

# St. John's Lutheran Church & School



The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

14 January 2024

## As We Gather

Since the beginning of creation, God has spoken. He spoke into being our universe and our very selves as the crown of His creation; He spoke when seeking out Adam and Eve in a fallen world; He spoke many times and many ways through the prophets; and He spoke by the very words that came from the mouth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. From Him came words of instructing, healing, forgiving, and of invitation to follow Him as we hear today with Philip and Nathanael. The Lord still speaks to us today in His Word, as His Spirit spoke instruction and encouragement of the use of bodies through Paul in his letter to the church of Corinth. Through all He speaks, we are called to listen to that Word to guide and direct, and to hear His continued words of forgiveness, peace, hope, and joy as “in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son” (Hebrews 1:2).

## Bell

### Prelude

*"Largo"*

*J.S. Bach*

*Stand*

### 916 Only-Begotten, Word of God Eternal



1 On - ly - be - got - ten, Word of God e - ter - nal, Lord of cre -  
2 Ho - ly this tem - ple where our Lord is dwell - ing; This is none  
3 Hear us, O Fa - ther, as we throng Your tem - ple. By Your past  
△ 4 God in three per - sons, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, Son co - e -



a - tion, mer - ci - ful and might - y: Hear us, Your ser - vants,  
oth - er than the gate of heav - en. Ev - er Your chil - dren,  
bless - ings, by Your pres - ent boun - ty, Smile on Your chil - dren,  
ter - nal, ev - er bless - ed Spir - it: To You be prais - es,



as our tune - ful voic - es Rise in Your pres - ence.  
year by year re - joic - ing, Chant in Your tem - ple.  
and in grace and mer - cy Hear our pe - ti - tion.  
thanks, and ad - o - ra - tion, Glo - ry for - ev - er.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Maxwell J. Blacker, 1822-88, alt.  
Tune: Antiphoner, 1746, Poitiers  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Opening Versicles

L This is the day which the Lord has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C **Teach me Your paths.**

L Sanctify us in Your truth.

C **Your Word is truth.**

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Kneel/Sit*

### Confession

P As the psalmist declares, the Lord searches us, knows us, is ever-present with us, and leads us. He listens to us as we speak to Him. We come before Him in confession.

*Silence for meditation.*

P "The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth."

C **We confess, heavenly Father, that we often choose not to call on You in times of need, nor in times of thanksgiving. We fail to be near You in our opportunities to pray, praise, and give thanks. Forgive us.**

P “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”

C **We confess, heavenly Father, that in our days of trouble we rely on ourselves and not You. We seek deliverance through our own devices and peace through the temporary offerings of this world. Forgive us.**

P “Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.”

C **We confess, heavenly Father, we are the ones who are lost even though You are near and present in Your Word and means of grace. Our sins of thought, word, and deed separate us from You. Forgive us.**

P Speak, LORD,

C **for Your servant hears.**

### **Absolution**

P As we speak and call out to the Lord in prayer and confession, He calls to us, His people, through His Word of truth, mercy, and grace; for He has “saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.” As a called and ordained servant of the Word and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.

Speak, LORD,

C **for Your servant hears. Amen.**

## Old Testament Canticle

*Refrain*



**■** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the  
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that  
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,  
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -  
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."  
*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done  
glo - rious-ly; let this be made known in all the  
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -  
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the  
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.  
Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son  
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will



*Sit*

## Reading

*1 Samuel 3:1–20*

**L** A reading from 1 Samuel, the third chapter.

<sup>1</sup>The young man Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. <sup>3</sup>The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!” <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup>And the LORD called again, “Samuel!” and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup>And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the young man. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup>And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him."

<sup>19</sup>And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalms, hymns, or choral music may be sung between the readings.*





**Psalms 139:1-10**

*Chanted at 8:00, Spoken at 10:45*



- A <sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me and | known me!\*
- <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts | from afar.
- C <sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my | lying down\*  
and are acquainted with | all my ways.
- A <sup>4</sup>Even before a word is | on my tongue,\*  
behold, O LORD, you know it alto- | gether.
- C <sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind | and before,\*  
and lay your hand up- | on me.
- A <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;\*  
it is high; I cannot | attain it.
- C <sup>7</sup>Where shall I go from your | Spirit?\*
- Or where shall I flee from your | presence?
- A <sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, | you are there!\*
- If I make my bed in Sheol, | you are there!
- C <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the | morning\*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts | of the sea,
- A <sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall | lead me,\*  
and your right hand shall | hold me.

## Reading

1 Corinthians 6:12–20

A The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 6.

<sup>12</sup>“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. <sup>13</sup>“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” —and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” <sup>17</sup>But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

## 952 Alleluia – II



Text: Traditional

Tune: Fintan O'Carroll, d. 1977

Text: Public domain

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## Reading

*John 1:43–51*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Responsory

- L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.  
C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**  
L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.  
C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**  
L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

## Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

C 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.

827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?  
2 Some take up His task in morn - ing, To their Lord re - spond - ing soon;  
3 For as rain and snow from heav - en Wa - ter seeds in dust - y soil,  
4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com - ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"  
Some are called in heat of mid - day, Oth - ers late in af - ter - noon;  
Caus - ing them to bud and flow - er, Giv - ing bread to those who toil;  
When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de - scend.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.  
E - ven as the sun is set - ting, Some are sent in - to the fields,  
So the Lord sends forth His prom - ise, Words of life and joy and peace—  
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"?  
There to gath - er in the boun - ty That God's Word so rich - ly yields.  
Nev - er void to Him re - turn - ing, Bear - ing fruit with great in - crease.  
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

Text (st. 1): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (sts. 2–4): Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–96

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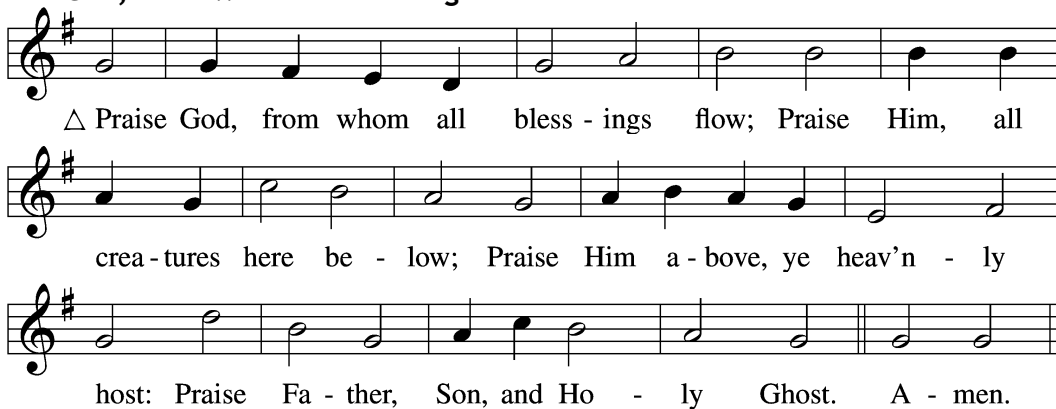
Sermon

*"Your Very Own Fig Tree Moment"*

*Pastor Stapleton*

Exchange of Peace

*All may share a sign of God's peace*

*Stand***805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**


△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

*Kneel/Sit***Prayer**

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**

- L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

*Stand*

### **Collect of the Day**

- L Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

### **Collect for the Word**

- L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

## Morning Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

## New Testament Canticle

LSB 266

*Refrain*

**C** Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.

Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.

Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.

*Refrain*

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He  
lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to  
sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.  
*Refrain*  
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -  
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Blessing

- L Let us bless the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

LSB 267

- L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.  
C Amen.

### Announcements

### Postlude

"Caprice"

L.N. Clerambault

Acknowledgments

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Serving in Worship

Homilist: Rev. Mark Stapleton  
Liturgist: Rev. Ronald Weidler  
Director of Music: Mr. Gregory Ceurvorst

Mission Notes

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE	January 17, 5:45PM
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Sundays, 9:25, Music Rm (Second Floor)
TRUTH TRAVELERS (JR HIGH)	Sundays, 9:25AM, Youth Rm (Basement)
ADULT BIBLE STUDY	Sundays, 9:25AM, Heritage Rm
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP	Sundays, 6PM, Offsite
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP	Mondays, 7PM, Zoom
WOMENS' SMALL GROUP	Tuesdays, 8:45AM, Heritage Rm
GRIEFSHARE	Tuesdays beginning September 26, 1:00 – 2:30PM, Heritage Rm
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	Wednesdays, 9AM, Heritage Rm
CHOIR PRACTICE	Wednesdays, 7PM, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Music/Choir Rm
CONFIRMATION CLASS	Wednesdays, 6:00PM, Heritage Rm
PICKLEBALL	Thursdays, 6:30PM, Gym
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP	Thursday, 7PM, Offsite
TRIP ORDER	January 22







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