

“¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.”

~John 1:1-2

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
2nd Sunday of Christmas – January 5, 2020

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The 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. Those who are able, please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.

HOLY COMMUNION

2nd Sunday of Christmas – January 5, 2020

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

PRELUDE: *Quiet Songs of the Holy Night* – Lani Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh,
Breath of heaven.
Amen.

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,
trusting in God's endless mercy and love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we confess that we are not perfect.
We have said and done things we regret.
We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,
while denying it to others.
We have resisted your call
to be your voice in the world.
Forgive us, loving God.
Give us your righteousness,
the strength to put aside our failures,
and the courage to try again. Amen.

Dear people of God, hear the good news:
Christ the Savior is born!
You are loved and forgiven
in the name of ☩ Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,
because God's love is given to you
as the most precious gift of all.
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #300: *The First Noel

***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**

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

***THIS IS THE FEAST**

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

people of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of

vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-

le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,

glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

WORD

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah.

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147

**1. Worship the Lord, Jerusalem,
Praise God, O Israel;
The Lord has made your gates secure
And blessed your children well.**

**2. Upon your borders, God makes peace,
The wheat fields give us flour;
You, Lord, send your command on earth,
Your word speeds forth with power.**

**3. Who can withstand the freezing cold,
The hoarfrost, hail, and snow?
Yet when you send your word and wind
They melt and waters flow.**

**4. You give to Israel your word,
Your just decrees, but yet
You have not shown to other lands
Your law. Alleluia!**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians.

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

***GOSPEL READING: John 1: [1-9], 10-18**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON**

***HYMN OF THE DAY #296: What Child is This?**

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**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Holy God, you make your presence known to the church in every land. Give to us a desire and will to support the diverse work of the church throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous Creator, in you all things came into being and without you not one thing exists. We praise you for the snow and rain that water the earth. Move us to care for the well-being of the work of your hands. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Savior of the nations, you gather in your care people of every age and ability, from lands near and far. Inspire the leaders of the nations to work for peace within their countries and in all the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving God, provide for your people who begin this new year in need. Grant shelter to those who are homeless, comfort to all who are lonely, and a strong sense of your presence to those who are sick, especially for Wanda Jean, Sally, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Bill, Grace, Ellen. For those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Word of truth, your good news of salvation is proclaimed among us. Bless all who proclaim your word in this community, especially teachers, pastors, deacons, musicians, and lectors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious One, your light shines in the darkness and it is not overcome. We thank you for the witnesses who have testified to your light. May their lives continue to inspire us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #283: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Please stand for the final verse.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

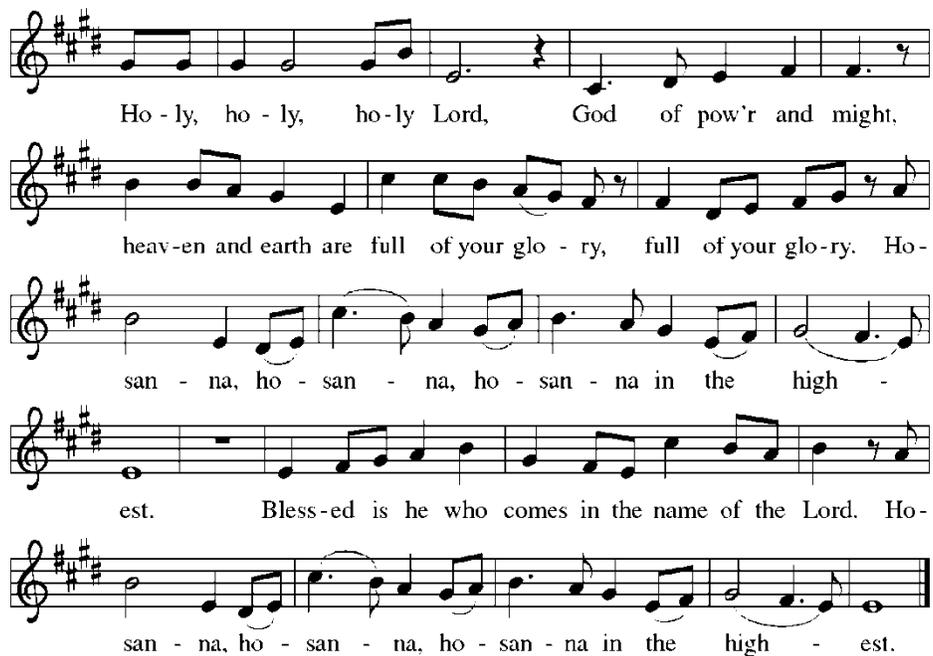
*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Generous God,
you have given us life, this community,
and these gifts of the earth
that become the meal of your grace.
Move in our hearts,
that we might use your gifts
to bring hope and blessing wherever we go,
through 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.
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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophet's hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God Incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, 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

Love has come: God's love for all people.
Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

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.
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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN #487: What Feast of Love

***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.
Emmanuel, God with us,
you grace us with life and breath
and give us bread for the journey.
Send us out in service to this world that you love,
telling the amazing news of your coming
to be Savior and Lord of all.
Amen.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

Grace from God's own heart,
peace from the ☩ Child in the manger,
and strength from the Spirit of life
be blessings for you today and forever
Amen.

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

***DISMISSAL**

Christ is born!
Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *The Birthday of a King* – W. H. Neidlinger, arr. Roger C. Wilson

Carol Zimmerman – Organist

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus
Communion Assistant:
Lector:
Usher:

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Valerie Cardinal
Communion Assistant:
Lector:
Usher:

Attendance Last Week: 26
Attendance Last Year: 32

Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,362.64
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$
YTD Actual Expense: \$

Last Week's General Giving:	\$	5,278.26 *
Last Week's Designated Giving:	\$	313.33 **
2019 YTD General Giving:	\$	182,697.64
2019 YTD Designated Giving:	\$	60,269.03
2019 YTD Receipts:	\$	242,966.67

Special items included in totals:

*Baby Shower	\$	235.00
*Breakfast Fund	\$	78.00
*Christmas Offerings	\$	2,103.00
*Rent	\$	500.00
*Thanksgiving Offerings	\$	1.00
**Benevolence	\$	261.33
**Food Bank	\$	1.00
**Mission Emphasis	\$	1.00
**Organ Fund	\$	50.00