

# SEXAGESIMA

February 8, 2026 T 9:00 AM

·:THE SOWER OF GOOD SEEDS:·



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Missouri Synod T [www.stjohns-mattoon.org](http://www.stjohns-mattoon.org)

200 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Church (217) 234-4923 T School (217) 234-4911

St. John's Lutheran Church is a parish of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (lcms.org), where God's people gather to receive the gifts of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament. Welcome in the name of the Lord!

We are blessed to have a vibrant and growing parochial school, St. John's Lutheran School (Preschool & K-12), serving the families of the church and the Mattoon community with a Christ-centered education. For more information, visit [stjls-mattoon.com](http://stjls-mattoon.com), or contact the school office at 217-234-4911.

The Rev. Andrew E. Herzberg, *Pastor*  
[pastor@stjohns-mattoon.org](mailto:pastor@stjohns-mattoon.org)

Peter J. Eckardt, *Cantor*  
[peckardt@stjls-mattoon.com](mailto:peckardt@stjls-mattoon.com)

Elizabeth Wilhelm, *Church Secretary*  
[churchoffice@stjls-mattoon.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjls-mattoon.com)

Meghan Hagen, *Principal*  
[mhagen@stjls-mattoon.com](mailto:mhagen@stjls-mattoon.com)

Heather Veach, *Human Resources Director*  
[heatherveach@stjls-mattoon.com](mailto:heatherveach@stjls-mattoon.com)

Chantel Thompson, *Business Manager*  
[cthompson@stjls-mattoon.com](mailto:cthompson@stjls-mattoon.com)

T T T

GUESTS, we pray you are comforted by the Gospel and feel welcome among us. We invite you to introduce yourselves.

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME in the Divine Service. Restrooms and a cry room/nursery are located in the narthex.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE with all page numbers for the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, is found in this bulletin, as well as each week's Propers\*. The end of the bulletin contains St. John's weekly news and announcements. The large-print bulletins also contain the text of the hymns and liturgy for the convenience of those who may need it.

\**The Propers are the Psalm verses (Introit and Gradual) and Readings that are appointed for (or "proper to") the particular Sunday in the Church Year.*

*Sexagesima* is the second of three Sundays in the "Pre-Lent" period between Transfiguration and Ash Wednesday. The name of the Sunday comes from the Latin, meaning "sixtieth," for we are now about sixty days until Easter.

# Sexagesima

Divine Service, Setting Three,  
*Lutheran Service Book*, page 184

<u>Hymns</u>	
655	823
577	724
586	643
652	921

T T T

**Prelude:** ES WOLL' UNS GOTT GENÄDIG SEIN      Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)  
ES WOLL' UNS GOTT GENÄDIG SEIN      Samuel Scheidt (1587–1654)

## Announcements

**Opening Hymn:** *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* ..... 655  
*Stand for the final stanza.*

**Confession and Absolution**.....page 184

**Introit** (sung by choir) *Psalm 44: 1, 23–26*

*Awake, why sleepest Thou, O Lord?  
Arise, cast us not off forever.*

*Wherefore hidest Thou Thy face:  
and forgettest our affliction?*

*Our soul is bowed down to the dust:  
arise for our help and redeem us.*

*We have heard with our ears, O God:  
our fathers have told us what work Thou didst in their days.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen. (Antiphon is repeated)*

**Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis**.....pages 186–189

## Collect

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10–13

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the Lord,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual (sung by choir)

Psalm 83:18, 13

*Let the nations know that Thy name is Jehovah:*

*Thou alone art the Most High over all the earth.*

*O my God, make them like a wheel,  
and like chaff before the wind.*

## Epistle

2 Corinthians 11:19—12:9

<sup>19</sup>For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! <sup>20</sup>For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. <sup>21</sup>To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. <sup>22</sup>Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup>Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup>Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup>on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in

the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup>in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup>And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup>Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

<sup>30</sup>If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

<sup>31</sup>The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup>At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, <sup>33</sup>but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

<sup>1</sup>I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—<sup>4</sup>and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup>So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Tract** (sung by choir)

*Psalms 60:2, 5*

*Thou, O Lord hast made the earth to tremble:  
and hast broken it.*

*Heal the breaches thereof:  
for it shaketh.*

*That Thy beloved may be delivered:  
save with Thy right hand.*

# Holy Gospel

Luke 8:4–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>4</sup>When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable: <sup>5</sup>“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup>And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

<sup>9</sup>And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup>he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ <sup>11</sup>Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup>And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. <sup>14</sup>And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup>As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed .....page 192

Sit

Hymn of the Day: *May God Bestow on Us His Grace* ..... 823

*Choir sings stanza 2 (Setting by J. S. Bach)*

## Sermon

Stand

Offertory: *Create in Me* ..... pages 192–193

Sit

## Offering

*Please take this time to fill out the red record of fellowship at the end of the pew.*

# T SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT T

**Our Teaching on the Sacrament of Holy Communion:** Attending communion at our altar indicates agreement with the doctrine and teachings of Scripture that our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod confesses. Therefore, only confirmed members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod should come forward without first speaking to the pastor and being instructed. Thank you.

**Preface through Agnus Dei** .....pages 194–198

*Sit*

## **Distribution Hymns (as needed)**

<i>Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast</i> .....	577
<i>If God Himself Be for Me</i> .....	724: 1–5, 10, <i>see back page</i>
<i>Preach You the Word</i> .....	586
<i>Sent Forth by God’s Blessing</i> .....	643
<i>Father, We Thank Thee</i> .....	652

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis through Benediction**.....pages 199–202

**Closing Hymn: *On What Has Now Been Sown*** .....921

**Postlude: DARWALL**

*Healey Willan (1880–1968)*

T T T

## ***Sexagesima Sunday ~ Grace Alone***

The Sower sows the seed of His Word (Luke 8:4–15), but the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ’s cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him, the weak are strong (2 Cor. 11:19–12:9). He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Is. 55:10–13) but yields a harvest hundredfold.

~ *LCMS Lectionary Summaries*

**2/8/26**  
**Sexagesima**

**2/15/26**  
**Quinquagesima**

<b>Celebrant</b>	Rev. Andrew Herzberg	Rev. Andrew Herzberg
<b>Organist</b>	Peter Eckardt	Peter Eckardt
<b>Head Elder</b>	Kurt Rankin	Kurt Rankin
<b>Asst. Elder</b>	Erik Stortzum	Erik Stortzum
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Nancy Gass Laura Zuhone	Nancy Gass Laura Zuhone
<b>Acolytes</b>	Ellie Herzberg Gunner Bartels	Bryce Montgomery & Harrison Wetzel
<b>Ushers</b>	Collin Richey Corbin Richey	Collin Richey Corbin Richey
<b>Special Music</b>	Adult Choir	

*Altar flowers given by The Ferrees in honor of Jackie's birthday and remembering Dad on his birthday.*

**Attendance Last Week:** 183

**Education Hour:** 20 (Sunday School) 38 (Adult)

**Giving Numbers**

Budgeted: \$326,444      Received: \$296,124

Missions: \$10,000 of \$10,400

***Those in Need of Comfort, Health, & Recovery***

**Our Members:** Marge Anderson, Bob Koelling, Helen Smock, Laura Zuhone, David Uphoff, Mark Uphoff, Norma Schussler, Rachel Farmer, Carol Welton, Pat Wetzel, Karen Johnson, Teresa Rieck, Don Traub, and Bill Bell

**Those Shut In:** Art Zuhone, Rich & Clara Woelber, Bob Zschau, Lorene Reinhart, Alvin & Judy Schagemann, Dorothy Roling, Sara Doehring, Doris Dallas, Martha Spencer, Karen Johnson, Bill & Shirley Donnell and Nancy Donnell

**Friends of Our Congregation:** Douglas Blume, Charles Stodden, Bianca Stodden, Susan Sochowski, Linda Scheer, Addison Orris, Karen Phillips, Bill Crane, Rick Ivester, Alan Phelps, Jerry Buesking, Margo Haas, Barb Hinkle, Amy Lawrence, Barb Kirts, Carol McDaniel, Brendan Harms, Tammy Weber, Dave Haas, Dan Prater, Isla Schwanke, Mary Cullen, Deb Decker, and Djuana Neal

## **Church Announcements**

**Interested in learning** more about the Lutheran faith or joining St. John's as a member? Join Pastor, starting on February 1, 2026 during the Bible Class Hour to refresh your understanding or to prepare for becoming a member of the Lutheran Church.

**YMCA family night** has been rescheduled to Sun, Feb. 22 from 4–7pm.

### **Golden Ticket Dinner Auction: Saturday, March 21**

Ticket reservations are open - <https://goldenticket.cbo.io> (scan the QR code below). The event is at the Hilton Garden Inn McKenna Yost Convention Center. It is a beautiful venue, but smaller than we are used to. Therefore, seats are very limited, so don't wait! Doors will open at 4:00PM. There will be dinner, silent and live auctions, games, raffles, and a band. *(Car raffle ticket sales will benefit the overall auction total.)*



**Flag Fund:** Thank you to Joel DuFrain who ensures our American and SJLS flags are well maintained! Please consider making a donation to the "flag fund" to pay for replacement flags throughout the year.

**Nissan Sentra Car Raffle:** We are selling tickets to win a car or \$15,000 cash! Jamie Hammerschmidt plans to sell tickets at Bible class or you can pick one up in the church or school offices. Tickets are \$100 each. The winner will be drawn at the auction on March 21st, but the winner does not need to be present.

**The Eagles Flight Archery Tournament**, hosted by SJLS, is currently recruiting volunteers to help with various tasks, such as assist with setup, takedown, and line judging. The tournament is scheduled for February 13 and 14. Those interested in volunteering should contact the church office or Tab Snyder at 217-549-5788 for more information.

**Midweek Lenten Meals:** Please let the church office know if you or your organization would like to sign up to host one of our Lenten meals this year. There is a sign-up sheet is located on the church bulletin board.

Below are the dates still needed:  
February 25, March 4, and April 2.

**Men's Club** will be meeting at 6:30 pm at the Honey Bee café Feb. 12.

**The Altar Guild** is going to have a meeting Saturday, February 28, from 9–11 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will:

- Enjoy breakfast with a Bible Study and devotion
- Review duties and train any newcomers
- Look at linens and other materials that need care or replacement
- Schedule a Spring Cleaning and potential Lenten meal

The Altar Guild serves the Church quietly, behind the scenes, but through profoundly meaningful tasks, as we care for the sacred things of God. This would be an ideal time to join! Contact Cantor Eckardt with any questions.

**Lutheran Hour Sundays** will be Sunday February 22. Daily Devotions, video Bible Studies, and many other resources are free, because of people like you!

**Visit Jersey Mikes** in Mattoon on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 10am-9pm. 20% of your sale will be donated back to St. John's Lutheran School!

**Save the date!** St. John's FFA is hosting a Barn Dance fundraiser at the Overton Tree Farm on Saturday, February 28 from 5-8pm.

### Schedule for February 8-February 15

<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am Divine Service (Sexagesima)</b> 10:20–11:20 am Bible Class/Lutheranism Class/Sunday School 5:00-7:00 pm The Fire Youth Group- Fellowship Hall
<b>Mon</b>	8:00 am Laborers of Love 3:30 pm BBB Practice- Church Gym 5:00 pm CGB Meeting
<b>Tue</b>	6:30 am Men's Bible Study- Honey Bee Café 3:30–4:15 Youth Choir rehearsal
<b>Wed</b>	8:25 am 1–5 Chapel 9:05 am 6-HS Chapel 6:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal 6:00 pm Confirmation
<b>Thu</b>	10:00 am Bible Study 3:30–5:00 pm BBB Practice- Church Gym 4:30-6:30 pm JH Volleyball vs Charleston- HS Gym
<b>Fri</b>	No School
<b>Sat</b>	11:00-3:00 Stortzum- Church Gym
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9:00 am Divine Service (Quinquagesima)</b> 10:20–11:20 am Bible Class/Lutheranism Class/Sunday School 3:00-4:00 pm Jennifer Nuñez- Church Gym 5:00-7:00 pm The Rebels Youth Group- Fellowship Hall

Passio. secunda Joane. a. 2 Voci. 2 Oboe. 2 Violini. 2

## School of Bach

This Lent, experience the Passion of Christ through the lens of J. S. Bach by hearing, viewing, and studying his incredible *St. John Passion* with Cantor Eckardt! We'll meet on three Sunday evenings in the Fellowship Hall with pot-luck style appetizers and refreshments.

Cantor will lead the group through Bach's *Johannes-Passion* from first-rate performances available on YouTube, pausing along the way to reflect and discuss together. We'll look at the text in side-by-side German and English and even examine some of the score. *No musical or German expertise necessary!*

Finally, we will close each session by praying the ancient service of Compline together, found on pg. 253 in the hymnal.

If you enjoy any of the following—music, theology, Scripture, German, good food, fellowship, conversation, learning, prayer—then this is for you!

**Join us Sundays March 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 PM!**

5:30–7:00 PM Study and Fellowship

7:00–7:15 PM Compline

724 If God Himself Be for Me st. 1-5, 10



1 If God Him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;  
 2 I build on this foun - da - tion, That Je - sus and His blood  
 3 Christ Je - sus is my splen - dor, My sun, my light, a - lone;  
 4 He can - celed my of - fens - es, De - liv - ered me from death;



For when I pray, be - fore me My foes, con - found - ed, fly.  
 A - lone are my sal - va - tion, My true, e - ter - nal good.  
 Were He not my de - fend - er Be - fore God's judg - ment throne,  
 He is the Lord who cleans - es My soul from sin through faith.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from a - bove,  
 With - out Him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less on earth;  
 I nev - er should find fa - vor And mer - cy in His sight,  
 In Him I can be cheer - ful, Cou - ra - geous on my way;



What foe or what dis - as - ter Can drive me from His love?  
 The gifts I have from Je - sus A - lone have price - less worth.  
 But be de - stroyed for - ev - er As dark - ness by the light.  
 In Him I am not fear - ful Of God's great Judg - ment Day.

5 For no one can condemn me  
 Or set my hope aside;  
 Now hell no more can claim me:  
 Its fury I deride.  
 No sentence now reproves me,  
 No guilt destroys my peace;  
 For Christ, my Savior, loves me  
 And shields me with His grace.

10 My heart with joy is springing;  
 I am no longer sad.  
 My soul is filled with singing;  
 Your sunshine makes me glad.  
 The sun that cheers my spirit  
 Is Jesus Christ, my King;  
 The heav'n I shall inherit  
 Makes me rejoice and sing.