



“³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.”

~Mark 1: 30-31

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – February 8, 2015
PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-04111

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

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Rev. Robert Newpher, Interim Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – February 8, 2015

In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

PRELUDE: *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come* – George Shearing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG #842: O Worship the King**

***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.

***GLORY TO GOD**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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.



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 the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Everlasting God,

you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.

Make us agents of your healing and wholeness,

that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21–31 (page 668 in Old Testament)

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147



1. Sing praise to our Cre - a - tor. How good his name to praise!
2. He num - bers stars and plan - ets, gives each a name and place.
3. With clouds God fills the heav - ens; he sends the wel - come rain.
4. He speaks to all his peo - ple; they know his law and word.



God bless - es all his peo - ple in count - less lov - ing ways.
How wide and deep his pow - er through all of time and space!
The slopes and hills are fer - tile with spring - ing grass and grain.
No oth - er land is fa - vored, nor is their con - science stirred.



He builds the walls of Zi - on and seeks those cast a - side.
He lifts the meek to hon - or, drives sin - ners to the ground.
God feed the beasts and ra - vens; their needs are all sup - plied.
Let all who know his bless - ing, his lov - ing, right - eous ways,



He com - forts those who sor - row, who in his love a - bide.
To God pour out thanks - giv - ing; let all your praise re - sound.
He loves the meek who fear him, but turns the proud a - side.
sing praise to their Cre - a - tor. How good his name to praise!

Text: Psalm 147; para. Marie J. Post

LANCASHIRE

Music: Henry Smart

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SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9: 16–23 (page 171-172 in New Testament)

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

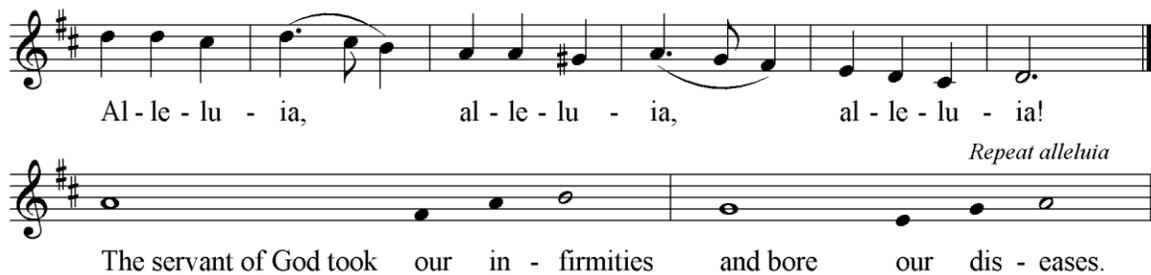
¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat alleluia*

The servant of God took our in - firmities and bore our dis - eases.

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:29 –39** (page 35 in New Testament)

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #610: *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

***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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called to know, love, and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Everlasting God, deepen your church's commitment to proclaiming the gospel, that many will hear, respond, and share in its blessings. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of earth's foundations, restore lands, forests, and oceans recovering from natural disasters. Protect and preserve all animals and humans who live in these places. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, rule over the nations and guide their paths toward the fulfillment of your purpose, nurturing the common good, protecting the weak, providing justice, and caring for the needy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strength of the powerless, lift up the weary and wounded, give endurance to those whose struggle is unrelenting, heal the sick, and relieve the pain of those who suffer especially Nan, Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Call this assembly to expand our vision to see your kingdom present and working among us. Free us from all that hinders us from following you, and be with our bishop and call committee as they seek a new pastor for this congregation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Searching God, expand the welcome and witness of this congregation's outreach ministries. We pray for all those served by these ministries, and for all visiting with us today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Unsearchable God, you are always more than we can understand or imagine. Guide us to follow in faith where the saints have led until we join them at your throne. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray, knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #858: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

(All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful,
you bring forth food from the earth
and nourish your whole creation.

Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way,
that all may know your care;
and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

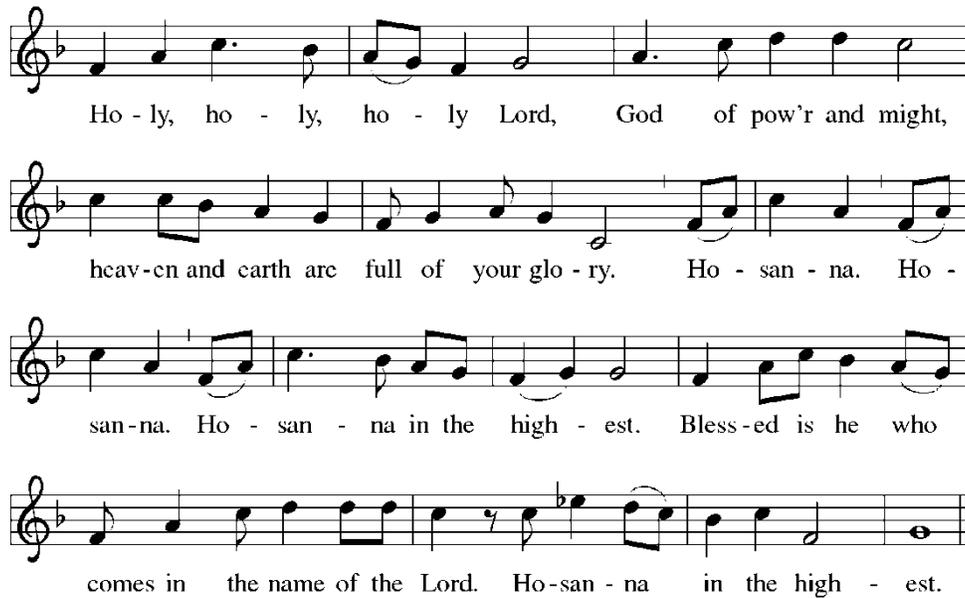
***PREFACE**

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:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
- might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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

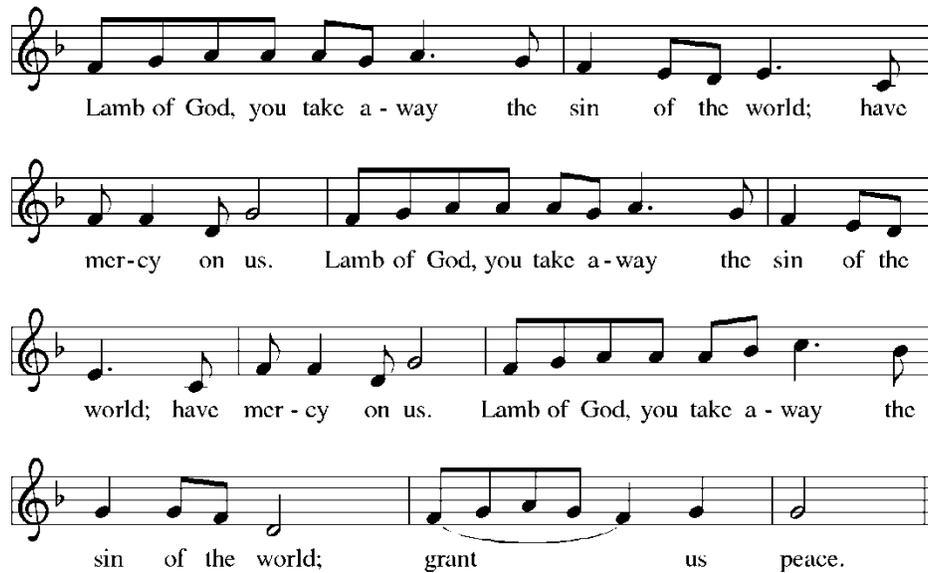
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



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

COMMUNION HYMN #617: *We Come to You for Healing, Lord*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has been ful-
- filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-
- pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-
- veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG #314: *Arise, Your Light Has Come!

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* – Johann Walther

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Bob Davidson
Attendance Last Week: 50
Weekly Budgeted Need: \$
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 11,021.77
YTD Actual Expense: \$ 5,153.85

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:
Attendance last year: 73
Last Week's Giving: \$ 4,270.00
Year to Date Receipts: \$ 11,894.00

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