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## **St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

We come together to love God and one another, Serve others, and Share God's Word.  
We do these things by God's Grace that comes through the death and  
resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ.

**Worship 10:00 am**

**Holy Communion**

**Pastor Tim Swanson**

**February 5, 2023**

**5th Sunday after Epiphany**

**Ministers Members**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

### **GATHERING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,  
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one  
another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG:**

**This Little Light of Mine**

**ELW 677**

### **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.**

## **KYRIE** (*spoken*)

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]**

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.  
<sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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<sup>9b</sup>If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

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*Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.*

## **PSALM     Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who <sup>1</sup>fear the LORD  
and have great delight in <sup>1</sup>God's commandments!  
<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty <sup>1</sup>in the land;**  
**the generation of the upright <sup>1</sup>will be blessed.**  
<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be <sup>1</sup>in their house,  
and their righteousness will <sup>1</sup>last forever.  
<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness <sup>1</sup>for the upright;**

**the righteous are merciful and full<sup>1</sup> of compassion. R**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be gener-<sup>1</sup>ous in lending  
and to manage their af-<sup>1</sup>fairs with justice.

**<sup>6</sup>For they will nev-<sup>1</sup>er be shaken;**

**the righteous will be kept in everlast-<sup>1</sup>ing remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any<sup>1</sup> evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting<sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>Their heart is established and<sup>1</sup> will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up-<sup>1</sup>on their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands<sup>1</sup> fast forever;  
they will hold up their<sup>1</sup> head with honor.

[ <sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and<sup>1</sup> pine away;  
the desires of the wick-<sup>1</sup>ed will perish. R**

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**All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the  
beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

## **SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of  
God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except  
Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much  
trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom,  
but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on  
human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or  
of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret  
and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this  
age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of  
glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches  
everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human  
except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's  
except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the  
Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

[<sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the

Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup>"For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?"  
But we have the mind of Christ.]

*Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**GOSPEL** The Gospel according to St. Matt. the 5th chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

**Matthew 5:13-20** [Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one

letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Christ, Be Our Light**

**ELW 715**

## **CREED**

**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**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night.

Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring



healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters (*especially Madagascar and New Zealand*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth and the light of the world. We pray that, by sharing our faith and acting with compassion, justice, and care for our neighbors, we might direct people's attention to you, our loving and generous God. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for (*the Martyrs of Japan and*) all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness.

Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share God's Peace.

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERING SONG**

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.  
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power,  
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.  
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

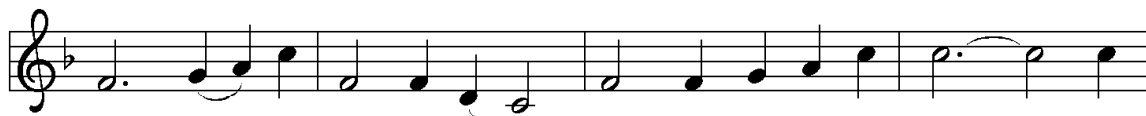
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and taste the joy of God!

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table.  
Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless,  
strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

**God, Whose Almighty Word    ELW 673**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, **To LOVE, SERVE, and SHARE God's word.**

## **Worship Assistants**

**Musician – Mandy Arnett**

**Communion Assistant – Becky Stockslager**

**Ushers – Bill Dafler, Steve Dafler, Scott Hittle, and Steve Stockslager**

**Lay Reader – Chris Ingram**

**Altar Guild – Becky Vickers**

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*Altar flowers* are given in memory of Mary Buettner.

## **Church Records**

In order to LOVE, SERVE and SHARE God's Word in 2023, we commit to regular attendance at worship and Sunday school, to time spent in service to others, and daily Bible reading and prayer. As God blesses us with what we need, we respond with gifts that support God's work at St. John's. In order to meet current expenses, we have committed to monetary gifts totaling almost \$2096 a week.

***Statistics for January 29, 2023***

***Attendance: 36***

Current	\$3916.00	Missionary	100.00
Benevolence	570.00	TVS	225.00
Disaster	50.00	World Hunger	75.00
		Total	\$4936.00

## **Announcements**

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments after worship today!

**Food Bank Needs** – Green beans, ramen noodles, and egg noodles.

**Bible Study** – Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. Pastor Tim is leading a study on Paul's triad use of "Faith, Hope, and Love" in his letters.

**February Birthdays & Anniversaries** – 2 Carol McKinley (B), 5 Al Souleyrette (B), 7 Paul Beneke (B), 12 Harry Eubank (B), 15 Kelly Studebaker (B), 16 Karen Studebaker (B), 20 Paul & Marna Beneke (69<sup>th</sup> A), 26 Darlene Combs (B).

*In less than one year multiple church council seats will be open. Please take some time and envision how your active leadership on St. John's council might impact the life of this congregational.*

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE Salt and Light**

What we believe about ourselves has the power to shape our behavior in profound ways. If we believe we aren't good enough or are unwanted, that will likely show up in the way we carry ourselves, in the way we interact with others, and in the opportunities we seek out or don't. On the other hand, if we know that we are loved or if we feel like we belong, we will probably bring more assurance to our interactions with others, and will be more likely to take risks and to reach out and engage with our communities.

Similarly, our identity as disciples of Jesus has the power to shape the way we live. It all starts with who Jesus says we are. "You are the salt of the earth," Jesus tells his disciples. "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). Salt preserves food and adds flavor. Used masterfully, it brings out the best in the other flavors of a dish. It can pull other elements together to help create a new thing. Light nurtures life. It can comfort, energize, and help make things clear. Together, salt and light sustain, nourish, and welcome new life in the world around them.

What kind of people would we be if we really believed we were the salt of the earth and the light of the world? Nurturers, sustainers, co-creators with God in making all things new? What fears could we let go if we simply trusted that we are who Jesus says we are? What risks would we take? How would we show up in our communities? As we gather for worship today, we are invited to hear anew this identity we are given in Christ. Then, nourished by word and sacrament, we are sent forth with the promise that Christ is forever at work in us, keeping us as salt and light in all times and places.

**PRAYER CONCERNS FOR WEEK OF January 29, 2023**

Rev. Jim Miller, Annie Presley, Don Flory, Donele Rice, A.J. Hatfield, Kelly Coffman, Phyllis Warner, Eleanor Steele, Pastor Mary and Tikkun Farm in Cincinnati, Don Voge, Diane Harry, Sue Johnson, Amy Leedy, John DeVilbiss, Dan McKinley, AJ McKinley, Dottie, Dolly Shelton, Terry & Connie Wysong, Andrew Obst, Pat Collins, Maxine Ingram, Eric Walker.

**GRIEVING:** Families of Dane Stockslager and Merle Johnson

**MISSIONARIES:** Jonathan & Michelle Voge & Family

**ST JOHN FAMILY:** Nancy Wright, Lynn Voge, Fred Boebel, Judy Erbaugh, Paula Schiml, Cindy Dafler, Amy Stockslager, Glen Behnken, Bruce Sams & family, Bob Combs, Marna Beneke, Mark McKinley.

**SHUT-INS:** Butch Spitler, Janet Ferguson, Reenie Halsey, Catherine Dafler.