

"And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them."

~Luke 6:19

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church 6th Sunday after Epiphany – February 16, 2025 420 Beaver St., PO Box 411 Mars, PA 16046-0411 www.stjohnchurchmars.org Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning! Know that you are welcome here just as you are.

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**.
All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

At the time of *Offering*, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:



You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.

As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then prefilled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.

 A playroom is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.
 Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator. As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

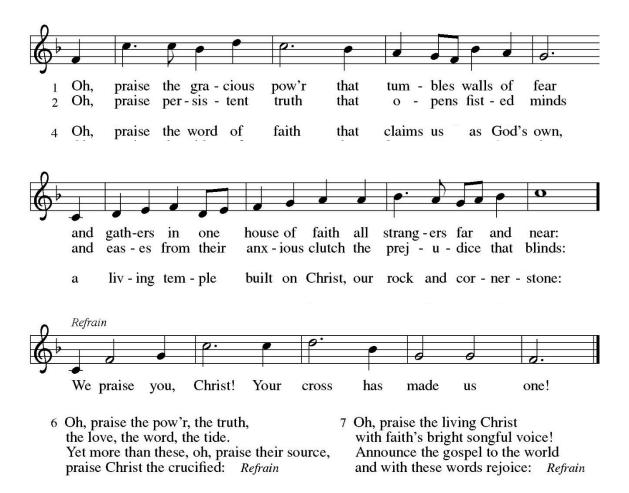
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

Almighty God, you call us into congregations where we can grow in faith, and into mission in the world where we live out our faith each day. So guide and direct us that we may be wise and faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us, that your love may be made known to all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*GATHERING SONG Oh, Praise the Gracious Power (ELW 651) versus 1,2,4,6,7



***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as your people.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.

Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE This Is The Feast



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—

who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: PSALM 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,

nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² Their delight is in the law of the LORD,

and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;

everything they do shall prosper.

- ⁴ It is not so with the wicked;
 - they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

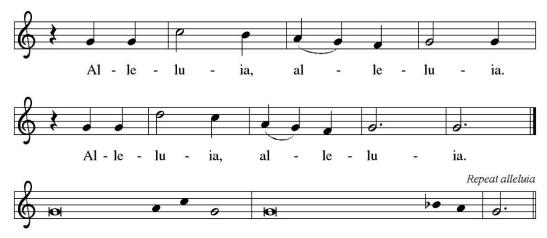
A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:17-26** The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY By Grace We Have Been Saved (ACS 1006)

Choir sing verses, congregation sing refrain (Blue prayer cards are collected)



*APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence*

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in environmental sciences to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Help them use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are the prayers gathered before you now (*blue prayer cards are read*). We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Blessed Are You by Bret Hesla

*PEACE

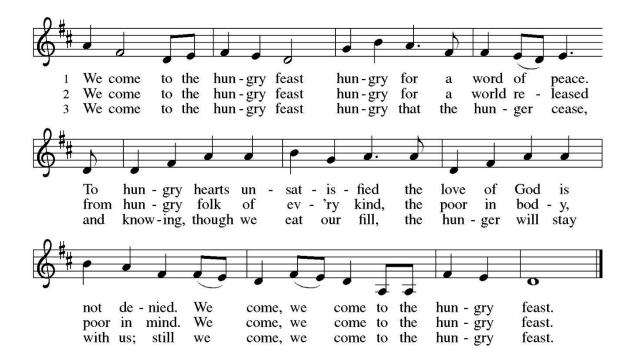
The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you. Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING COLLECTION

OFFERTORY HYMN We Come to the Hungry Feast (ELW 479)



***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Generous God, we offer to you what is already yours - all that we have and all that we are. Grant us grateful hearts that can see your goodness toward us, and willing hands that are open to share the blessings we have known from you; in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 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,

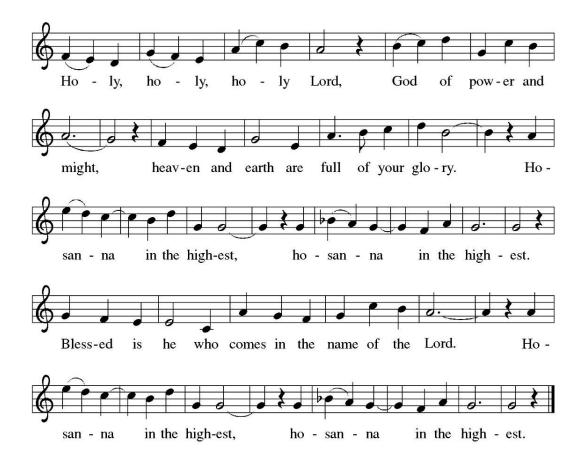
that we should at all times and in all places

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:



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 prophets' 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 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 your 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.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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

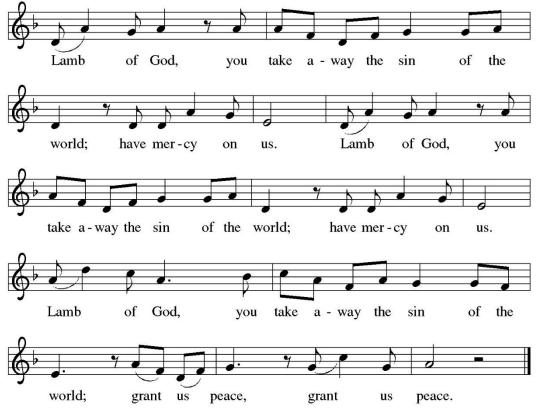
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God



COMMUNION HYMN When the Poor Ones (ELW 725)



COMMUNION HYMN Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726)



***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

May Almighty God, the Holy One who created the world, the Son who lived to teach us how to live together, and died that we might live together with him forever, and the Spirit who inspires and nurtures us in faith, + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705)



*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar were supplied by Cora and Barry Steigerwalt in Glory of all God's Blessings.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: David D Acolyte: Lydia M Young Reader: Carissa M Greeters: Bob & Sherry Davidson Ushers: Volunteer Offering: Volunteers

Attendance last week: 76 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed ares" and the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

Today's Music

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power. Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1945-2022, Music: Carol Doran, b. 1936. Oxford University Press (New York). *By Grace We Have Been Saved*. Text: Jonathan Rundman, b. 1971, Music: Nathan Houge, b. 1977, and Jonathan Rundman. Augsburg Fortress. *We Come To the Hungry Feast*. Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943, Music: Ray Makeever. Augsburg Fortress. *When the Poor Ones*. Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, Music: Miguel Manzano, b. 1934. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press).

Light Dawns on a Weary World. Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953, Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951. GIA Publications, Inc. God of Grace and God of Glory. Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969, Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932. Public Domain. Liturgy words and music taken from SundaysandSeasons.com Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with

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Next Week's Readings:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Joseph forgives his brothers Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 The mystery of the resurrection of the body Luke 6:37-38 Love your enemies