



February 1st, 2026,  
9:00 a.m.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany, Year A

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*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.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

United to Christ in the waters of baptism, saturated in the Spirits 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 promised 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.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to- geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name,  
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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## ***GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY***

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.**

Let us pray... 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: Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." <sup>6</sup> "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup> Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" <sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 15**

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart.**

They do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

### **READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18, 25-31**

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God. Word of Life.

**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 1:1-5**

The holy gospel according to John.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**

# Spirit, Open My Heart

*Refrain*



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's

2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my

3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and

goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and

friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

*Refrain*



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.

deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.

day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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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**

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.



## ***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... ..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**

### ***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

### All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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## What a Friend We Have in Jesus



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

## 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

## **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. **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**

### **SENDING HYMN *We Are Called (ELW 720)***

*There is no music image for the this song.*

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month! Next Noisy offering:**

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:kamootz@gmail.com) if you are interested!

**Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 11a.m. - 2p.m. serving food for The Marty Bus**

We are in need of a *Community Outreach Task Force*: To serve a hot meal to Wausau's underprivileged. If you would like to 1) help prepare and serve the meal, 2) donate food ingredients for the meal, or 3) donate money to help pay for the meal, please talk to Kim Landwehr after worship for more details. Thanks for your help with this quick turn-around! "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

**Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting**

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

**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday.** Lenten Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m.

**Chair Yoga: February 21<sup>st</sup> / February 28<sup>th</sup>** 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 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday July 17<sup>th</sup>** Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Please let us know if your student is interested by 02/18/2026

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:15 a.m.** – St. Johns Annual Cemetery Association Meeting

**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club** will discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans.

**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 February 1<sup>st</sup> – February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Today - Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Annual Meeting / Coffee Hour / Sunday School – Naomi & Ruth

**Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

**Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Coffee Hour / Sunday School – David & Goliath