



February 4, 2024
9:00 a.m.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

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WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light,
word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

United to Christ in the waters of baptism, saturated in the Spirit's 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 & 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 our planet earth, connected together in intricate ways,
and through the water cycle.

We give thanks for every molecule of water,
forming majestic 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, 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.

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
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,

You call us to follow Christ and spread the good news of your love for all people. You guide us in ways known and unknown. May your Spirit burn bright within our hearts and guide our paths. So, our words and deeds may be done in Christ's love. Be with us this day and all days, that we may find the courage to place our trust in you, Holy God Triune.

Amen.

READING: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God 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.

READING: Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

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: Mark 1:4-11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

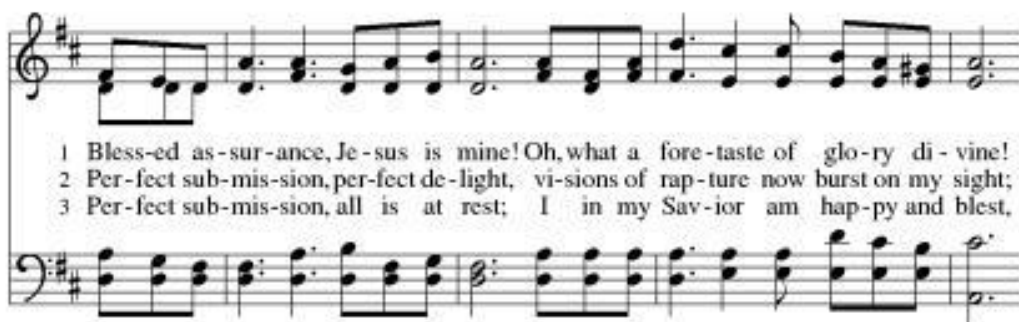
⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

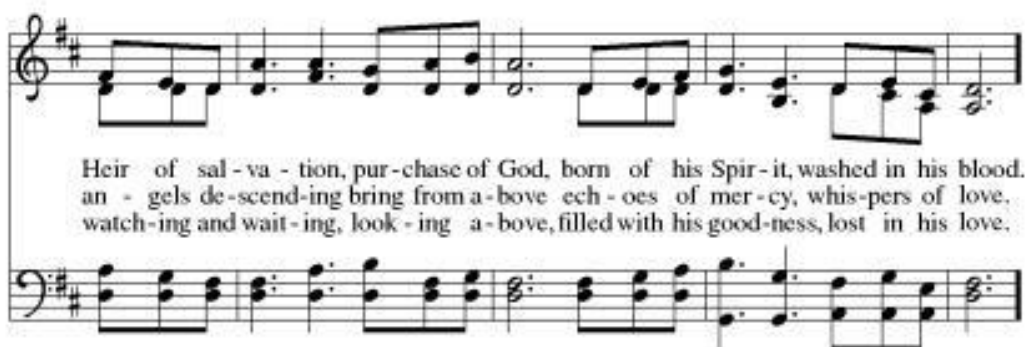
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Blessed Assurance



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love,
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on 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 earth belongs to God, our creator; every good thing is a gift from God. Let us glorify God through the gifts of our lives.

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 a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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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.

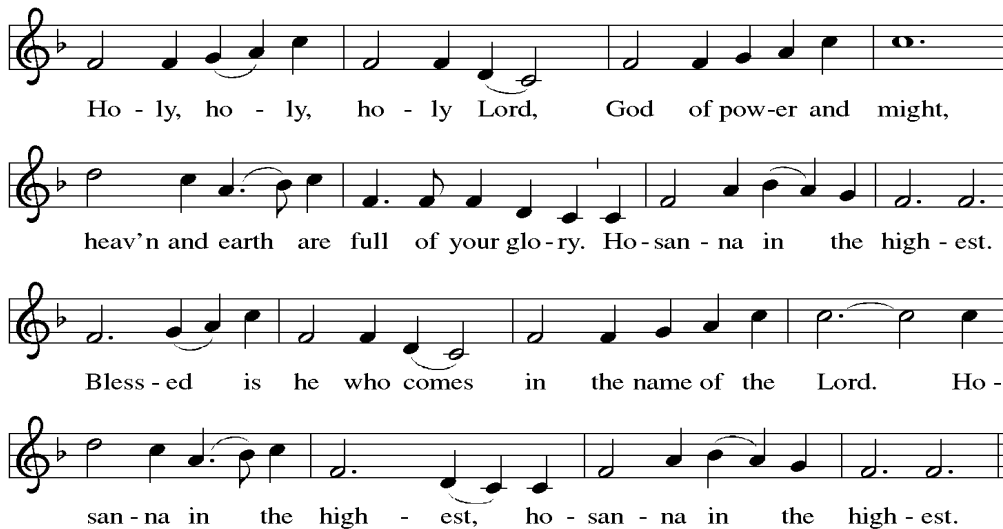
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light.

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. Amen.



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.

Give Me Jesus

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus,
 dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus,
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus,
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus,
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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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

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

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, William G. Tomer, 1833-1896

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Welcome to worship. May God's love be made known to you during your time shared here today.

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31, NRSV). When I am weak, God, thanks for your promises that give me hope.

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.**

LENTEN DINNERS We need volunteers to prepare and serve for our Lenten Dinners. We also need of people to bring salads, desserts and milk, and for 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. 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.**

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).

Sunday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting. The Cemetery Association Meeting will take place after the Annual Meeting.

Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. Adult Study on the Gospel of Mark. This second session will focus on Mark 8:27 through Mark 10.

Monday, February 26 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club will discuss, *He Should have Told the Bees* by Amanda Cox.

Book Club Announcement. We will not meet in March to give everyone extra time to read our April book, *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. Date in April TBD.

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 4 – February 11

Today

- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting – Cemetery Association Meeting to follow.
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

February 6

- 8:30 a.m. Quilting
- 9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Pr. Maggie continuing ed. via zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Gospel of Mark Study – Session 2

February 7

- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation

February 11

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