



EPIPHANY
moments:
blessings are cursed;
curses are blessed

St. John's Lutheran Church
February 16, 2025

Welcome to St. John's

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 to complete the card online.



Welcome to St. John's

Opening Worship: 832 Immovable Our Hope Remains CW 832 sts. 1-2



1 Im - mov - a - ble our hope re - mains, though shift - ing sands be -
2 This is e - ter - nal life: to know the liv - ing God and



fore us lie; the One who washed a - way our stains shall
Christ, the Son. The Sav - ior will not let us go un -



bear us safe - ly to the skies. The floods may rise, the
til his sav - ing work is done. Our debt was great, as



winds may beat, tor - ren - tial rains de - scend, yet
was our need, but now the price is paid. Who



God his own will not for - get; he'll love and keep us
can be - hold Im - man - uel bleed and doubt his will - ing -



till the end. You'll love and keep us till the end.
ness to save? We trust your will - ing - ness to save.

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.



4 Built in - to Christ, se - cure we stand, for with his Spir - it
 we've been sealed; by grace we'll see the prom - ised land where
 ev - 'ry sor - row shall be healed. To God who gave his
 on - ly Son, to Je - sus Christ, our Lord to
 God the Spir - it, Three in One, be songs of praise for -
 ev - er - more. We'll sing your praise for - ev - er - more.

CW 832 sts. 4

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God of power and might, you know that we live in the midst of many great dangers, and in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Give us strength and protection to support us in all peril, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God's Word for Our Hearts

Jeremiah 17:5-8

⁵This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 121:8

Alleluia. The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore
Alleluia.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 6:17–26

¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said:

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

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

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

²²Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Still, My Soul

CW 847



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; bear pa-tient-
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take to guide the
3 Be still, my soul; when dear-est friends de - part and all is
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on when we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to or - der
fu - ture as he has the past; your hope, your con - fi - dence, let
dark-ened in the vale of tears, then you will bet - ter know his
be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap - point-ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; in ev - 'ry change he faith-ful will re -
noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
love, his heart, who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your
fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly friend
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
his voice who ruled them while he lived be - low.
from his own full - ness all he takes a - way.
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Today's Message based on 2 Corinthians 12:7b–10

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Our Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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.

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
 - Scan the QR code
-

Prayer & 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.

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second staff begins the vocal melody with the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,'. The third staff continues with 'God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your'. The fourth staff has 'glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The fifth staff says 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the'. The sixth staff continues 'Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -'. The seventh and final staff concludes with 'san - na in the high - est!'.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en 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!

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated

A note to our guests: God's Word speaks of the spiritual blessings of this Sacrament (Matthew 26:28). God's Word also warns us against the spiritual danger in sharing this Holy meal (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Because we deeply care about you and don't want to see anyone's faith harmed, we ask that only those persons who are members of our church or fellowship join us in this intimate expression of oneness (1 Corinthians 10:17; Amos 3:3). We are not judging your love for Jesus; we are showing our love for Jesus by obeying his commands (John 14:15,21). Please feel free to ask one of our pastors for more information. We are eager to listen and share over an open Bible. Thanks!

Distribution Hymn: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

CW 839



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Distribution Hymn: What God Ordains is Always Good

CW 844



1 What God or-dains is al - ways good: his will is just and
2 What God or-dains is al - ways good: he nev - er will de -
3 What God or-dains is al - ways good: though I the cup am
4 What God or-dains is al - ways good: this truth re - mains un -



ho - ly. As he di - rects my life for me, I fol - low
ceive me; he leads me in his right - eous way and nev - er
drink - ing which sa - vors now of bit - ter-ness, I take it
shak - en. Though sor - row, need, or death be mine, I shall not



meek and low - ly. My God in - deed in ev - 'ry need knows
will he leave me. I take con - tent what he has sent; his
with - out shrink - ing. For af - ter grief God grants re - lief, my
be for - sak - en. I fear no harm, for with his arm he



well how he will shield me; to him, then, I will yield me.
hand that sends me sad - ness will turn my tears to glad - ness.
heart with com - fort fill - ing and all my sor - row still - ing.
will em - brace and shield me; so to my God I yield me.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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.

Closing Song: Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

CW 849



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,



di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home.



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
so take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

CCLI license #2963929 and CCS license #8000

Take the Next Step

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

Dennis Harbach | Pastor
pastordh@stjohnslutheran.com
(262) 402-2664

Jon Zimpelmann | Pastor
Jon.zimpelmann@gmail.com
(651) 829-4574

Michelle Schulte | Office Admin
Admin@StJohnsLutheran.com
(651) 438-3730



Visit us online:  www.StJohnsLutheran.com



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – WELS