

*“¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.
¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”*

Matthew 4:18-19

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Third Sunday after Epiphany – January 22, 2017

420 Beaver Street

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830

email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Pastor's cell 412-585-1628

Pastor's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org

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 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

Third Sunday after Epiphany– January 22, 2017

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

PRELUDE: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* – Paul Manz

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 #815: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

***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.
Lord God,
your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us.
Summon us into your light,
and direct our steps in the ways of goodness
that come through the cross of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced defeat, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them. The people in the northern parts of Israel have experienced "gloom" and "darkness" because of the destruction wrought by Assyrian military forces. To these people, the prophet announces the shining of a great light of salvation.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond

the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

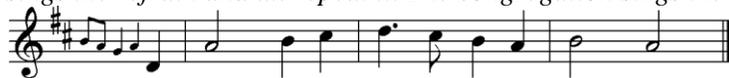
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

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



The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion.

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;**

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;

I will sing and make music | to the LORD.

R

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

R

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

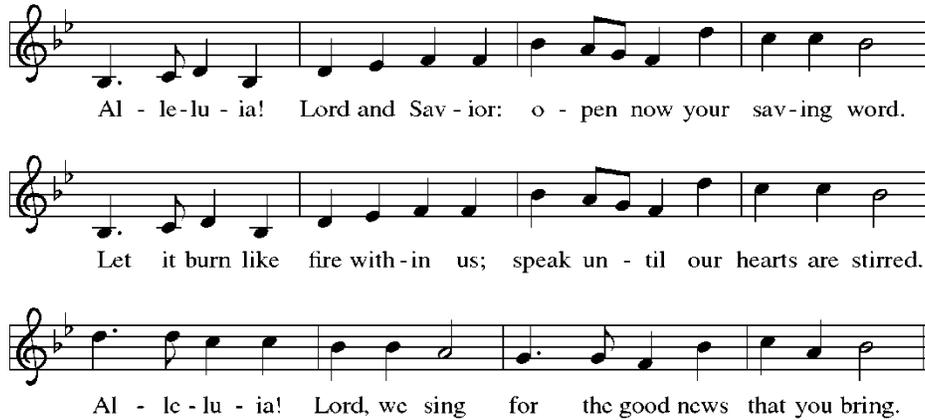
Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ who was crucified for us. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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 4:12-23**

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY #798: *Will You Come and Follow Me

Stanzas 1 & 2: All / Stanza 3: Women / Stanza 4: Men / Stanza 5: all

***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.**

INSTALLATION OF THE VESTRY

Those who are being installed may come forward at the conclusion of the creed.

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership in the Vestry. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Names of those to be installed are read.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

The presiding minister continues.

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

*People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders,
and will you share in the mutual ministry
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed members of this congregation's Vestry.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,
that you may be faithful servants of Christ. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Holy God, you call us to fish for people. Tear down divisions and unite the church universal in your mission. Make us of the same mind and purpose in service and worship to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, you call us to serve one another. Bless the public servants in the government of these United States, that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. We remember in our prayers, President Donald J. Trump, and the people newly elected or chosen to serve and guide our nation. We pray they will be enabled to serve with compassion, skillfulness and humility for the prospering and health of our nation, diverse communities, and global relations. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you call us to care for creation. Breathe into us the joy and beauty of stewardship. Teach us to care for the small seed and the expansive sky. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you call us to care for the stranger in our midst. Sustain refugees from every country and empower organizations that provide food and shelter for them, especially Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Redeeming God, you break the oppressor's rod. Bring an end to tyranny and poverty. Wipe out fear. Uphold all your children who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Sally, Bill, Reed, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Heal us with your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Triune God, you call us into relationship with you. Raise up leaders in your church who risk looking foolish for the sake of the gospel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ever-living God, you call us to rest in you. Keep us faithful on earth and bring us to life everlasting with the saints of every time and place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 #574: *Here I Am, Lord

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 #817: *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

***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 #661: *I Love to Tell the Story*

Please be seated for the Congregational Meeting.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Here I Am, Lord* – John Carter

9:00 am

Assisting Minister: Valerie Cardinal

Communion Assistant: Matt Claus

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher:

Attendance Last Week:	52	Attendance Last Year:	46
------------------------------	----	------------------------------	----

Weekly Budgeted Expense:	\$ 3,185.02	Last Week's General Giving:	\$ 2,441.49
---------------------------------	-------------	------------------------------------	-------------

YTD Actual Expense:	\$ 9,555.05	Last Week's Designated Giving:	\$ 500.51
----------------------------	-------------	---------------------------------------	-----------

YTD Actual Expense:	\$ 8,487.63	YTD Receipts:	\$ 9,948.00
----------------------------	-------------	----------------------	-------------

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Psalm refrain from *Psalter for Worship, Year A*, © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant – text based on the *Nunc dimittis*, para. Ernest E. Ryden; music: KUORTANE, Finnish traditional.

Text © 1925, Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-724822.