



February 8th, 2026,
9:00 a.m.

5th Sunday After Epiphany, Year A

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

5304 N 44th Ave

Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org

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

Email: stjohnwausau@gmail.com

Office: (715) 675-6950

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

God's beloved, winter still holds us in its grip. The air is cold, the ground rests beneath frost and snow, and the nights remain long. Yet the days are slowly growing brighter. Morning light lingers a little longer on the horizon, and even in the chill, we sense that something is stirring. God's light continues to shine—steady, patient, and sure—awakening hope in us. In this season of waiting and becoming, let us bring before God all that weighs on us, trusting in God's mercy and grace. Let us pray:

God of returning light, we confess that we do not always notice what you are doing among us. We grow tired in the long winter of our hearts. We cling to fears that keep us frozen, carry worries we cannot release, and hesitate to trust the new life you are bringing forth. When the path ahead feels uncertain, we resist your call to move forward. Gently turn us toward your light. Soften what has grown hard within us, and help us live into the grace you renew each day. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, hear the good news: The light of Christ shines. Even now, God is at work—loosening what is bound, restoring what is broken, and releasing what has weighed us down. In Jesus Christ † your sins are forgiven, and you are made new. God's mercy surrounds you, steady as the returning daylight, guiding you toward hope and life.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

GATHERING HYMN

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: LIEBSE JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

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 and gracious God,

You call us salt of the earth and light for the world. Season our lives with your grace, so that what we say and do brings life and hope to others. Kindle your light within us, that we may shine with compassion and mercy. Root us in your commandments fulfilled in Christ, and lead us into a righteousness shaped by love. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ^{9a} Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-9

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God’s commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

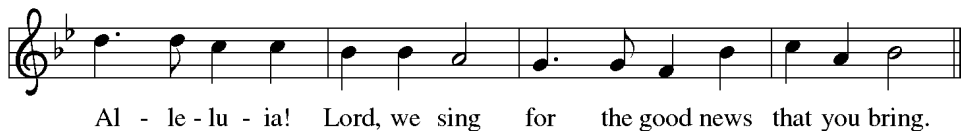
³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your

faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" ¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & NOISY OFFERING

1 This little light of mine. I'm going let it shine. 2. Won't let Satan puff it out. 3. Hide it under a bushel. Are you crazy. 4. Everywhere I go. This little light of mine.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

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

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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, 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

Beloved children of God, it is February. The days are growing longer and the light is returning. In this season of widening warmth, the love of Christ shines for all. At this table, God welcomes everybody—those who come with full hearts and those who come with heavy ones, those steady in faith and those still wondering, those rejoicing and those in need of comfort. All are invited to come just as you are. Here you will find grace for today, forgiveness freely given, and love that meets you in every moment.

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

Come, Let Us Eat

Leader or All



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt.

Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

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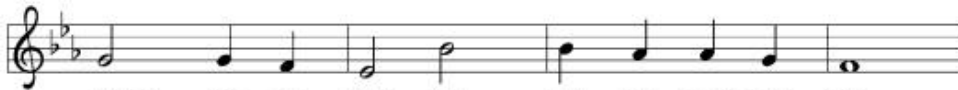
Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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 God who calls you salt of the earth season your words and deeds with grace. May Christ, the light of the world, shine in you and through you, so that your life reflects love and mercy.

May the Spirit give you courage to live the way of Christ, not hiding the light you have been given, but offering it freely for the sake of the world.

And may the blessing of Almighty God—Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit—rest upon you and guide you, now and always.

Amen

SENDING HYMN

O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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 Immanuel 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 Immanuel (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 Immanuel.*

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, March 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 Immanuel 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!

Monday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m. Council 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.

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

Mission Trip to Duluth, MN Sunday, July 12th – Friday July 17th Grades 6th – 12th Please let us know if your student is interested by 02/18/2026

Sunday, February 22nd at 10:15 a.m. – St. John's Annual Cemetery Association Meeting

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

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

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Immanuel 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 Immanuel February 8th – February 15th

Today - Sunday, February 8th

9:00 a.m. Worship

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

Monday, February 9th

6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 10th

9:00 a.m. All Conference Pastor's Meeting

Wednesday, February 11th

8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Thursday, February 12th

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

6:30 p.m. Adult Study – Gospel of Luke Chapters 14 – 19:27

Sunday, February 15th

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

No Sunday School