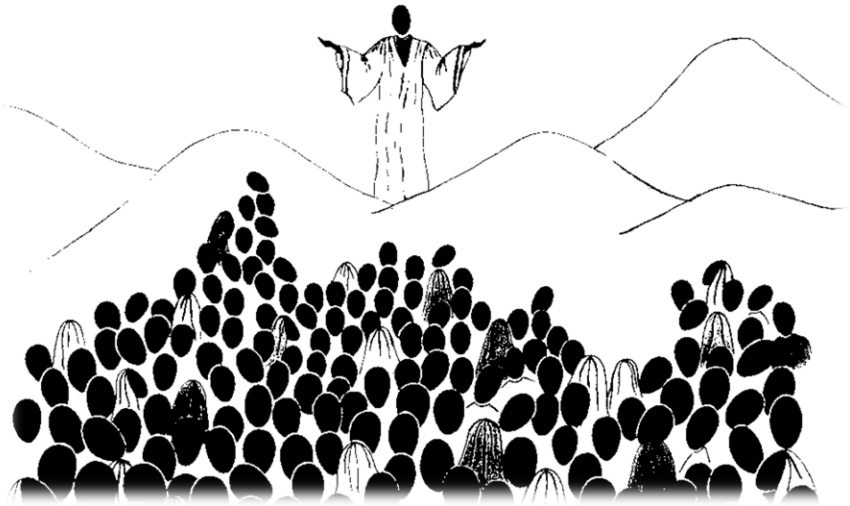


Welcome to Worship

at

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



*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

February 16, 2025

10:30 am

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

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

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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**    *“In Blessed Peace”* by L. Sejisca

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin . . .

Merciful God,

**C: You speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”  
In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.  
Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

ELW # 434 *“Jesus Shall Reign”*

**\*Greeting**

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P: 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**

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**\*Canticle of Praise**

*“Glory to God”*

- page 99

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

A: Let us pray. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## **Children's Chat**

### **Word**

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

### **First Reading**

**Jeremiah 17:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup>I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### *Responsive Reading:*

### **Psalm 1**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**<sup>2</sup>Their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

**<sup>4</sup>It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup>For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*“Alleluia”*

*- page 102*

**\* Gospel**

**Luke 6:17-26**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup> They

had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.”

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.” <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.”

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.”

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.”

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon** – *The Rev. Mike Button*

**\*Hymn of the Day**

ELW # 725 “*When the Poor Ones*”



## *\*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. Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,**

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**A: Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,**

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen**

## \* *The Sharing of the Peace*

P: 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**

*“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”* by Sebastian Temple  
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

## \***Presentation of Gifts**

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

## \*Offertory Hymn

ACS# 914      *“Jesus, the Light of the World”* (v. 4)

4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
*Refrain*  
We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.  
Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, all in a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first staff begins with a '4' time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The third staff is marked 'Refrain' and features a fermata over the first note. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

## \*Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: Amen

## \*Great Thanksgiving

- page 107

## \* Preface

(Leader continues . . .)

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 108

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

**\*Lord's Prayer** - page 112

**\*Lamb of God** - page 112

**\*Invitation to Communion** - page 112

**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 #754 ***“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”***

ELW # 479 ***“We Come to the Hungry Feast”***

ELW # 477 ***“I Received the Living God”***

## \*Table Blessing

## \*Post Communion Hymn

ACS #984 *“May the God of Hope Go with Us”*

May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,  
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.  
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,  
bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.  
Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our  
joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,  
faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

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

## **Announcements**

## **\*Blessing**

P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Sending Hymn**

ELW # 710 *“Let Streams of Living Justice”*

## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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