

January 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Epiphany, Year B

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

5304 N 44th Ave

Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org

E-mail: pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com

Email: stjohnwausau@msn.com

Office: (715) 675-6950

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.
Amen.

OPENING DIALOGUE

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. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

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 give 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.

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. In your Holy name we pray.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

We Three Kings (Immanuel Bell Choir)

READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

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 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

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.



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.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's light coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. 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 magi brought gifts to Christ at his nativity and offered their lives in worship. With thankful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC

Silent Night (Immanuel Bell Choir)

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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

As the Magi entered the house, they knelt in joy and paid homage to Jesus. Opening their treasure chests and giving gifts to Christ. So, we have come to you today, offering gifts from our own treasure chests. Bless these gifts and inspire in us ways that we can continue to cultivate Christ's light through our ministry.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

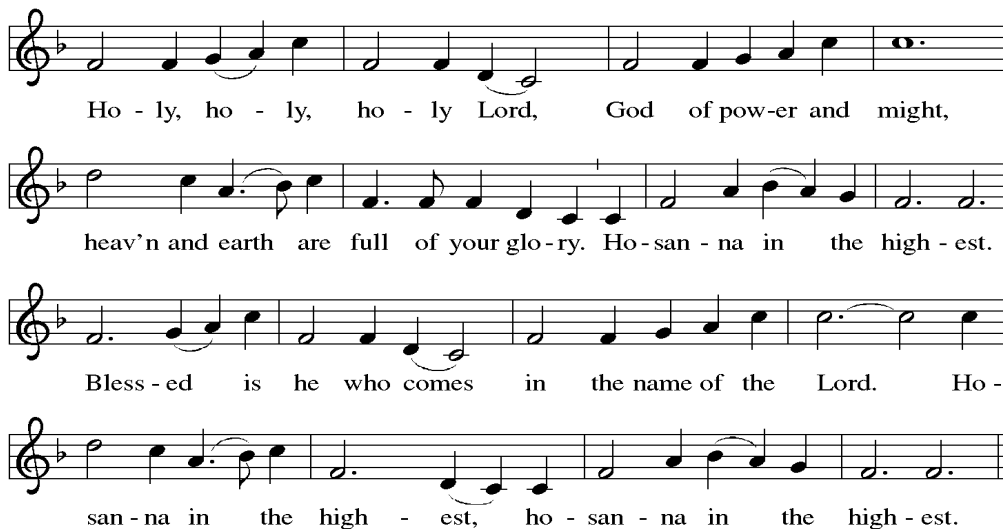
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. 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:



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.

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.

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two 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 has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;

for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

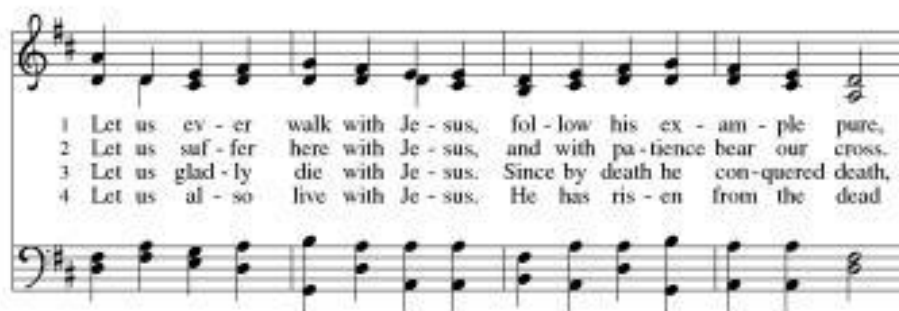
Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895

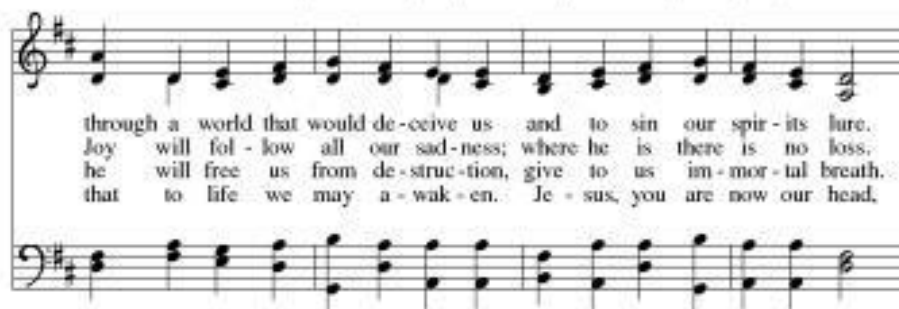
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

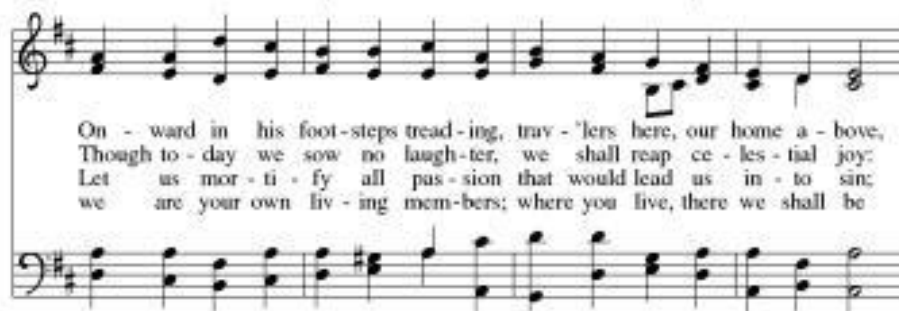
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross,
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus, Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus, He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure,
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss,
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath,
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy;
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding,
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter,
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en,
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er,



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide,
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know,
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high,
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me,

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626-1681; in: *Luthers Lied of Wierzbj*, alt.
 Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Bokne, 18th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Luthers Lied of Wierzbj*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,

You have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Spirit guide you on the stars path,

May the star fill you with the light of Christ, shining forth from your eyes,

May the Creator fill your journey with wonder, hope, and joy,

And may the Three in One ✠ bless your coming and going, now and forevermore. 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

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word* © Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.

Welcome to all! Welcome to worship, dear family of God. As we celebrate the Epiphany, may God enlighten us all.

This day after Epiphany, may we follow your light, dear Jesus, as the wise men followed the star.

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.

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 Christ's Table.

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 *Shopping Cart* next to the main entrance. **Reminder, food pantries cannot accept expired donations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

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).

Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. Adult Study on the Gospel of Mark. This first session will focus on Mark 1 through Mark 8:26.

Sunday, January 21 from 2:30 p.m.— 4:00 p.m. Wisconsin River Valley Conference (WRVC) Annual Meeting at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - 300 Logan St, Merrill, WI 54452. If you are interested in going, please let Pastor Maggie know.

Sunday, January 21 at 3:30 p.m. Community Dinner at First Presbyterian Church. A reminder for confirmation students to save this date!

Monday, January 23 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club will discuss, *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate.

Sunday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting. Followed by the Cemetery Association Meeting.

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.

Monday, January 8, 2024 – Annual Report Articles Due

Coming This Week @ St. John January 7 – January 14

Today

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

January 8

All Day Pr. Maggie @ WRVC Meeting
12:00 p.m. Annual Report Articles Due

January 9

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

January 10

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

January 11

4:30 p.m. Memorial Committee Meeting

January 14

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