Hymnal Page 180/Screen

PRAYER FOR LENT, REST FOR THE WEARY & INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

OFFERING & PRAYER

COMMUNION LITURGY: Hymnal Page 183/Screen

COMMUNION PRACTICE: Today our congregation will be receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who are members of Emmanuel, St. John's, another WELS church, or a church in full doctrinal agreement with the WELS, are invited to attend. Others are politely asked to refrain until communion fellowship is established. There are two Scriptural reasons we distribute the Lord's Supper this way. 1.) Receiving the Lord's Supper improperly results in harm, not blessing, to the recipient. (1 Cor. 11:27) Like a prescription it must be administered with care. 2.) Recipients of the Supper publicly proclaim their unity in the faith. (1Cor. 10:17) Members of other denominations have, by joining those church bodies, publicly declared their allegiance to the teaching of those churches. By also communing here at this altar it would send a confusing message regarding not only what the believe, but also what the Bible teaches and what this church and its members believe and confess. We'd love to speak to you about this more fully so that all are prepared and speak with one voice as we proclaim Christ to the world. For more information, and especially if you are interested in becoming a communicant member of this congregation, please speak to Pastor Zietlow.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 562 "Jesus Paid It All"

CLOSING HYMN: 519 "There Is a Redeemer"

THEME FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Fifth Sunday in Lent --Rethinking Religion: Rethinking Devoted Commitment

**FOLLOWING ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP SERVICE, THERE WILL BE CALL MEETINGS FOR
LEAD PASTOR AND LITTLE LAMBS TEACHER/DIRECTOR.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- For the sick and others facing trials, including: Gale "Blackie" Boyd, Mike Brown, Bob Buehrens, Michael Cox (Marjorie Fabian's brother), Vicki Davis (Marilyn Riemer's sister), Edith Duesterhoeft, Don Ebert, Ken Elmer (Sally's husband), Earl Ewert, Judy Fandrey, Bob & Christine Ferber, John Gaedke (Dan Finger's uncle), Donna Gatzke, Dennis Gray (Mary Dahlke's brother), Kelleen Grucza (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Kim Hanko (Judy Fandrey's daughter), Laura Heibler (Marjorie Fabian's granddaughter), Del & Jean Henke, Jerry & Darlene Hunter (Bonnie Chapman's parents), Xzander Jahr, Kris Kemp (Diane Hintz' daughter), Dale Kozlowski, Emily Krueger, Jeff Krueger (Diane Hintz's son), Darren Marceau, Julie Moran, Debbie & Steve Parrish, Milo Petrick, Melissa Prater, Karen Radke, Roxanne Schmanke, Ashley Schroeder, Eloise Schultz, Lynn Sellnow, Bob Sluga (Sherry's husband), Pat Sommerfeld, Amanda Stalker, Tom Stempniak, James & Suzanne Weber, Cheryl Wegner, Stacy Weisensel, Paul Weldon, Tama Zuehls (Zeb's mother), Todd Zuehls (Dennis' brother, friend of Pat Sommerfeld) (added this week: Emily Krueger)
- For today's pastor and preschool director/teacher Call meetings

EMMANUEL & ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES 2024 LENT & EASTER WORSHIP

SCHEDULE:

WEDNESDAY LENT DEVOTIONS:

EMMANUEL: 3:30 PM---St. JOHN'S: 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY LENT WORSHIP: 3/13, 3/20

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE (NO SATURDAY WORSHIP)

EMMANUEL: 8:00 AM---St. JOHN'S: 10:00 AM

HOLY THURSDAY-MARCH 28: EMMANUEL: 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY-MARCH 29: St. JOHN'S: 1:00PM

EASTER-MARCH 31: EMMANUEL: 8:00 AM---St. JOHN'S: 10:00 AM

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: March 10-16, 2024

Today	11:15 a.m.	Lead Pastor/LL Teacher Call Meetings SJ
THIS	WEEK	SPRING BREAK—NO SCHOOL
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Pastor's Study Club SJ Princeton
	6:30 p.m.	NO Adult Choir SJ
	7:30 p.m.	NO Adult Bible Study SJ
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Joint Elders SJ
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study SJ
	3:30 p.m.	Lent Worship EM
	5:00 p.m.	NO Public School Catechism SJ
	5:30 p.m.	Lenten Supper SJ Hosted by Ladies Aid
	6:30 p.m.	Lent Worship SJ
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	GriefShare
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast & Study Club SJ
		NO SJ Worship

Next Sunday: March 17, 2024

8:00 a.m.	Emmanuel Worship
8:30 a.m.	St. John's Sunday School
8:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study St. John's
9:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study Emmanuel
10:00 a.m.	St. John's Worship
11:15 a.m.	Steve & Debbie Parrish Wedding Vows Renewal Service St. John's

Attendance

Date	EM	SJ
3/3/24	62	64
3/6/24	91	27

Sunday School, Little Lambs & CALA Singing Schedule

3/10/24	Sunday School at SJ Montello
3/20/24	LL-CALA 2 at Emmanuel
3/24/24	LL-CALA 8 at SJ Montello
3/29/24	CALA 3-8 & Chimes at SJ Princeton

Total Feb. Offerings	Budget Needs	February Expenses	Year to Date Offerings	Year to Date Expenses
\$19267.43	\$33939.58	\$34529.18	\$175760.87	\$213325.44

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Corinthians 9:7***

St. John's	Usher's Schedule
Sunday, March 10 Wednesday, March 13	Sunday, March 17 Wednesday, March 20
James Wachholz Zeb Zuehls Thomas Wojtalewicz Kenny Wojtalewicz Chuck Boetcher Jesse Schable	Paul Van Treeck Matt Borzick Ken Borzick James Henke Haiden Van Treeck Nolan Van Treeck Brody Henke Milo Henke



Emmanuel members. The church council is looking for volunteers to assist with counting and recording Sunday offerings. The counting and recording takes about 15 minutes following the service and you will be joined by several others to accomplish the task. Volunteers as available would be asked to serve several Sundays during the year. If interested please contact Gary Wegner or any of the Trustees.

Thank You!

At the March 6 Lenten Supper hosted by the Evangelism Committee collected donations will go to the Princeton, Montello and Green Lake Youth Group for those going to WELS International Youth Rally being held in Ft. Collins Colorado. \$334 was raised for their trip! Thank you for the generous donations!

Help us stay in touch!

Scan the code below using your smartphone camera and fill out the prompted information. Don't have a smartphone? That's ok! Fill out an attendance card located at the end of each pew and place it in the offering plate located at the entry of each church.



Welcome to our visitors!

Find & Like us on Facebook

Visit our website: www.stjohnsmontello.org

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