

January 28, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday After 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, creator of darkness and light,
word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The one who pardons and heals, calls us to name our failings and our hopes. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for reflection.

Holy God,

We come to you with open hearts. We seek to be transformed. We forget that you are always with us, and that with you all things are possible. Forgive us, lead us, make us new. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all. Amen.

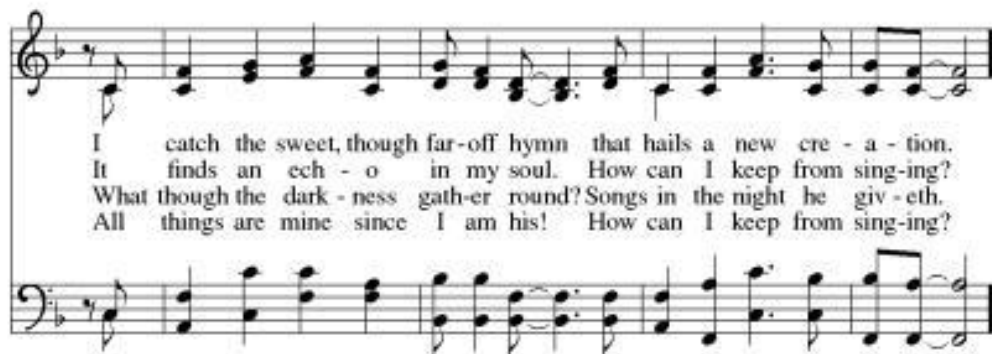
The God who made you and knows your every thought hears you now and forgives you all your sin. You have been redeemed through Jesus † Christ.

Amen

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

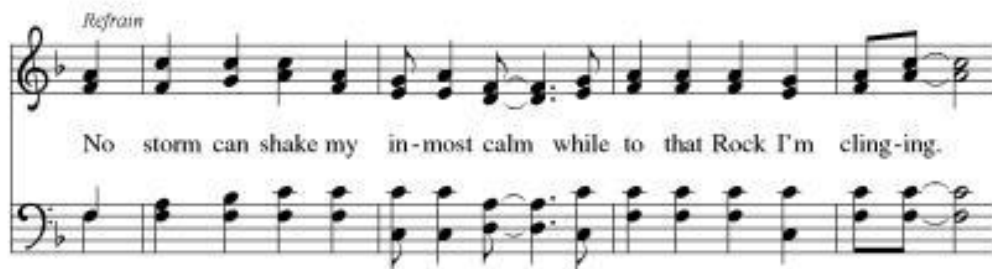


1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

You command the universe and all that is made. Your Word makes whole what is broken, it is the force of good, and the food of peace. Teach us now, as you taught in the synagogue. Heal us now, so that in all that we say and do, the freedom we have in you may be for others, too.

Amen.

READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: Psalm 111

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.

Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.

You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING:1 Corinthians 8:1-13

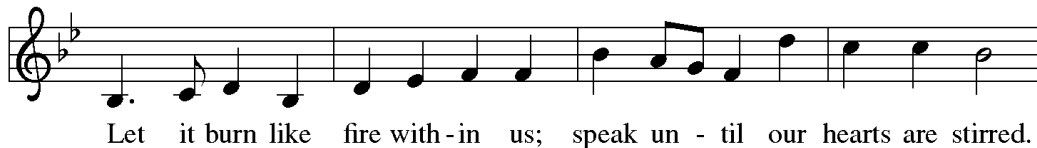
¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erworfenes Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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

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

Remembering all of God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and our gifts in humble service, that all may see the goodness of God.

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

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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

We give thanks for your generosity. We give thanks for the generosity of others. Bless these gifts. May these gifts be used in ways that cultivate compassion and love 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; 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:

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

Gather at Christ's table, so that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened. Receive the body of Christ and be transformed. Embrace this sacred space and know, you are loved. 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.

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,

we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Break now the bread | of Christ's sac - ri - fice; | giv - ing |
| 2 | Seek not the food | that will pass a - way; | set your |
| 3 | Love as the one | who, in love for you, | gave him - |
| 4 | Dwell in the one | who now dwells in you; | make your |
| 5 | Drink of this cup | and de - clare his death; | eat this |

thanks, hun - gry ones,	gath - er round.	Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food	that en - dures.	Come, learn the true and the
self for the life	of the world.	Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing	Word.	Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve	Eas - ter morn;	trust his re - turn and, with

sat - is - fied;	in Christ's pres - ence	the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way,	that the full - ness	of life may be yours.
food for you,	that your hun - ger	and thirst be no more.
One of God,	and be - lieve	in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath,	praise the one	in whom you are re - born.

Text: Susan R. Beichl, b. 1952
 Music: ARGENTINE SANTO | BREAK NOW THE BREAD, Argentine traditional, refrain: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise,
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,

In this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the peace of God be in your heart.

May the grace of God be in your words.

May the love of God be in your hands.

May the joy of God be in your soul, and in the song that your life sings.

In the name of the holy Trinity † one God.

Amen

When Peace, like a River It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1826–1888
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Welcome to worship. "Praise the Lord! ... He sent redemption to his people. ... Holy and awesome is his name" (Psalm 111:1, 9, NRSV).

As you taught in the synagogue, Jesus, impart to us today your new teaching — with authority — so that we trust your word and obey it.

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).

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 January 28 – February 4

Today

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

January 30

8:30 a.m. Quilting
9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting
1:00 p.m. Pr. Maggie continuing ed. via zoom

January 31

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

February 4

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