



*“<sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.”*

*Matthew 5:23-24*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany – February 12, 2017**

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music Ministries

*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 card attached to the front of the bulletin. 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**

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany– February 12, 2017**

*In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.*

**PRELUDE:** *Healer of Our Every Ill* – Gregory Hamilton

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who stretches out the heavens,  
who sends light to the nations,  
who gives breath to us all.

**Amen.**

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

Loving God,  
**we confess that we have turned from your way  
to follow our own ways.  
Forgive us for the times  
we have spoken or acted too quickly;  
we have not spoken or acted at all;  
we have hurt those closest to us;  
we have hurt those we have yet to know;  
we have thought more about ourselves than others;  
we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.  
Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,  
so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.  
Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.  
God's love never runs out.  
God never tires of calling us beloved children.  
Hear God say to you now:  
Your sins are forgiven,  
for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #818: *O Master, Let Me Walk with You***

## \*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



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

Let us pray.

**O God,**

**the strength of all who hope in you,**

**because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you.**

**Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do,**

**and give us grace and power to do them,**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.*

[Moses said to the people:] <sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your

descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 119

*The cantor sings the refrain and all repeat it. The congregation sings the **bold** verses.*



<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose | way is blameless,  
who follow the teaching | of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they who observe | your decrees  
and seek you with | all their hearts,**

<sup>3</sup>who never do | any wrong,  
but always walk | in your ways.

<sup>4</sup>**You laid down | your commandments,  
that we should | fully keep them. R**

<sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were made | so direct  
that I might | keep your statutes!

<sup>6</sup>**Then I should not be | put to shame,  
when I regard all | your commandments.**

<sup>7</sup>I will thank you with | a true heart,  
when I have learned your | righteous judgments.

<sup>8</sup>**I will | keep your statutes;  
do not utter- | ly forsake me. R**

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

*Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are fellow workers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.*

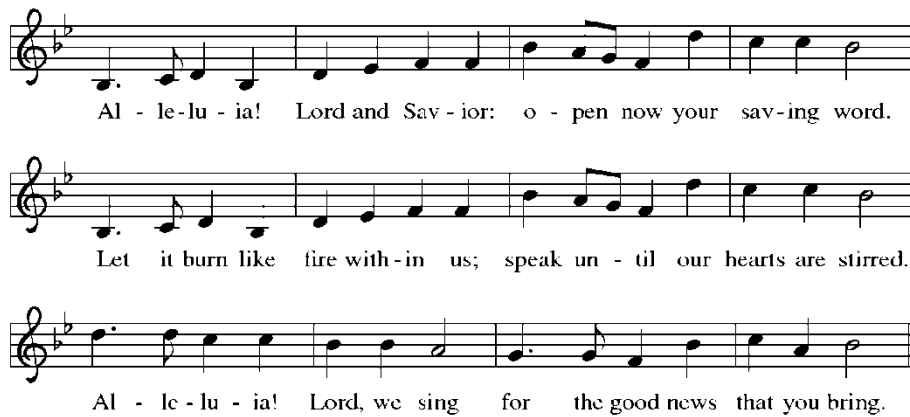
<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

<sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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 READING: Matthew 5:21-37

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:]<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’<sup>22</sup>But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire.<sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,<sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.<sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.<sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’<sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.<sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.<sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

<sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’<sup>32</sup>But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup>“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’<sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,<sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.<sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.<sup>37</sup>Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #603: *God, When Human Bonds are Broken***

**\*APOSTLES' 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 to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

Holy Lord, you alone are God. Remove jealousy and quarreling between Christian denominations. Hold us in the unity of our baptism as we work together to serve you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You called into being the first fruits of the earth. Guide gardeners and farmers who till the soil and tend the fields. Bless their work and in due season bring forth the bounty of the land. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, your love knows no bounds. Break down barriers caused by nationalism. Challenge our stereotypes. Give us courage to engage in difficult conversations with those whose experiences are different from our own. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all who struggle, especially Denise, Sally, Bill, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Ease the pain of families affected by divorce. Grant life-giving work to all who seek employment. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You know every hair on our heads. Yet we do not even know each of our neighbors. Equip our outreach ministry and this assembly to get to know the people in our community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Lord, you are the God of our ancestors in faith. You are our God. Keep us faithful until we join all the saints at your heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

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

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

### OFFERING

#### **\*OFFERING HYMN #772: *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways***

*All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.*

#### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
Merciful God,  
receive the gifts we bring,  
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.  
Through this meal unite us as your body,  
shining with the light of your justice and mercy;  
for the sake of him who gave himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

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.

Blessed are you, O holy God:  
you are the Life and Light of all.  
By your powerful word you created all things.  
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.  
Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.  
He is your Light, shining in our darkness  
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his preaching and healing,  
his dying and rising,  
and his promise to come again,  
we await that day when all the universe  
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,  
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

We who are many are one body,  
for we all partake of the one bread.  
Come. Be filled with light and life.

### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
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***



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### **COMMUNION HYMN #612: *Healer of Our Every Ill***

#### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

#### **\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n - ly peace,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
O Morning Star, fair and bright,  
you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.  
You are our dearest treasure.  
Go with us now—  
today, tomorrow, every day—  
that we tell the story of your never-ending love  
and sing your praise both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**\*SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care:  
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,  
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament.  
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,  
and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence  
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The God of glory dwell in you richly,  
name you beloved,  
and shine brightly on your path;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #544: *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing***

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing* – Kenneth T. Kosche**

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Dave Knauff  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** Matt Claus  
**Attendance Last Week:** 66  
**Weekly Budgeted Expense:** \$ 3,185.02  
**YTD Actual Expense:** \$  
**YTD Actual Expense:** \$

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Missy Kramer  
**Communion Assistant:** Valerie Cardinal  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:**  
**Attendance Last Year:** 86  
**Last Week’s General Giving:** \$ 4,114.76  
**Last Week’s Designated Giving:** \$ 720.24  
**YTD Receipts:** \$ 18,434.61

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