

*Welcome to Worship*

at

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
**a reconciling in Christ congregation**



*Second Sunday of Epiphany*

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

10:30 am

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Mike Button

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

**Guest Leader:** Steven Moyer

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## Statement of Welcome

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female;  
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. — Galatians 3:28*

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin, or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people.

St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

## Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome, and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

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**Communion** is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

### **Service Notes:**

- (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.
- Page # indicates the front of the hymnal is used . . .
- Hymn # indicates the back of the Hymnal is used . . .

### **Hymn Book Abbreviations:**

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book  
WOV – With One Voice  
ACS – All Creation Sings

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Welcome

Prelude “Follow Thee More Nearly” arr. J.L. Omwad

## \*Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock, and refuge,

**C: We pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

L: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God’s beloved.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 520 *“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”*

## **\*Greeting**

- page 203

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **\*Kyrie**

- page 203

## **\*Canticle of Praise**

*“Glory to God” (verse 1)*

- page 204

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

A: Let us pray. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

# Word

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

## First Reading

## 1 Samuel 3:1-20

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” <sup>17</sup>Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Reading:**

**Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have searched me out;  
O LORD, you have known me.

<sup>2</sup>**You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

<sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my resting-places  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

<sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

<sup>13</sup>For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

<sup>15</sup>My body was not hidden from you,  
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the  
earth.

<sup>16</sup>**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of  
them were written in your book;  
my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

<sup>17</sup>How deep I find your thoughts, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the  
sand;  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

## *Second Reading*

## **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial.  
“All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by  
anything. <sup>13</sup>“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for  
food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is  
meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the  
body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his  
power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?  
Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them  
members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever  
is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said,  
“The two shall be one flesh.” <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord  
becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a





you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.”

<sup>51</sup>And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily** – Steven Moyer

**\*Hymn of the Day** –

ELW # 790 “*Day by Day*”

**Apostles Creed**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.\*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **\*Prayers of Intercession**

A: Let us pray. Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of all, heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disasters. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Give them strength and lead them forth with hope. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints (*especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whose faithful advocacy for peace and justice continues to embolden the church*). God of grace,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### **\* The Sharing of the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*(Ushers now proceed to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)*

**Offertory**     “*When a Star Is Shining*” (ACS #915)  
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

### **\*Presentation of Gifts**

*(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

## **\*Offertory Hymn**

ELW #465 *“As the Grains of Wheat”*

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

**\*Great Thanksgiving** - page 206

**\*Preface** (*Leader continues . . .*)

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 207

**\*Thanksgiving at the Table** (*Leader continues . . .*)

**\*Lord's Prayer** - page 208

**\*Lamb of God** - page 208

## **\*Invitation to Communion**

**Holy Communion** - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table.*

*\*At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

## **Communion Hymns**

ELW #685 ***“Take My Life, That I May Be”***

ELW #830 ***“How Marvelous God's Greatness”***

ELW #676 ***“Lord Speak to Us, That We May Speak”***

## **\*Table Blessing**

## **\*Post Communion Hymn**

ELW #313 ***“O Lord, Now Let Your Servant”***.

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# Sending

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

## Announcements

### \*Blessing

L: God who names you, Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✝ bless you and remain  
with you always.

C: Amen.

### \*Sending Hymn

ELW # 574 *“Here I Am, Lord”*

### \*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

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3. *“Here I Am, Lord”* (ELW #574, Text & Music: Daniel L. Schutte © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc.)  
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**Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .**

**Worship Assistant**– Chris Orem

**Ushers** – Panama Crozier / Connie Garr

**Reader** – John Fritchman

**Altar Guild** – Joyce Petty / Connie Garr

**Video Team** – Steve Remel

**This Week at St. John's: January 14<sup>th</sup> – January 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Today** (1/14/24) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30 am

**Today** (1/14/24) – Following Worship: Spiritual Life - Chapel

**Monday** (1/15/24) – Choir, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (1/16/24) – Bible Study, 10:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (1/17/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Sunday** (1/21/24) – Sunday School / Adult Form, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (1/21/24) – Third Sunday of Epiphany, 10:30 am

*Thank you ~ Steve Moyer ~ for leading us in  
Worship Today!*

*Join us at Prayer Group:*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the Month at 11:00 am*



*Prayer Concerns:* Chuck, Fritzie, Sandy, Pam, James, Kara, Christine, Ilsa, Tammy, Carolyn, Julia, Charles, Bill, Jim, Betty, Madelyn, Ken, Louise, Sylvia, Tony, Caitlin, Arlene, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the Friends and Family of Chris Yost, Lillie Lang, Louise Ward, and Ida Gabrielli

*\*For your information, the prayer group is meeting this coming week, 1/17/24 at 11:00 am in the Hospitality Room.*

# Save the Date . . .

## Annual Congregational Meeting

January 28, 2024 – Following Worship

*(Membership will be sponsoring a light lunch following the meeting, the Congregation is asked to bring a Side Dish or Dessert to share.)*

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Attention Committee Chairs:

Annual Reports if you didn't get your annual reports into the office, please submit them ASAP.

*Winter is Here . . .*

*In the case of inclement weather, please check your e-mails, church website, and WFMZ Stormcenter – Channel 69 News for information on the church closing. If you did not receive an e-mail this past week regarding the recent "Closing for Snow", please send a quick e-mail to the church office to be included on our list. [Admin@stjohnseaston.org](mailto:Admin@stjohnseaston.org)*

**Adult Forum:**

**Join us Sunday's at 9:00 am in the Gallery . . .**

**NEW TOPIC:**

**"Everything you wanted to know about worship but were afraid to ask . . ."**

