

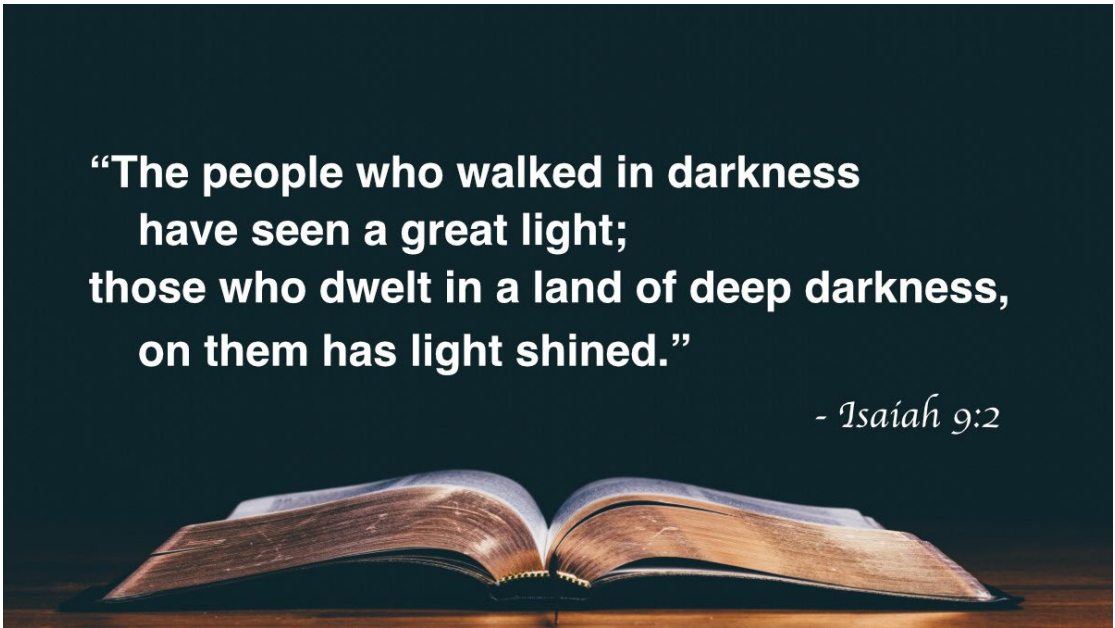


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE

**"The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined."**

- Isaiah 9:2



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 25, 2026

AS WE GATHER



The Epiphany season proclaims and celebrates the salvation of God coming into the world as a light shining in a dark place. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah predicting the dawning of that light into the darkness of unbelief, separation from God, sin, and “the shadow of death” (Matthew 4:16). That light was and is Jesus and His message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (v. 17). It may seem like a minor detail that Matthew says Isaiah’s prophetic words were fulfilled when Jesus left His hometown of Nazareth to live “in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali” (v. 13). Yet even this little fact testifies to how real the words of the Old Testament are and how they are fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ.

Likewise, it may at times seem insignificant and even unimportant when the light of the Gospel is preached in our hearing and in our world today. How many of us have heard God’s voice directly saying, “Follow me”? Those who were baptized as infants have no memory of ever being apart from God or His church. The life of faith in God may just seem normal or even routine to us—nothing out of the ordinary. Still, our sins remind us of the temptation to ignore God. Like the Christians in Corinth, we have sinful pride that causes divisions and quarreling among us. And while that’s no different than anywhere else in our world, to be a disciple of Jesus means to be truly different than the world. Repentance means being transformed by love of God and love of neighbor. Today, Jesus truly is saying to you, “Repent” and “Follow Me,” even in the ordinary details of life.

THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION HYMN

644 The Church’s One Foundation



1 The Church’s one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ’ry na - tion, Yet one o’er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis-tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM | 10:45AM

ANTHONY JOHN KILCOYNE

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.


C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel and Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly

deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

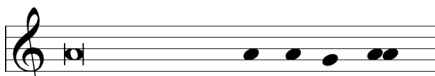
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

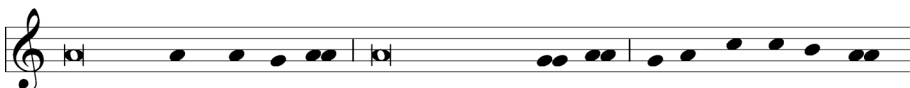
Mark 10:47



- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.



- Ⓐ** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.



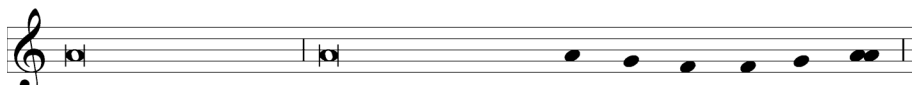
- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



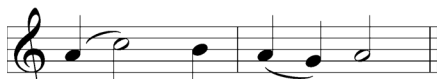
C Lord, have mer - cy.



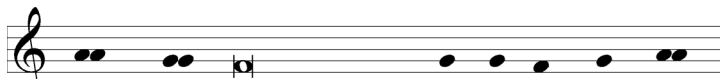
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



A Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



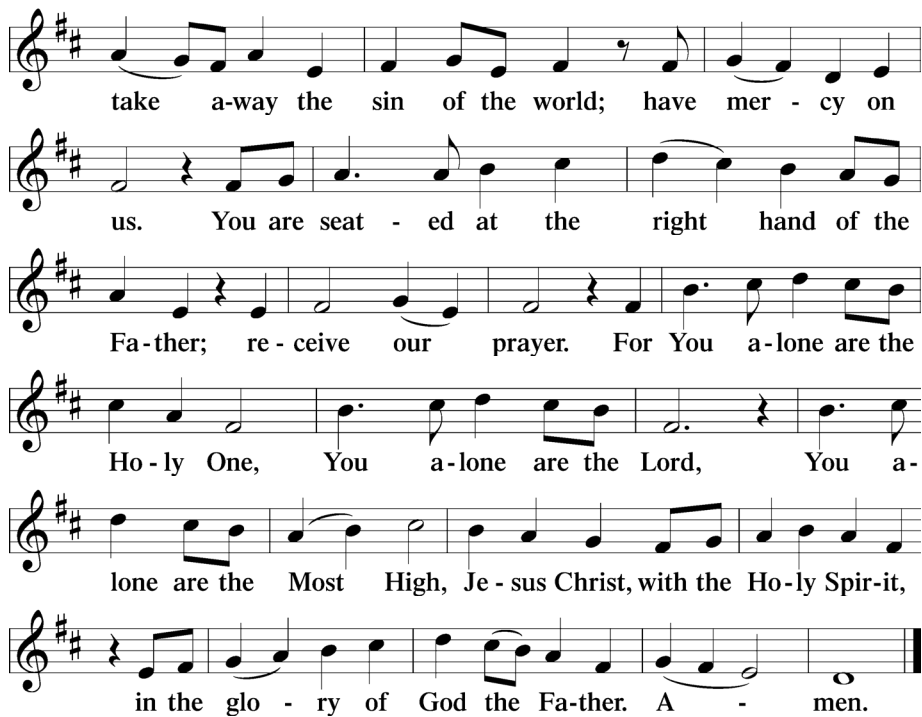
Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1–4

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 9.

¹ There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the

latter time he has made 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 dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 40:1–11; antiphon: v. 3

A I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

C He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.

A He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

C Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD.

A Blessèd is the man who makes
the LORD his trust,
who does not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after a lie!

C You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you!

- A** I will proclaim and tell of them,
yet they are more than can be told.
- C** **Sacrifice and offering you have not desired,
but you have given me an open ear.**
- A** Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.
- C** **Then I said, “Behold, I have come;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:
I desire to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.”**
- A** I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
behold, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.
- C** **I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.**
- A** As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain
your mercy from me;
your steadfast love and your faithfulness will
ever preserve me!

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

- A** The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 1.

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may 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.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 6:68



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.
¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

¹⁸While walking 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 fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother,

in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.

²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON HYMN

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

SERMON

Do You Have That Light In Your Life?

Pastor Mark Stapleton

Stand

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.

Kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people
according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed
and the gifts of God be shared. Lord of the Church,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray this day for our nation and for all nations of the world, that there be
an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness everywhere prevail. Lord
of all times and all people,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

- P** We pray for our families and our neighbors. Grant that we walk in the light of Christ and together praise our gracious God for all He has done for us. Lord of all generations,
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially for the hospitalized and those who are shut in during this season. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and all those for whom our petitions are desired, [*including . . .*]. Lord of care and grace,
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** As a community of the faithful, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life in hope and joy. Direct our ways on earth that we complete our journey of life in faith and rejoice together with them eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in life everlasting. Lord of eternity,
- C** **in mercy, hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

ANTHEM | 10:45AM

DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT'S TETHER

Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether; For when humbly, in thy name,
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them. Alleluia!
Touch we now thy garment's hem.*

Ways
to
Give

IN-PERSON



MAIL

505 S Park Road
La Grange IL 60525

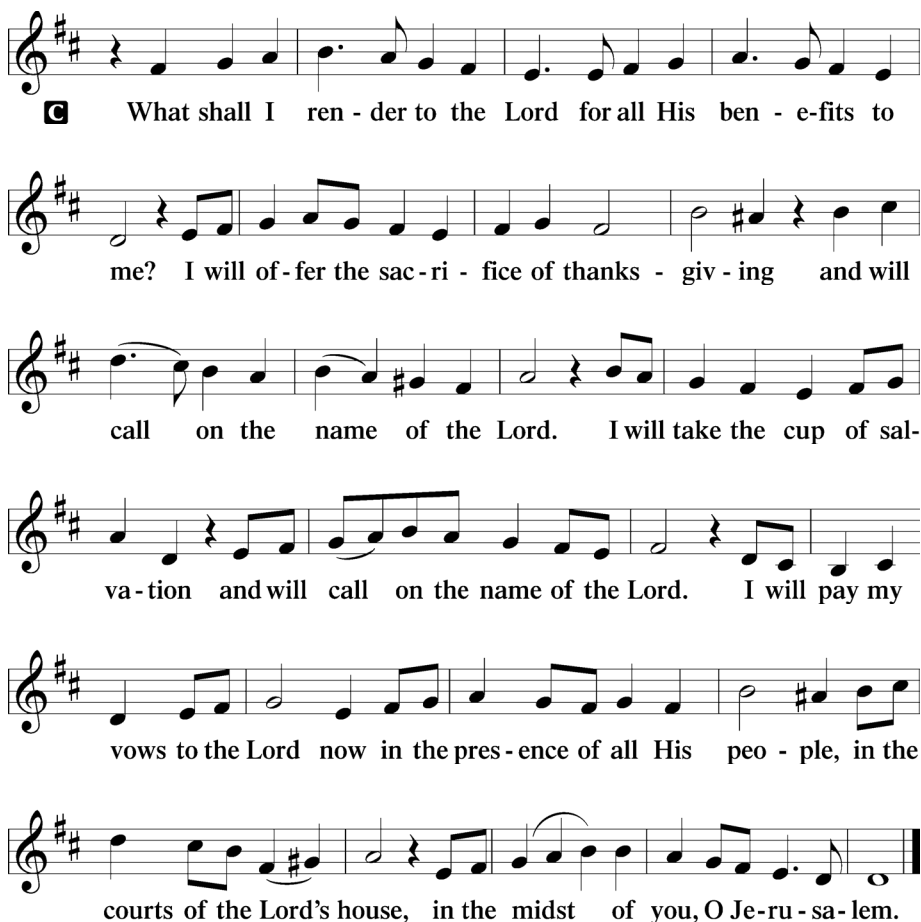
ONLINE
VANCO



zelle



directpay@stjohnslagrange.org



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

LORD'S PRAYER

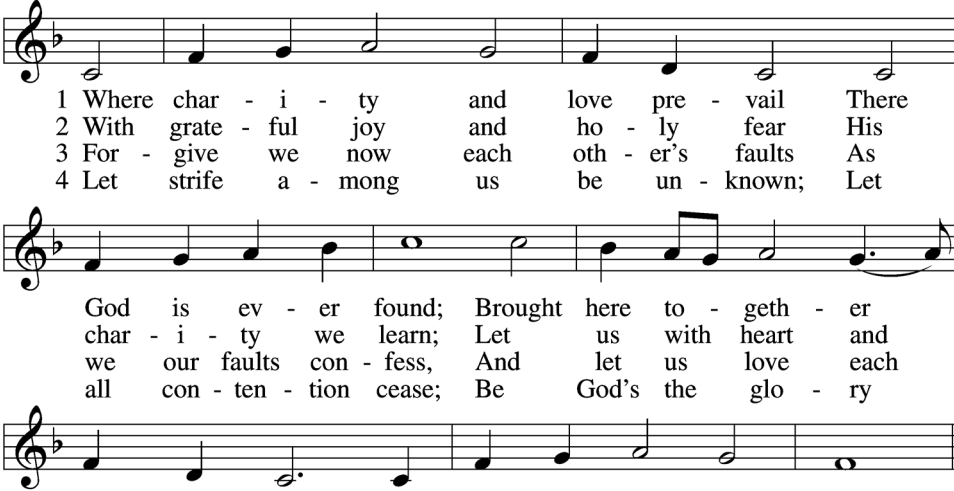
P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

845 Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
 3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let

God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
 char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
 we our faults con - fess, And let us love each
 all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry

by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
 mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
 oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
 that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

- 5 Let us recall that in our midst
 Dwells Christ, His only Son;
 As members of His body joined
 We are in Him made one.
- 6 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

Tune: Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

The Cantata Choir of St. John's | 10:45am

Lynne Braun, Lector | 8:00am

Chad Hemminger, Lector | 10:45am

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of long time, dedicated member, Karen Gugliuzza, who recently passed away.

MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S



The Music Ministry at St. John's is entirely supported by the generosity of our congregation through contributions to the Music Fund. This fund enables us to offer uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship and glorifies God.

The three pillars of Christian stewardship—time, talent, and treasure—are essential for any music program to flourish and grow.

In that spirit, the Board of Worship invites you to prayerfully consider supporting the Music Fund. White contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and online donations may also be made.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Equipping ✝ Engaging ✝ Encouraging

St. John's Lutheran Church and School
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OPEN HOUSE TODAY

SUNDAY, JAN 25TH, NOON-2PM

FULL DAY PRESCHOOL - KINDERGARTEN

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL