

*“<sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.”*

*Matthew 3:16*

### **St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**The Baptism of Our Lord: First Sunday after Epiphany – January 8, 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 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 Baptism of Our Lord: First Sunday after Epiphany– January 8, 2017**

*In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.*

**PRELUDE:** *Wade in the Water* – John Carter

## **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 #310: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

**\*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 our Father,**

**at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son  
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit.**

**Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling  
to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, w  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9**

*God's servant Israel is endowed with the Spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever keep it from fulfilling its task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the new assignment of the servant is to bring light to the nations.*

<sup>1</sup>Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 29

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



The voice of the LORD is up - on the wa - ters.

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the |LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

<sup>3</sup>**The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.**

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

**R**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>the LORD makes Lebanon skip |like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup>The voice | of the LORD

bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. **R**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength | to your people;

give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. **R**

## SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

*Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God’s inclusive forgiveness in Jesus’ name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter’s preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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 3:13-17

*Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God’s child.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he

came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON**

### **\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?  
**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will have the light of life."  
At your baptism a candle was lit from the Paschal Candle with the words:  
Let your light so shine before others  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.

*During the singing of the Hymn of the Day, candles are lit in remembrance of the baptismal candles that were given at Baptism.*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Born-ing Cry***



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;  
3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.  
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."  
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."  
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

*After the Hymn of the Day, the Affirmation of Baptism concludes with the following prayer and the candles are extinguished.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit:  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Pour out your Spirit of unity, triune God. Renew our lives in the promises of baptism. Hold us together in the oneness of the body of Christ. Empower us to be one as you are one. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your Spirit of life, eternal God. Move over polluted waters. Breathe on barren fields. Strengthen ancient cedars and oaks. Engage us in your care of sea, land, and sky. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your Spirit of wisdom, holy God. Guide politicians and military officials as they wrestle with complex situations. Grant them courage and compassion to work for peace in every nation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your Spirit of justice, gracious God. Heal the pain of all who are victims of crime. Be present with all who are imprisoned. Reconcile broken relationships within communities. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, 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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your Spirit of love, glorious God. Sustain all who knit prayer shawls, sew quilts, and provide housing for our neighbors who are homeless. Surround those who seek warmth and shelter with grace-filled advocates. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your Spirit of peace, resurrecting God. Bring all who grieve into a community rooted in you. Uphold them with your grace and keep us all grounded in your promise of life eternal. 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 #305: *When Jesus Came to Jordan***

*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.**

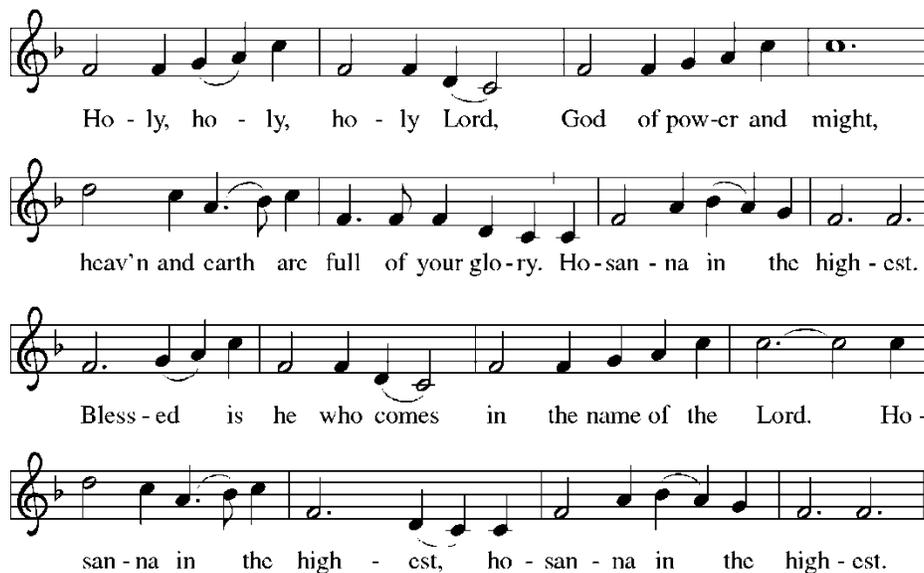
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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 #459: *Wade in the Water***

**\*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 #304: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* – Gerald Near

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#### 8:00 am

**Assisting Minister:** Matt Claus  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:**  
**Attendance Last Week:**  
**Weekly Budgeted Expense:** \$ 3,374.14  
**YTD Budgeted Expense (as of 12/25/16):** \$ 175,455.09  
**YTD Actual Expense (as of 12/25/16):** \$167,610.44

#### 10:30 am

**Assisting Minister:** Valerie Cardinal  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:**  
**Attendance Last Year:**  
**Last Week's General Giving:** \$ 3,673.39  
**Last Week's Designated Giving:** \$ 285.61  
**YTD Receipts (2017):** \$ 3,959.00

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