



“¹⁶...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

~Matthew 5:16

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – February 9, 2020**

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*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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – February 9, 2020

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

Today we commemorate Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs. These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

PRELUDE: *Let Streams of Living Justice* – ELW 710

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #710: *Let Streams of Living Justice

***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

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

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.

WORD

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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9[9b-12]

A reading from Isaiah.

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Cantor: Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the light | of the world; whoever follows me will have the | light of life.
Alleluia. (John 8:12)*

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5: 13-20**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY #715: Christ, Be Our Light**

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**

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Holy God, it is your desire that all people might come to know you intimately. Lead our communities into deeper relationship with you. May your church radiate your righteousness to all whom we encounter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great

God of creation, you quench the dry ground, bringing water that sustains life. Satisfy the needs of all the earth, so that all living things bear witness to your verdant grace and continue to shout your praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of glory, during your time here on earth you were crucified by powerful rulers who did not understand you. Grant leaders in our day wisdom and discernment, that they may recognize you in the lives of the people they serve.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, watch over and care for those who struggle with illness or other limitations, especially Sally, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Bill, Karen, 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.**

God of justice, you free us from the oppression that binds us and exhort us to serve one another. Liberate us from all fear, bigotry, and greed, and set our hearts and minds on love, equality, and justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you reveal your saving love to us through the power of your Spirit. Bless those among us who are preparing to encounter your invigorating will in a new way, especially those preparing for or affirming baptism. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all eternity, we give you thanks for the lives of the saints who have pointed us towards faithfulness in you, especially Wanda Jean. May we trust in your endless mercy and grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM - *If Only I Believe*

I come unto Christ down on my knees. Then I rise and begin to see what He sees. He knows who I am, and what I can be, and He will walk with me. Though creator of worlds and author of all, yet He still knows of the sparrow's fall. He has power to calm the troubled sea, yet His love and strength He offers me. His promise is sure. His grace I'll receive, if only I believe.

Though at times my weakness might make me fear, as I call in humility I know he'll hear. His grace is sufficient. He is there all along. With Him I will be strong. Though creator of worlds and author of all, yet He still knows of the sparrow's fall. He has power to calm the troubled sea, yet His love and strength He offers me. His promise is sure. His grace I'll receive, if only I believe.

OFFERTORY HYMN: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Please stand.



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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of wonder,

you formed us in our mother's womb,

and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine.

We place them on your table,

together with our lives and all that you have made.

Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit.

We wait for your mercy;

we long for your peace;

we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,

our banquet of life.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

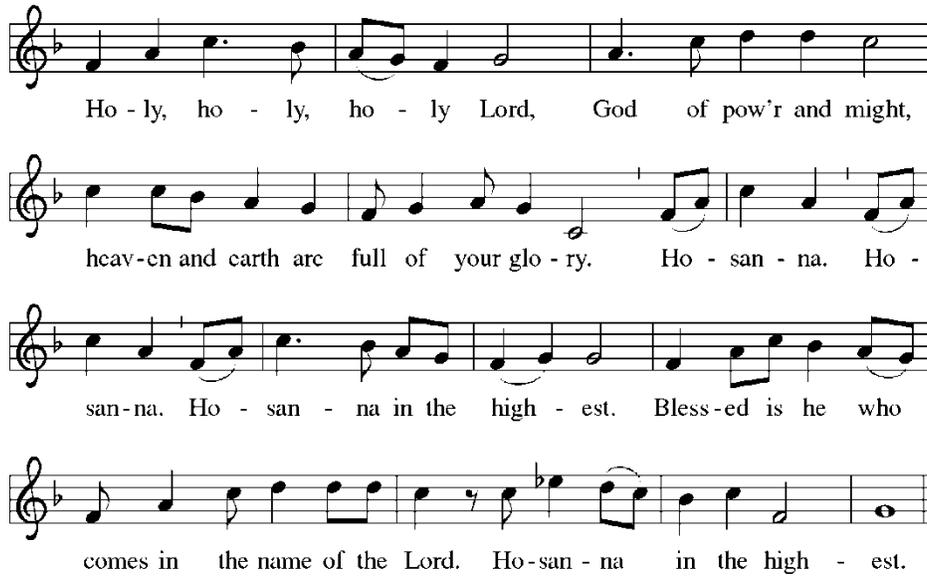
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O 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 in 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**

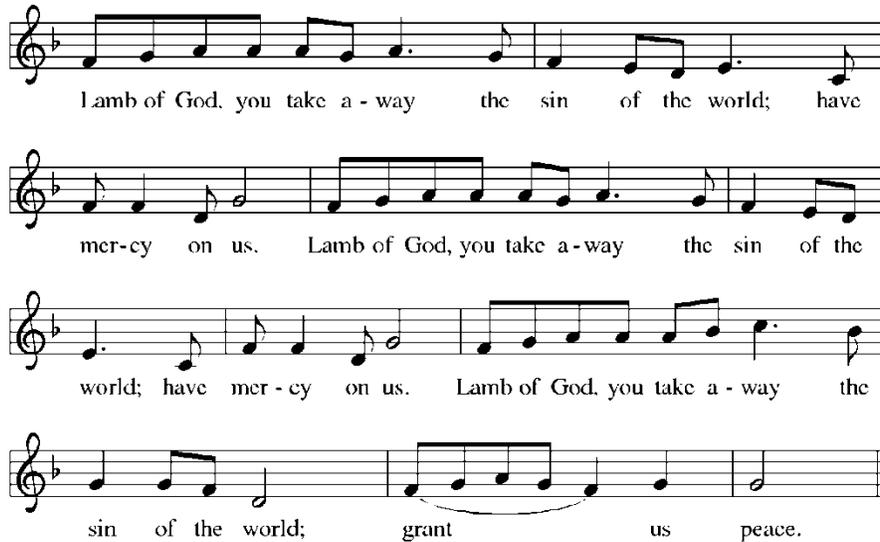
Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and joy.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN #484: *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

***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.

Faithful God,

you have kept your promise to us in this meal,
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.

Now send your servants forth in peace,
that we may testify to your goodness
and share the hope that is ours
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son, we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
and the source of our life together,
keep you united in mind and purpose.

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you always.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG #665: Rise, Shine, You People!**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Let your light shine.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Voluntary No. 1* – G.F. Handel

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus
Communion Assistant:
Lector:
Usher: Clarence Strabel
Attendance Last Week: 47
Attendance Last Year: 66

Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$
YTD Actual Expense: \$

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10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Melissa Kramer
Communion Assistant:
Lector:
Usher: Jim Ward

Last Week's General Giving: \$ 1,402.56*
Last Week's Designated Giving: \$ 178.82 **
2020 YTD General Giving: \$ 19,851.11
2020 YTD Designated Giving: \$ 2,643.44
2020 YTD Receipts: \$ 22,494.55

Special items included in totals:

****Benevolence** \$ 73.82
****Mission Emphasis** \$ 100.00
****Organ Fund** \$ 5.00