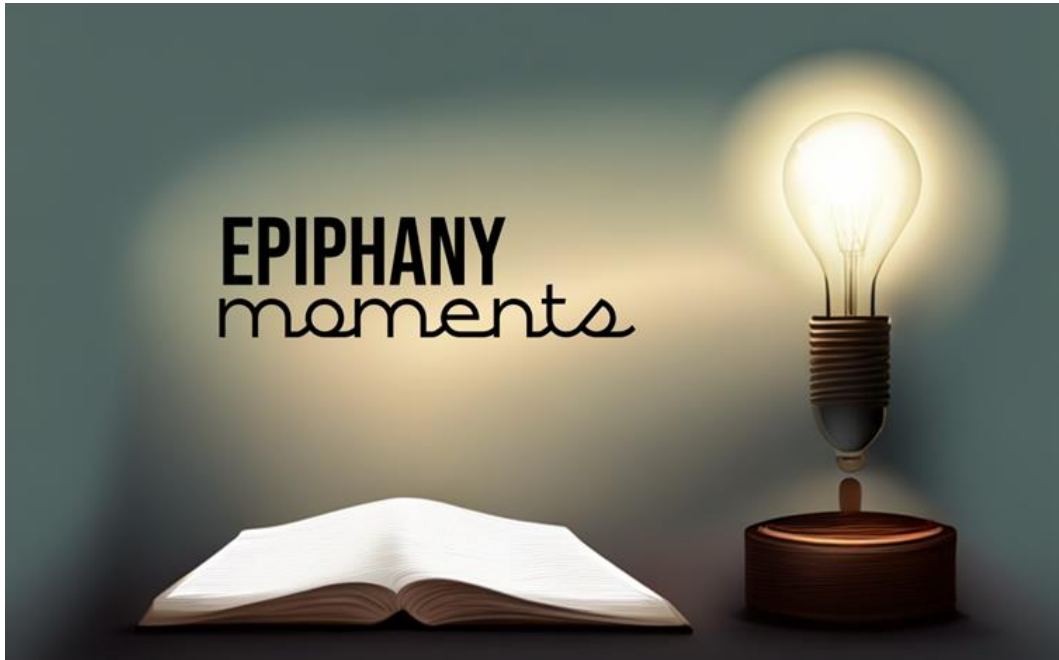


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**EPIPHANY**  
moments



baptism is the cure for an  
identity crisis

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St. John's Lutheran Church –  
January 12, 2025

# Welcome to St. John's

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Thanks for being here today! We feel blessed that you're here and truly pray you find the warmth of our Christian family, the powerful truth of God's Word and the peaceful assurance of His promises. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. To start, everything for our worship is projected on the screens up front and printed here in the service folder. God bless your time with us today. We hope you can worship with us again!

## If You're New to St. John's:

**You and your kids are welcome.** We really love and enjoy having kids in worship and encourage the worshipping family! In fact, our worship often includes a children's message with little ones in mind. And if your children are acting up, please know it's never a bother to our worship service. However, if you do need a quiet place to calm a child, a nursery room is available with screens immediately to the left as you exit the sanctuary. There are also changing stations in each bathroom.

**Restrooms** are located in the entrance as you came into the building

**Make yourself at home.** You don't have to rush off after service today. Light refreshments are usually provided in our social hall after worship. If you feel comfortable, please stay and follow up with one of our pastors; we'd be honored if you took a moment to introduce yourself!

**Don't feel obligated.** Our members give financial offerings to the Lord as an expression of thanks and praise for his amazing love. Please know that you are our guests and we're simply happy you've come to hear about Jesus and His Word today. You're not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

**Cell Phones.** To remove as many distractions as possible from worshipping God today, we kindly ask you to silence your phone before the service.

**Fill out a Connection Card.** We'd love to know you were here and help you take the next step. There are Connection Cards inserted in the worship folders, or they can be completed online. Text "Connect" to 651-401-1400, scan the QR code, or visit [www.StJohnsLutheran.com/connection-card](http://www.StJohnsLutheran.com/connection-card) to complete the card online.



# Welcome to St. John's

## Opening Praise: God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

CW 679



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized  
2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized  
3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized  
4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized  
5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing to this life-long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it, gave my  
in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus'  
in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion, I am  
in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness to in -  
com - fort sure! O - pen-eyed my grave is star - ing: e - ven



full re - demp-tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures man - y?  
cleans-ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con-science seize me  
not so soon en-ticed. Now that to the font I've trav - eled,  
her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and ash - es  
there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its rais - ing,



I have one worth more than an - y that brought me sal -  
since my bap - tism did re - lease me in a dear for -  
all your might has come un - rav - eled, and, a - gainst your  
faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the  
still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free, last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
giv - ing flood, sprink-ling me with Je - sus' blood?  
tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!  
strength di - vine to make life im - mor - tal mine.  
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

*Stand*

## **We Worship with God's Blessing**

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Our Honest Confession; God's Gracious Forgiveness**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# Glory to God in the Highest

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est and



peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther.




We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of God the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer, re-ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*

(continued on the next page)

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the  
 Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.

*Refrain*

### Prayer of the Day

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### Children's Message

## God's Word for our Hearts

1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

<sup>2</sup>But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

<sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

<sup>5</sup>Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

<sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." <sup>9</sup>Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." <sup>11</sup>So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

<sup>12</sup>So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

<sup>13</sup>So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Mark 1:11*

Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.

**Alleluia.**

## **The Gospel Reading**

*Luke 3:15–17,21-22*

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup>When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**



# Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert

CWS 709



1 Christ, your foot - prints through the des - ert Led to  
2 Christ, you heard the stir - ring sum - mons As by  
3 Son of God, the road from Jor - dan Led at  
4 God, in Bap - tism you have made us One with



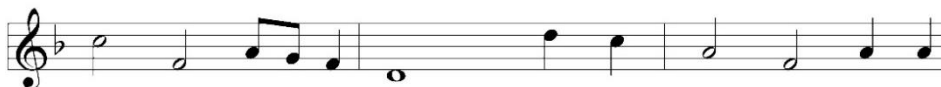
Jor - dan's flow - ing stream. There you heard the  
Jor - dan's bank you stood; Bathed, though sin - less,  
last to Cal - v'ry's hill. There up - on the  
Christ, our ris - en Lord; Freed us, claimed us,



her - ald cry - ing Is - rael's old pro - phet - ic  
with your peo - ple In the riv - er's cleans - ing  
cross for - sak - en, You ful - filled the Fa - ther's  
cleansed, for - giv - en Through the wa - ter and the



dream: "He is com - ing! He is com - ing! He will  
flood. High a - bove, the heav - ens o - pened; Came the  
will. Lamb of God, we see you dy - ing, Sin - less,  
Word. Help us hear your ur - gent sum - mons, Call - ing



cleanse the earth with flame! Sin - ners, plunge be - neath the  
Spir - it as a dove; Spoke a voice be - yond all  
yet for sin - ners slain. But where death rose up to  
us to serve you now. Send us forth, your sons and



wa - ters! Wash a - way your guilt and shame!"  
hear - ing: "See my Son, the one I love!"  
tri - umph, You be - gan your glo - rious reign!  
daugh - ters, With the cross up - on our brow.

## Today's Message from our Loving God – Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

**Message Notes:** *Things for me to remember this week...*

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## Remembrance of Baptism

Holy Baptism is the priceless means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul wrote: "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Again Paul wrote: "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives us new life. We reject the devil and confess that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus, to value the Word and sacraments, and to live a life that pleases God?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

May the eternal God, who saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Our Offering of Thanks & Love**

*“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” - Colossians 3:17*

*Our offerings are both an expression of thankfulness for what our Savior has done for us, and a way of supporting the spread of the gospel through the Church’s work. Guests need not feel obligated to contribute.*

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### **Ways to Give Electronically**

Choose one of 3 Simple, Safe Options for Offering Thanks



- Text “give” to 651-401-1400
- Go to [www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give](http://www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give)
- Scan the QR code

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*Stand*

## **Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Christ Begins**

*found on the next page*

CW 385

# Christ Begins

CW 385

The first verse will be introduced by a soloist, the congregation is invited to join as comfortable



1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.  
2 Mar - y's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time.  
3 See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide.  
4 We stand, gath - ered round on the moun - tain - side.



Wa - ter runs and all heav - en  
Yet six jars are filled with the  
Clothes like light - ning white, heav - en  
Watch the clos - ing clouds hide him



o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.  
fin - est wine. Tell me, who is this by our side?  
o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.  
from our eyes; with a voice u - nit - ed we cry:

## Refrain



Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a



light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my



God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

CCLI license #2963929 and CCS license #8000

# Take the Next Step

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If this is your first time with us, we're so glad that you took a big step and came to worship. What's your next step?

## Come back next week

Connecting with God at worship is a great way to spend time during your weekend.

## Try "God & Me"

God & Me is the place to learn more about God's word in your life, for both long time-members and beginners who want to learn more about God's love, the Bible, and St. John's. A new session of classes will be starting soon. Connect with Pastor and/or check the box on your Connection Card if you'd like to know more.

## Join a Grow Group

Grow Groups are small groups that get together in person or online to learn about God's Word. It's a safe, comfortable atmosphere to discuss the way God's love intersects our daily lives. If you are interested in joining or starting a Grow Group or Bible Study, mark the box on your Connection Card and we will reach out to you.

## Service Opportunities

There are multiple areas to volunteer each Sunday to make worship happen well for those in person and online: Guest Services & Hospitality Team, Tech Team, & Worship Prep Team. Are you interested in serving? Mark the box on your Connection Card today!

## Staff

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