

JESUS

Lights the Way

November 5, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School Recap, Shine Jesus' Light!

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, November 5th 2023
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WELCOME



CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations. All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.

God gathers us from far away and carries us. With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

We respond in praise. With our gifts, with our very selves, let us worship God and shine Jesus' light. Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's love and grace, let us boldly confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

We confess that we have not followed your true light, the light of Christ. We have strayed in our ways and we have hurt your creation along the way. Guide our footsteps, hearts, and words, so that each breath is filled with your light. Renew us with your grace and grant us peace. Amen.

Hear the good news. In Jesus Christ ☩ your sins are forgiven. You have been set free to live a new life in Christ's light. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine ... I am sorry for the inconvenience, but there is no music available for this hymn.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of earth and stars,

Your glory shines as far from the east as from the west, from the north to the south, so that all people may see and be radiant, so that every heart can rejoice. Cultivate this joy in us, joy that only your presence can bring. Guide us on our baptismal journey in Christ, so that we may share Christ's light with the world. **Amen.**

READING: Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning, when God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-2, 14-17, 52

I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long; they celebrate your righteousness.

For you are their glory and strength. Praise be to the LORD forever!

Amen and Amen.

READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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 8:12

The holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

The gospel of the Lord.


Praise to you, O Christ.

VBS RECAP!

WITNESS TO OTHERS




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

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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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Word of God is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. May the light of Christ shine in our church today as we give of ourselves. May our offerings be transformed to shine Jesus' light in the world.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The final note of the fifth staff is a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation & God of plenty,

We give thanks for the gifts brought to your table. May they be used to support the ministry of your church, and may they be an extension of your love and mercy to those in need. In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

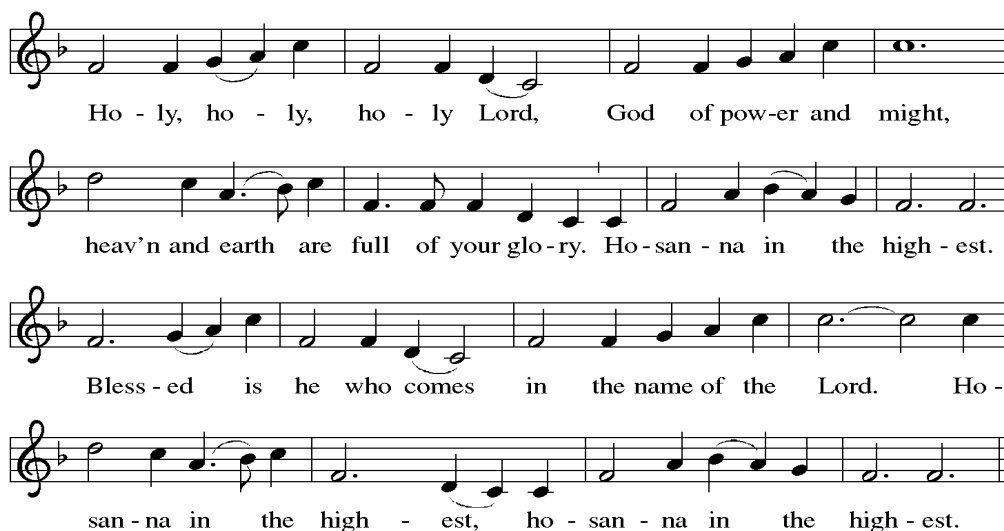
We lift them to the Lord.

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:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may. Come, because you love God a little and would like to love God more. Come, because Christ loved you and gave himself for you. Come and live in the Spirit, who loves, forgives, and restores.



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,

We thank you for this meal and for the rejuvenation it provides in every molecule of our being. Let it burn like a glorious sunrise within us, bringing rays of hope, delight, and joy to all whom we meet. **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,
So that in all you do, you may shine Jesus' light.
In the name of the Holy Trinity ✠ One God. **Amen**

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! The LORD is our light and our salvation—whom shall we fear? Let us worship our Creator this day!

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light onto my path.” Psalm 119

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.

JULY 16-20, 2024 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS

This is for all youth that will be in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (fall 2023). The Young Adult gathering will be open to individuals who will be 18-35 at the time of the event! Please let Pastor Maggie know if you are interested so we can start planning and fundraising.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POINSETTIA ORDERS. Believe it or not, it is that time of year again to think about beautifying St. John's Sanctuary for Christmas. You will find an insert in the weekly bulletins for your order. Remember to make your check out to St. John with "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Do not combine your church contribution with the poinsettia payment on the same check. If you prefer, you can also pay with cash. Please put your order and payment in the offering plate or give it to Sue Harris. If you have any questions, contact Sue. Thanks!

2024 Time & Talent sheet is ready for you to select area(s) that you would like to help share your time and talent with your church! There are so many options, and the wonderful thing is that most have very little time investment for you, but the benefit is great to our church! Please take a moment to look over the Time & Talent sheet, it is divided into different areas of service, with the council chairperson's contact info listed, for you to reach out to with any questions you may have. Please fill out and return your sheet in the offering plate on any Sunday, leave in Mary's (secretaries) mailbox, or even call / email me and we'll get you signed up! Please take time to fill out a Time & Talent sheet, even if you already serve in areas of the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lane Bahr.

St. John Quilting Wishlist. Left over fabric or never used fabric, light weight denim, cotton or flannel sheets, pillow cases, cotton curtains (unlined), cotton shower curtains. If you are interested, come join us! You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

Advent Resources Available. ELCA Advent Devotionals & Advent Calendars are in the Narthex. If you are interested in Kate Bowler's Advent Devotional, see Pastor Maggie.

Men's Breakfast. Pastor Will from Trinity in Stettin and St. Peter's in Marathon has invited all men from St. John to meet the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. At LC Restaurant, in Marathon (Formerly the Village Inn).

Sunday, November 19 after Worship St. John Annual Pie Auction! Bring home baked pies and desserts, items from your favorite bakery or store, and of course your wallet to buy some yummy treats while supporting a great cause! This year the proceeds from the pie auction will be donated to the Wausau High Schools Food and Hygiene Pantries! Joining in the fun of the auction, taking home some amazing treats, and supporting the youth and families in our community = a great win! Please bring dessert items to be auctioned on Sunday morning. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Paulsen.

Tuesday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Evening Worship.

Monday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club will be discussing *90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper.

Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. The Adult Study will meet to discuss part 3 & 4 of *What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything* by Rob Bell.

Tuesday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m. St. John's Sisterhood Ladies Christmas Gathering. Please consider joining the Sisterhood crew for our annual Christmas gathering at 2510 Restaurant. "Happy Hour" starts at 5:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 6:00 p.m. As per tradition, we will be collecting non-perishable items for the Women's Community (toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, etc.) and holding our annual white elephant gift exchange... so start looking in those storage rooms and basements (this exchange will be held after dinner – don't forget to wrap your 'gift'!). A sign-up sheet and additional information are located in the Narthex.

Sunday, December 17 worship is at 10:00 a.m. for our Children's Christmas Program!

Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas. A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time, and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. All are welcome.

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 November 5 – November 12

**Note: Pastor Maggie has Continuing Education Sunday afternoon through Tuesday, Pastor Will Ostrem is available for Emergency Pastoral Care.*

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship – VBS Recap!
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

November 7

8:30 a.m. Quilting

November 8

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

November 12

9:00 a.m. Worship – All Saints Sunday
10:15 a.m. Sunday School