



February 12, 2023

9:00 a.m.

6th Sunday Epiphany, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, February 12th 2023
Sixth 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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

United to Christ in the waters of baptism,
Saturated in the Spirits renewing energy,
Immersed in God's grace and forgiveness, let us give thanks.

Creator God,
We give thanks for Your Living Water.
Water brought to life by the Holy Spirit, who in the beginning,
Hovered over the face of the deep.

We give thanks for the parting of the Red Sea,
Freeing your people, allowing them to embark on a journey,
Where their thirst was quenched from a rock in the wild.

We give thanks for the river Jordan,
Welcoming your people into the promise land, flowing with milk and honey.
And again, for the river Jordan, where Christ was baptized,
And where You, Holy God Triune, were revealed to all creation.

We give thanks for Your creation,
For our planet earth, connected together in intricate ways,
And through the water cycle.

We give thanks for every molecule of water,
Creating water vapor, alluring clouds, vast oceans, and deep blue glaciers.

We give thanks for the water that fills our bodies,
May it remind us of our connection together,
Of our connection to You,
And our connection to all creation.

May we flow, like water, being present with one another today.
May we observe space, like water, holding space for one another.
And may we go deep, like water, allowing the Spirit to hover within. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some - one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
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READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. 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: John 15:12

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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A BIBLE BLESSING

May you find joy, comfort, wonder, and God's love in these pages,
May you discover our roots and the unique history of our faith,
May you experience God's Word in your soul.
May you relish the Old Testament, with stories over 10,000 years old.
When stories were shared only by word of mouth,
Passed on from generation to generation.
To provide people with hope, laughter, and God's love.
So that each person could experience God's faithfulness,
And desire for relationship.
May you ponder the New Testament, may you find Jesus, and find awe.
May your relationship with God be deepened.
May God's Word be like rich and nourishing soil,
Sprouting joy and kindness abundantly around you.
May you grow in God's Word, finding truth, guidance, and peace.
In the name of the Holy Trinity ✝ One God. Amen

BIBLE PRAYER

Awesome God,
We give thanks for these young minds. May you cultivate curiosity in their faith and joy in their hearts. May each of them know that they are called by name, to grow in life and to grow in faith. Bless them, guide them, and keep them safe. May Your Word be a lamp unto their feet and a light onto their path. In your Holy Name we pray. 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

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are presented in three numbered lines, each corresponding to a different vocal part.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are presented in three lines, with the first line split across two measures.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The refrain begins with the word "Refrain" in italics. The first line of the refrain is shown with its corresponding musical notation.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The second line of the refrain is shown with its corresponding musical notation.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,

We thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. May Christ's body continue to fill us with your grace and love, nourishing our bodies and lives, so that we can boldly share your love with the world.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Spirit of God breathe peace in your very being,
May the Spirit of God bring you wisdom and understanding,
May the Spirit of God bring you courage and joy,
So that the brilliance of God can shine through your eyes,
So that the love of Christ can radiate through your hands,
In the name of the Holy Trinity ✝ One God. Amen

SENDING SONG

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sels guide, up-hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a-gain; ho-ly wings se-cure-ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a-gain; when life's per-ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en-fold you;
 dai-ly man-na still pro-vide you; God be with you till we meet a-gain.
 put un-fail-ing arms a-round you;

Refrain
 Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a-gain,
 meet at Je-sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we
 meet, God be with you till we meet a-gain.
 meet a-gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904
 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, Williams G. Tomer, 1833-1896

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Paul tells us, “We are co-workers in God's service” (1 Corinthians 3:9, NIV). So we gather to be fed for a new week of ministry. Welcome!

God, you call me to choose life and goodness every day. With your Spirit's help, I will do so.

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, Annual Meeting. TODAY 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.

February 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Cemetery Association Meeting.

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.

Pictorial Directory. Say cheese! We are excited to announce a new church directory will be coming soon and hope to see all your beautiful smiling faces in the directory! There are 3 days you can schedule a session to have pictures taken. The dates are April 10th, 11th, and 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the church parish hall. You are welcome to bring pet/s to be photographed with you. We hope all will schedule a no sales pressure session. Photo examples and a pricing brochure are in the narthex. You can schedule your picture taking session, using the QR code located on the sign in the narthex, or through the link on the home page of our church website www.stjohnwausau.org For those who do not have electronic means to schedule a session or for anyone who may have questions please contact dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com. For those who are unable to have pictures taken at the dates and times listed above, you may submit a photo for the directory. There is a \$15 charge to submit your photo, please contact Jan Mueller for more information. Smile!

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 12 – February 19

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

February 14

8:30 a.m. Quilting
9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting
6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

February 15

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

February 19

9:00 a.m. Worship