



February 5, 2023

9:00 a.m.

5th Sunday Epiphany, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, February 5th 2023
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Year A
Reverend Maggie Westaby

WELCOME

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new,
and whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us boldly confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

We confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the name of Jesus † Christ your sins are forgiven. God grants us genuine repentance through the grace and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

Cultivate us to be salt of the earth and light in this world. Through the mysterious workings of the Holy Spirit may we be invigorated, sustained, and renewed. May your Word fill our hearts, and guide us in acts of kindness, light, and love. In Christ we pray.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

O Day of Rest and Gladness

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;
4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,

O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.

on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;

sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une,
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three - fold light was giv'n.
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.
the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Harrig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833.

WORD

PSALM 112 (*Psalms for Praying*)

Praise be to You, O Gracious One! Blessed are those who reverence the Holy One, who delight in our Creator!

For they dwell with God and their children will learn of peace and justice.

Abundance and wholeness will be their heritage, and truth will be their banner.

Light penetrates the darkness for those who face their fears; Love stands by them with mercy and forgiveness.

It goes well for those who are loving and kind, who live their days with justice and integrity.

They become co-creators with the Divine One; they bless the world with their presence.

In times of trouble, they know not fear; their hearts are firm, trusting in your Loving Companion Presence.

Yes, their hearts are steady, they are not afraid, even their enemies are blessed by their love.

They are generous and give freely; the needy are offered shelter and food; justice and mercy make their home there; and the righteousness endures forever.

The unloving are witness to this; who knows when the Seed will find a fertile heart? The fruits of those who know Love are a blessing to all!

READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those

who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:¹³“You 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.

¹⁴“You 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 lampstand, 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.

¹⁷“Do 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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shine, Jesus, Shine (ELW 671) (unfortunately this song and the lyrics are not available to download)

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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Good and Gracious God,
We give thanks for the generosity of those who are able to give. Bless these gifts and our ministry. May our offerings become a light, unveiling your love throughout the world.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

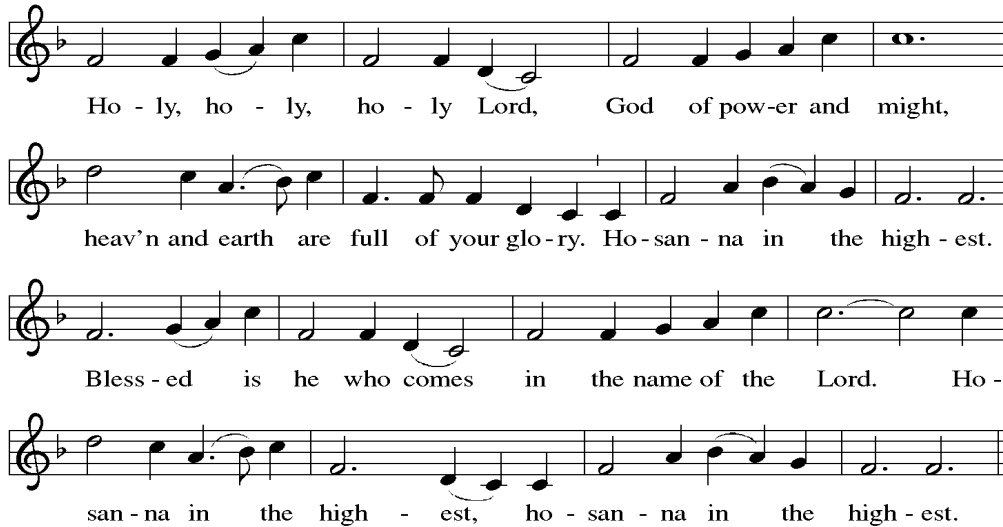
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

COMMUNION HYMNS

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sad - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love,
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,

We thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

In the busyness of life may you find space.

In the worries of life may you find peace.

In the beauty of life may you find joy.

In the sorrows of life may you find comfort.

And in life itself may you be filled with God's love, grace, and hope.

In the name of our Creator ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING SONG

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in three stanzas, each corresponding to a system of music.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Welcome to worship as Jesus continues to reveal himself during Epiphany. May you sense anew your Savior's deep love for you and all the world.

You promise to guide us continually, Lord, and to meet all our needs. May we be your garden, our thirst quenched by your living water.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John's at (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship help needed! There are a lot of open Sundays. If you are able, please sign up. Thank you!

St. John's Newsletter. February's Newsletter will be the last Newsletter mailed out, starting in March you can pick up a physical copy of the Newsletter in the Narthex or you can look access it digitally online.

February 12, 2023, Bible's for Youth. All 3rd graders will receive Bibles during the service as well as older youth who have joined and not yet received a Bible from St. John.

February 12, 2023, Annual Meeting. After church in fellowship hall. **Elections at Annual Meeting.** Currently up for election are the following: Vice President, Trustee, Secretary, Education, and Fellowship.

February 20, 2023 Pastor Maggie's Book Club at 6:30 p.m. This month, we will be discussing *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans.

LENTEN DINNERS Exciting news!! We have cooks for every one of our Lenten Dinners! Thanks so much to the volunteers who are willing to cook and serve a great meal. We are still in need of people to bring salads, desserts and milk. Also need folks to help with clean up. It's a pretty simple job, since we use paper products. The dinners will be served from 5-6 pm. with worship service at 6:30. Our meals were put on hold during covid and we're so excited to bring them back! Please join us for food and fellowship during this season of Lent. The sign-up chart is in the narthex with the dates of the meals, beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John February 5 – February 12

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

February 7

8:30 a.m. Quilting
9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

February 8

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

February 12

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting

10:15 a.m. Sunday School