



**January 25th, 2026,
9:00 a.m.**

3rd Sunday After Epiphany, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The days are short, the nights long, and winter's frost lingers on the ground. Yet even in the cold and quiet, God's light continues to shine. Icicles glimmer in muted sunlight, and long shadows stretch across the landscape, yet even here, God's love breaks through the chill. Amid the stillness of these winter days, let us lay down our burdens and open our hearts to God's mercy and grace. Let us pray:

God of new beginnings, we confess that we are weary and unsure. In the long winter of our hearts, we carry brokenness we cannot mend, worries we cannot quiet, and doubts we cannot answer. We stumble through the shadows of fear and uncertainty, longing for your light to guide us. Help us to trust your path, to follow even when the way is unclear, and to open our hearts to the new beginnings you offer each day. Amen.

Hear the good news: the light of Christ shines in the darkness, and nothing can overcome it. Your sins are forgiven, your burdens lifted, your doubts and worries met with grace and mercy. God's love, steadfast as the winter sky, surrounds you and guides you, by day and by night.

Thanks be to God for a love like that!

SPECIAL MUSIC

St. John Immanuel Bell Choir

GREETING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also, with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

You sent your light into the darkness of the world, and in Jesus Christ you came near to us with mercy and hope. As you once called fishermen from their nets, call us again—away from fear, distraction, and complacency—into lives shaped by your kingdom. By your Spirit, grant us repentance that turns us toward life, courage to follow where Christ leads, and compassion to share your healing and good news with all who sit in shadows. Make us your people, ready to follow, ready to serve, and ready to bear your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord we pray.

Amen.

READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 27:1, 4-9

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

My heart speaks your message “Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (page 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found, to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?
 pray'r in you and you in me?
 mean in you and you in me?
 sound in you and you in me?
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. Responding to "Hear us, O God" with "Your mercy is great."

PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God is a generous giver of gifts that flow like a river from the fountain of life. Let us bring our offerings and tributes with thanks and praise.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEVQ/home>

GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty,

No eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered—these gifts, our lives, our hearts—to bring your light into the world, and show your steadfast love to all people. 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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 & ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Even in the cold of winter, when icicles glimmer and pale sunlight stretches long shadows across the earth, the light of Christ shines for all. At this table, God gathers everyone—those who are weary, those who are searching, those who are joyful, and those who long for mercy and hope. Come as you are, and be warmed by God’s love. Come to this bread and cup, and be fed with grace, forgiveness, and the promise of new beginnings.

LAMB OF GOD (page 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God,

We have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Strengthened by this gift, may we carry your light into the world—bringing hope to the weary, warmth to the lonely, and love to those we meet. Guide our steps each day, and help us follow Christ faithfully, sharing your grace with everyone. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Creator wake your flesh with life anew,
May Christ weave strength and courage into your bones,
May the Holy Spirit breathe joy in your presence,
May the Three in One immerse you with grace upon grace,
And may the Holy God † Triune saturate you with hope, renewal & peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

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Welcome to all! Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones.

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.

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John (715) 675-6950
If you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Maggie, please contact St. John.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noisy offering! The 2nd Sunday of the month! Next Noisy offering:

Sunday, February 8th bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊).

Money will be raised and donated quarterly. This noisy offering will go to: *Community Dinners for those in need.* Did you know St. John hosts three Community Dinners a year and each one costs approximately \$1,300. Your donations help serve a very real need in our community! **If you are a Thrivent member, you may be eligible to apply for a \$250 Thrivent Action Team card** which can go directly towards our community dinners. Please see Connie Nowak if you can help!

LENTEN DINNERS: We need volunteers to prepare and serve our Lenten Dinners. We also need volunteers to bring salads, desserts and milk, and to help with cleanup. The dinners will be served from 5-6 pm. Worship starts at 6:30. The sign-up chart is in the narthex. Please join us for Lent this year.

Sunday School Teachers Needed: As parent-teachers age out of Sunday School with their kids, we need 2-3 new teachers to step in and help teach the good word! With enough help, the commitment averages to teaching one lesson each month. Please contact Kim Landwehr at kamootz@gmail.com if you are interested!

Chair Yoga: Saturday January 31st / February 21st / February 28th all starting at 10:00 a.m. at St. John! A free event, donations are accepted for St. John's Youth.

Mission Trip to Duluth, MN Sunday, July 12th – Friday July 17th Grades 7th – 12th Please let us know if your student is interested by 02/18/2026
Monday, January 26th at 6:30 Pastor Maggie's Book Club will discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

Sunday, February 1st at 10:15 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting.

Thursday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m. Adult Study will discuss Chapters 14 – 19:27 of the Gospel of Luke.

Wednesday, February 18th Ash Wednesday. Lenten Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 22nd at 10:15 am – St. Johns Annual Cemetery Association Meeting

Church Mailboxes have moved – The mailboxes are now in order numerically by envelope number, though your name is also listed alongside your number. There are master lists in red binders, listed alphabetically by last name. Our mailbox section only accommodates 240 slots. We have set up a temporary location by the side door of the narthex. If you do not see your name or see errors, please let us know. *****We have also changed our envelope system***** If you are looking for offering envelopes, please fill out the pink offering envelope form and place it in the office door mailbox.

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or on our website! Help support St. John with Kwik Trip gift cards!

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 25th – February 1st

Today - Sunday, January 25th

- 9:00 a.m. Worship / No Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School – The Battle of Jericho

Monday, January 26th

- 6:30 p.m. Book Club – “Lessons in Chemistry” By Bonnie Garmus

Wednesday, January 28th

- 8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Thursday, January 29th

- 5:30 p.m. Bells Practice – come try the bells! No experience needed.

Sunday, February 1st

- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School – Naomi & Ruth
- 10:15 a.m. Annual Meeting