

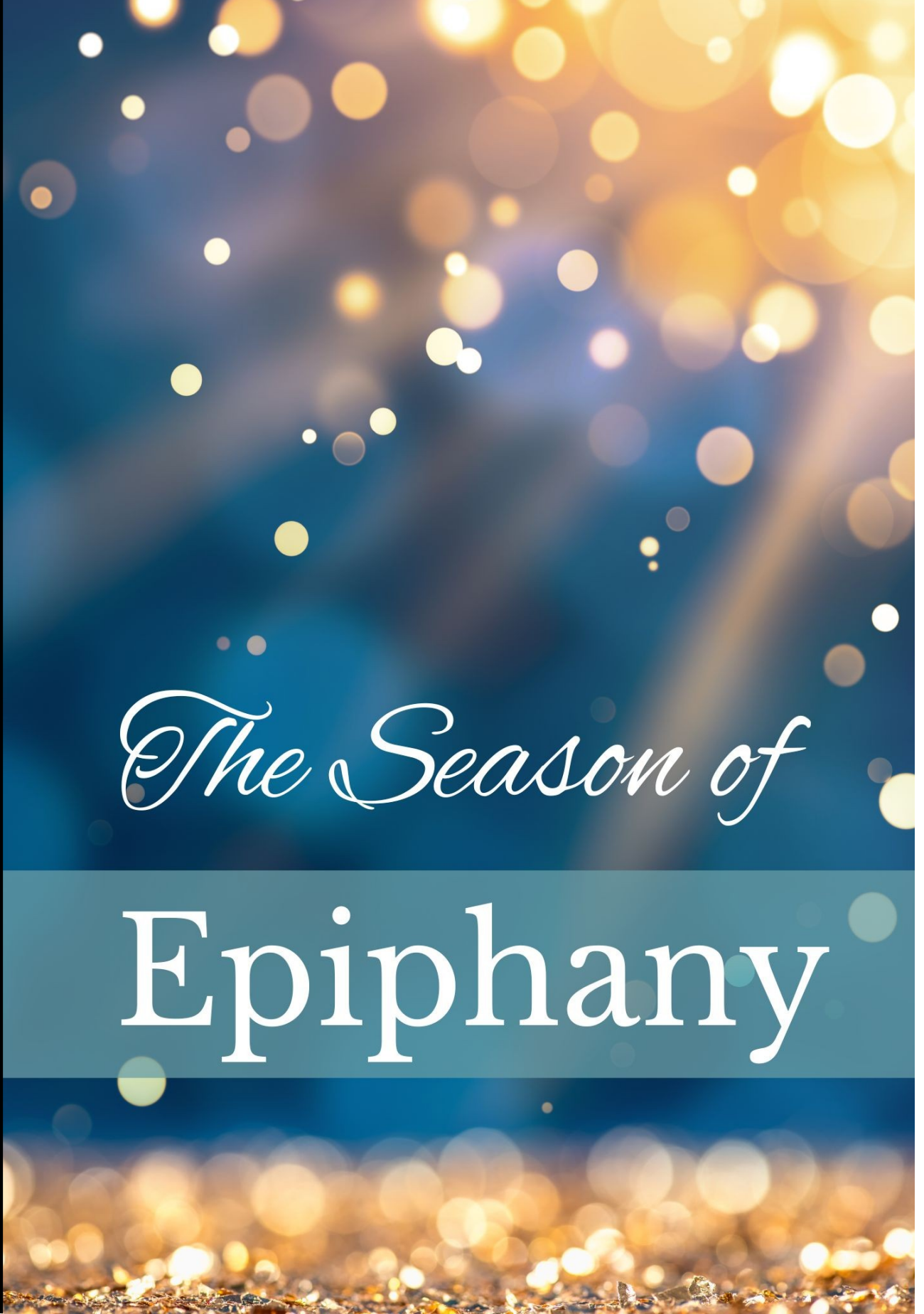
Sunday, January 19, 2025

Second Sunday after Epiphany

St. Johns Lutheran Church

The Season of

Epiphany



Welcome to *St. John's Lutheran Church*



*Jesus did this,
the first of his signs,
in Cana of Galilee*

JOHN 2:11

Miracle at Cana (1597) by Maerten de Voos, Antwerp, Belgium. Photo copyright © 2023 sedmak/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

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PREPARING OUR HEARTS

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP THEME

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus, the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

PRELUDE

9:00 AM

Acolyte:

Kaydence Denney

Lector:

Clarence Scott

Communion

Assistant:

Ann Rita Ditmore

Debbie Sweany

Usher:

Cindy Merkel

Darrell Merkel

A/V:

Steve Kyle

WELCOME

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

GATHERING SONG ELW 470

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

11:00 AM

Acolyte:

Jaylene Jimenez

Lector:

Ray Collins

Communion

Assistant:

Karen Wells

Usher:

Garry Menendez

Lynn Menendez

A/V:

Dresden Ley

in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,

Altar Guild:

Before:

Toni Wise

Between:

Cindy Merkel

After:

Monica Wilson

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us
confess our sin.

(Please stand in body or spirit. Silence is for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;**

we assume the worst about one another.

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Total Praise”

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, — know - ing my help is com - ing from
you. Your peace you give me in time of the storm. You are the source — of my strength.
You are — the strength — of my life. I lift my hands in to - tal praise to
you. you. A - men. A - men, a - men. A -
men, a - men. A - men.

Text: Richard Smallwood, b. 1948

Music: Richard Smallwood; arr. Stephen F. Key

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GREETING

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*This prayer concerns
the theme of the day
and prepares us for
hearing the readings
from scripture.*

*In the First Lesson:
The people's return to
Judah after the exile
was marred by
economic and political
troubles. Nevertheless,
the prophet declares,
Jerusalem and Judah
will be restored. God
will rejoice over
Jerusalem as a
bridegroom rejoices
over the bride, and the
people are called to
the celebration.*

(Please be seated.)

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 62:1-5

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*In Second Lesson:
The congregation at
Corinth experienced
division as people
were comparing their
spiritual gifts, thinking
some to be superior
to others. Paul invites
this fractured
community to trust
that God's Holy Spirit
has gifted them all
perfectly for their
mission together.*

THE SECOND LESSON

I CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOD'S INVITATION: "Let the Children Come..."

Matthew 19:14

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

GOSPEL VERSE

“Follow the Star”

The star shines bright: we must pack light,
 be-come a fool to be-come wise.
 In the dark, there lives a spark.
 In the dark, there lives a spark.
 Fol - low the star, bright in the sky to
 light our path with hope and joy. Fol - low the star,
 bright in the sky to light our path we hope and joy.

Text: Lacey Brown
Tune: Lacey Brown
©2017 Poor Clare Music

*In the Gospel Lesson:
Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.*

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 2:1-11

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴ And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The meditation interprets the meaning of God's word for our lives today.

(Please be seated.)

MEDITATION

REV. JOHN TIRRO

We sing this principal hymn in response to the Word which has been proclaimed to us.

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 715

"Christ, Be Our Light"



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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We respond to God's almighty acts as we confess our faith in the Words of the Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED ELW p. 127

C: 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,

This reference to the holy catholic church is to the church universal.

With this prayer, we express our concern for the whole Church, for the nations of the world, for people in their various needs, and for our own congregation.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

(Please kneel in body or spirit. Following each petition, respond with "hear our prayer.")

A: Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction, and the environment we share. God of grace,

A: Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. We remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace,

A: God of steadfast love, as Jesus celebrated at Cana, nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care; in times of separation or divorce hold tenderly broken hearts and broken dreams. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need. God of grace,

A: Spirit of peace, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for neighboring congregations and ministry sites. Nurture our shared commitment to embody Jesus' love, justice, and healing. God of grace,

A: Wellspring of life, in living and dying we trust in you. We give thanks for the saints. Guide us in our living until, at last, we rest in you. God of grace,

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

Those Remembered in Prayer:

*Michael Adams, David & Linda Cash, Pat & Charlsie Counts,
Hugh Denton, Jim Friedrich, Al Gill, Lynda Hinkle, Jean Keener,
Dick & Pat Krogmann, Stan Leib, Don McWilliams, Nicki Nye, Nancy O'Callaghan,
Don Ray, Frances Ratcliff, Heather Sentell, Pam Shealy, Keith Solt, Barbara Teague,
Tom Wainner, Linda Welch, Maxine Whistler, Bill Wing,
Toni Wise, Ron & Jeanette Woodward,
our seminarians: Jordan Baker, Caitlynn Fox, and Joe Ley,
the students, staff, & mentors at Christenberry Elementary school,
synod partners in Guatemala, and all those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene*

SHARING THE EUCHARIST

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

SHARING OF THE LORD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

We respond to God's Word by giving our offerings for God's work in the world. In our offerings to God, we give all that we are and have: ourselves, our abilities, and our possessions, together with the bread—a sign of our toil, labor, and human existence—and the wine—a sign of the joy and delights of life.

(Please be seated.)

OFFERING & SIGNING OF THE PEW REGISTER

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"In This Moment of Remembrance"

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the

joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

Arr. © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress

The offertory prayer reminds us that God is the source of all gifts.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A:** God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
C: **and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.
Amen.

The Presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P:** The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

The words Jesus used in instituting the Lord's Supper remind us of God's wonderful works, invite us to receive the sacrament, and ask for the Holy Spirit to bless us.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION



This prayer is based on
Matthew 6:9-13 and
Luke 11:24.

LORD'S PRAYER

mp
Our God, — in hea - ven, ho - ly is your name, — your
reign come, — your will done, — on earth as in hea-ven.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for - gi - ven.
mf
In the time of tri-al, — lead us in - to light, for yours is — the kin-dom, and the
po - wer, — and the glo-ry, — for e - ver. — *f* Our God, — in
mp
hea-ven, — ho - ly is your name, ho - ly is your name. —

Text: P. D., Adapt.
by Mark Miller and
Laurie Zelman
Tune: Mark Miller
©2006 Mark A.
Miller.
OneLicense.net
A-700336

(Please be seated.)

COMMUNION

Regarding the gift of Holy Communion, all are welcome! This is God's table, and there is a place for each of God's beloved. Gluten-free wafers are in the small silver box on the baptismal font.

An usher will direct you down the center aisle to the chancel stairs where you may:

- Receive Holy Communion by intinction, taking the bread, dipping it in the wine, and consuming them together
- Receive Holy Communion by the common cup, first eating the bread and then drinking from the silver chalice
- Receive a blessing by placing your hands across your chest and embracing God's love for you

You will return to your seat by the side aisle.

Again, all are welcome at God's table; come and see that the Lord is good.

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.

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of

bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y

through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
 3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,

Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all.
 gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, sr, b. 1939
 Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sr
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The blessing prepares us to continue our mission as Christian people in the world. The Sign of the Cross may be made by all as a reminder of Christ in whose name we are baptized and live.

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

The benediction imparts God's blessing upon God's people at the close of a service.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

CLOSING HYMN

"God of Justice (We Must Go)"



(Cantor) 1. God of just - ice, sav - ior to all, came to res - cue the
(All) 2. To act just - ly, ev - e - ry day, lov - ing mer - cy in



weak and the poor, chose to serve and not be served.
ev - e - ry way, walk - ing hum - bly with You, God.



Je - sus, you have called us. Free - ly we've re - ceived, now free - ly we will give.

Chorus:



We must go, live to feed the hung - ry, stand be - side the bro - ken. We must go.



Step - ping for - ward, keep us from just sing - ing, move us in - to ac - tion. We must go.



Fill us up and send us out. Fill us up and send us out.



Fill us up and send us out, Lord.

Repeat Chorus

Text: Tim Hughes

Tune: Tim Hughes

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SJLC MINUTE

January 2025

SJLC CALENDAR

- Jan. 19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**
 *Nursery
 *Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack, and Craft
 *Youth ... Games and Spiritual Gains
 *Parents ... Coffee and Conversation
 *Adults ... Bible Study
- Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Day**
 The Church office will be closed.
 Family Day of Ministry
 APATT Feeding Ministry
- Jan. 21 National Day of Racial Healing**
 New Church Council Orientation
 Church Council Meeting
- Jan. 22 APATT Volunteer Meeting**
- Jan. 23 Highways and Byways Feeling Ministry**
- Jan. 26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**
 *Nursery
 *Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack, and Craft
 *Youth ... Games and Spiritual Gains
 *Parents ... Coffee and Conversation
 *Adults ... Bible Study
 Knoxville Area Youth Gathering

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

This Sunday at **10:10 in the Fellowship Hall**, we'll look at the first of eight chapters from the Augsburg Fortress study of the Gospel of Luke. We will explore the central question in the chapter, "Why Was Jesus Born?"

As usual, we'll have table discussions, and everyone is welcome, whether or not you read the chapter and verses ahead of time. Coffee and some sweets will be available to accompany our explorations.

(The painting above, *St. Luke*, by Dutch Golden Age painter Franz Hals, was done in 1625. Hals also did paintings of authors of the other three Gospels.)



On **Monday, January 20**, from **10 AM to 2 PM**, we warmly invite families to come together for a meaningful day of service, reflection, and connection. This special event honors the spirit of unity and service while providing opportunities to grow and give back to our community.

Here's what the day will include:

- **Special Presentation:** Mary Cole, a cherished member of our congregation, will share her inspiring experiences during the civil rights movement.
- **Crafts & Activities:** Engage in activities designed to spark thoughtfulness, discussion, and connection.
- **Brown Bag Lunch:** Bring a lunch from home for your family to enjoy in fellowship with others.
- **Blessing Bags Assembly:** Help us assemble care packages for our unhoused neighbors.

This Family Day of Ministry is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our shared values, create connections, and make a tangible difference in the lives of others. We hope you'll join us in celebrating the power of service and community.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



St. John's Leadership Summit

Friday, February 28 6:30-8:30 PM
 Saturday, March 1 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Please save the date as a top priority!



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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. (Matthew 2:9-10)



WORD ABOUT WORSHIP FROM PASTOR JOHN: WEEKS AFTER EPIPHANY

The weeks after Epiphany (Jan 12 - Mar 2) focus on who Jesus is and what it means for who we are as the church and as believers. It's a key set of teachings for building faith.

Wedding at Cana (Jan 19) — Jesus enters the celebrations of our lives at a wedding feast, blessing water to become wine, and Paul writes to the early church of how God blesses our lives to pour forth gifts of the Spirit.

EPIPHANY

Reading of Isaiah (Jan 26) — Jesus reads his mission statement, “to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Paul explains, we are all part of Christ’s body, here to carry out his mission in love.

Presentation of Our Lord (Feb 2) — Simeon holds the infant Jesus and declares him to be a light to all the world. We bless candles to use in worship, as well as candles we bring from home, to remind us that we are to bring Jesus’s light to the world.

Unlikely Messengers (Feb 9) — this Sunday has a sense of humor, which makes it easier to imagine ourselves called by God. In answer to the question, “Whom shall I send,” God picks a person “of unclean lips,” a persecutor of the church, and three fishermen who can’t catch a fish!

Sermon on the Plain (Feb 16) — Luke is all about making the high low and the low high, to the point that his version of the Sermon on the Mount is on a plain! Jesus blesses the poor, hungry, sad, and excluded, and he curses the rich, full, laughing, and well-regarded. What would it be like, to see as he sees?

Teaching on Mercy (Feb 23) — Jesus gives one of his hardest and most important teachings: love your enemy; do good to those who hate you; be merciful, just as your Father in heaven is merciful.

Transfiguration of Our Lord (Mar 2) — together with Peter, John, and James, we climb a mountain with Jesus to pray and his face is changed, his clothes become a dazzling white, and Moses and Elijah appear in glory, talking with him about what he is to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter wants to stay on the mountain. Jesus turns us to the valley and the cross.



JOIN US FOR

UNDIVIDED

LIVING UNDIVIDED

Racial Healing in the City of Knoxville

Far more than a discussion group or diversity training, UNDIVIDED facilitates experiential learning in community.

Our hope in these cohorts is to engage each other in courageous conversations that create measurable impact in our city.

MEETING DATES

- February 3
- February 10
- February 17
- February 24
- March 3
- March 10

MEETING TIMES

10 AM - 12 PM

Faithful Ones at St. John’s, Please consider this invitation to engage in racial healing. Using scripture, history, theology, art, and lived experience, you will explore what it means to **root** in a foundation for relational growth and empathy training, **realize** the impact of systemic and structural injustice, **reckon** with teaching and training in active listening and the recognition of echo chambers, **respond** by examining racial and cultural identities and preparing to change, **repair** by taking action to nurture relationship and address divisions, and **resolve** to move forward toward racial unity.

More information will be included in a congregational email later this week.

We will meet at Emerald Youth Foundation at 1740 Texas Avenue!