



“...Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

~Matthew

2:2

- **St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Epiphany of Our Lord – January 6, 2019**

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Maizy Fisher, 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? 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 if you are able when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Epiphany of Our Lord – January 6, 2019**

*Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.*

**PRELUDE:** *Fill My Cup, Lord* – Richard Blanchard

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **GATHERING**

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

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who shines in glory,  
clothes us in compassion,  
and bears gifts of mercy for all.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God’s promise of forgiveness.

**God, wonderful counselor,  
we confess that we have turned from your gifts  
and chosen our own way.  
We have not made room for you  
in our hearts or in our world.  
We have lived in fear;  
we have not welcomed the stranger;  
we desire gifts that will not endure.  
Forgive us our sins, known and unknown,  
and open us to receive the peace of Jesus  
dwelling in and among us.  
Amen.**

God’s loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done,  
but by God’s mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

**Amen.**

\* **GATHERING SONG #301:** *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*

**\*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.**

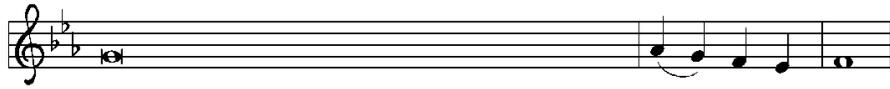
**\*KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## \*GLORY TO GOD

Glo - ry to God in the high -  
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.  
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.  
Glo - ry to God in the high -  
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.  
 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and  
 Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
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 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.  
 Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**WORD**



<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow | down before him,  
and all the nations | do him service.

<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**

#### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12**

A reading from Ephesians.

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\* HYMN OF THE DAY #300: The First Noel**

**\*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**

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

Drawn into the light of God, we pray for the proclamation of the grace of Jesus Christ. Give us courage and boldness to go forth into the world to tell the good news of what God has done. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the glory of creation, we pray for the earth. Sustain every living thing with abundant resources, clean water, and sustainable harvests. Help us to steward all that you have provided. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the brightness of God's presence, we pray for the nations of the world. Reveal your compassion and peace for the sake of all who live in the shadow of oppression, violence, and fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the light of healing mercy, we pray for all who wait for healing and relief of suffering especially Jean, Shirley, Bob, Karen, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Frieda, Kim, Bill, Francis & Grace, David & Ellen; those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our heart. Give us hope in the promise of new life where pain and suffering will be no more. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the dawn of a new day, we pray for the ongoing reconciliation between people. Make us bold to name sin in our lives and unite us in the promise of forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Drawn into the promise of everlasting light, we pray for those who mourn and give thanks for all the saints who now rest in the brightness of God's presence. Make us confident in our worship as we reflect the light of God with eternal praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

#### **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

#### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM – *Where No One Stands Alone***

*Once I stood in the night with my head bowed low, in the darkness as black as could be; and my heart felt alone, and I cried, "O Lord, don't hide your face from me."*

*Hold my hand all the way, every hour, every day, from here to the great unknown. Take my hand, let me stand where no one stands alone.*

*Like a king I may live in a palace so tall with great riches to call my own; but I don't know a thing in this whole, wide world that's worse than being alone.*

*Hold my hand all the way, every hour, every day, from here to the great unknown. Take my hand, let me stand where no one stands alone.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN – *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*    *Please stand.***

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful  
*Offering Song*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all: u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
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**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,  
Holy God,  
Your beauty shines forth from the manger  
and your love flows from the cross.  
As you gather us around these signs  
of your love come among us,  
warm us to extend your care  
among the hungry and all in need.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
**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.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
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-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. 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'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Come to the table where Christ meets you.

Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

*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. Gluten free wafers are available.*

### **COMMUNION**

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

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

**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, grant us peace.

**\* COMMUNION SONG #671: *Shine, Jesus, Shine***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us  
through the healing power of this gift of life.  
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,  
in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #677: This Little Light of Mine**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *Finale in F* – Roger C. Wilson**

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff**  
**Valerie Cardinal**  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher: Bob Davidson**

**Attendance Last Week: 32**  
31

**Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$**  
3,044.42

**YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$**  
129.66

**YTD Actual Expense: \$**  
156,618.07

101,738.83

258,356.37

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:**  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:**

**Attendance Last Year:**

**Last Week’s General Giving: \$**

**Last Week’s Designated Giving: \$**

**2018 YTD General Giving: \$**

**2018 YTD Designated Giving: \$**

**2018 YTD Receipts: \$**

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