



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE

**SALT &
MATTHEW 5:13-16
LIGHT**

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026



In the stewardship hymn “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness,” author William Watkins Reid Sr. includes the thoughtful line “Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast” (LSB 788:5). The text, written in 1965, reflected a growing understanding of the need for service in Jesus’ name by all who had received His blessing. In the concluding stanza of the hymn, he also writes, “May thankfulness be days in service spent, reflection of Christ’s life and love and light.” In this Epiphany season, when we celebrate the radiantly expanding light of Christ, we are directed to find new ways to reflect that light into all the areas of our life. Paul says it simply and directly: “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone” (Galatians 6:10). Those opportunities are just waiting for us!

THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION HYMN

583 God Has Spoken by His Prophets



1 God has spo - ken by His proph - ets, Spo - ken His un - chang - ing Word;
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
3 God is speak-ing by His Spir - it, Speak-ing to our hearts a - gain,



Each from age to age pro-claim-ing God, the one, the righ-teous Lord.
Bright-ness of the Fa-ther’s glo - ry, With the Fa - ther ev - er one;
In the age-less Word de - clar - ing His own mes-sage, now as then.



In the world’s de - spair and tur -moil, One firm an - chor holds us fast:
Spo - ken by the Word In - car-nate, God of God, be - fore time was;
Through the rise and fall of na - tions One sure faith yet stand-ing fast;



God is king, His throne e - ter - nal; God the first, and God the last.
Light of Light, to earth de-scend-ing, He re - veals our God to us.
God a - bides, His Word un-chang-ing; God the first, and God the last.

Text: George W. Briggs, 1875–1959, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

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Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

P In the name of the Father and of the **✚** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

C **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

P Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!"

C **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**

P Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard.

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

P Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

C **and His righteousness endures forever.**

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

CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Humble yourselves, then, before God; confess your sins to Him and implore His forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed, I have continually transgressed Your Law. Too often I have sought the easy road of ignoring the needs of others and considered only myself and my wants. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P As you believe, so let it be. 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.**

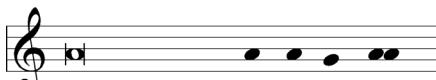
P As God's forgiven people, we join confidently in a sung prayer to our gracious God.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

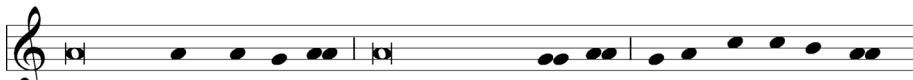
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



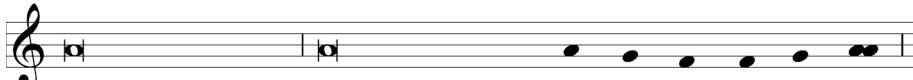
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



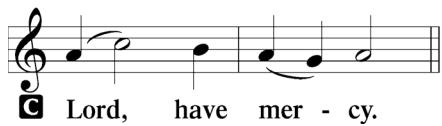
C Lord, have mer - cy.



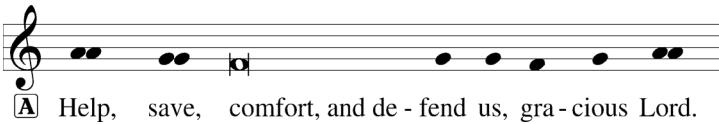
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

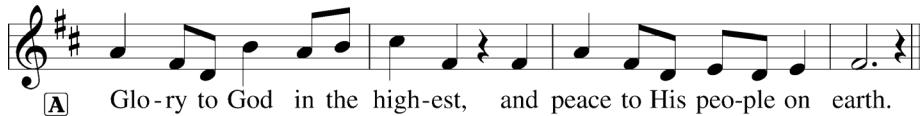


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



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



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



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



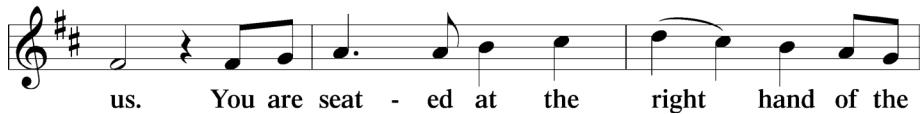
praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



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



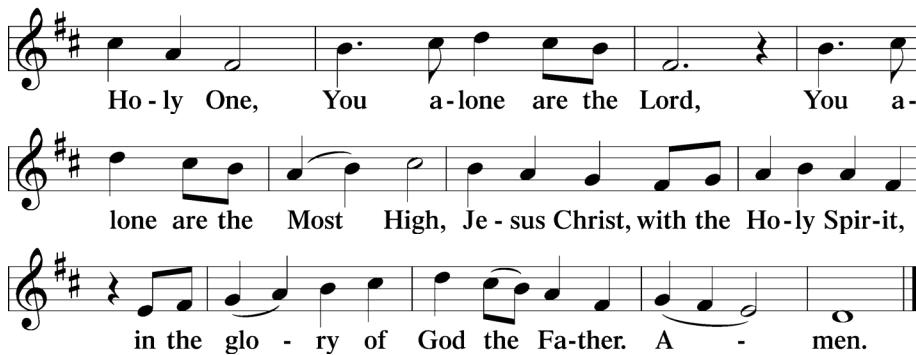
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a - lone are the



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:3-9a

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 58.

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?”

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,

and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,

and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 112:1–9; antiphon: v. 4

- A** Praise the LORD!
Blessèd is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his commandments!
- C** **His offspring will be mighty in the land;**
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- A** Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.
- C** **Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;**
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.
- A** It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;
who conducts his affairs with justice.
- C** **For the righteous will never be moved;**
he will be remembered forever.
- A** He is not afraid of bad news;
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.
- C** **His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,**
until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.
- A** He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever;
his horn is exalted in honor.

A The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 2.

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶"For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes 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. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

Sit

1 O God of mer - cy, God of might, In love and
 2 And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die That our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Thou hast taught: To feel for
 4 All are re - deemed, both far and wide, Since Thou, O

pit - y in - fi - nite, Teach us, as ev - er
 world might live there - by, O hear us; for to
 those Thy blood hath bought, That ev - 'ry word and
 Lord, for all hast died. Grant us the will and

in Thy sight, To live our lives in Thee.
 Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.
 deed and thought May work a work for Thee.
 grace pro - vide To love them all in Thee!

SERMON

How Then Shall We Do Good?

Pastor Ron Weidler

ANTHEM | 8:00am

AS THE DEER

Martin Nystrom (b.1956)

*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
 You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*

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 Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to be the light of the world. Send out messengers and missionaries to share the light of Christ in every corner of the earth, that people from every tribe, nation, and language would follow Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, there are many in this world who live in the darkness of depression, anxiety, and mental illness. Help us to be light to those in dark places, to encourage them to seek medical assistance, and to accept them as Your beloved children. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, walk with all those who are grieving in the shadow of death, *[especially . . .]*. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal light and life. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, shine Your light upon all those in public office. Enlighten them with Your wisdom and keep them from the darkness of the evil one. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

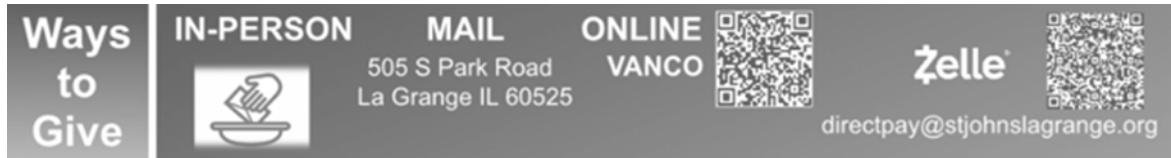
P Lord, strengthen all those who are poor, homeless, hungry, oppressed, or in need in any way. Help us to see these people as Your creations in need of Your mercy and light, just as we are. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Lord, we commend all these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer. Amen.

Sit

OFFERING



INSTRUMENTAL SOLO | 8:00am & 10:45am

NOCTURNE

John Tyndall (1820-1893)

Sofie Hemminger, *flute* | Rebecca Hemminger, *piano*

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

Musical notation for the Offertory hymn "What shall I render to the Lord". The lyrics are as follows:

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:

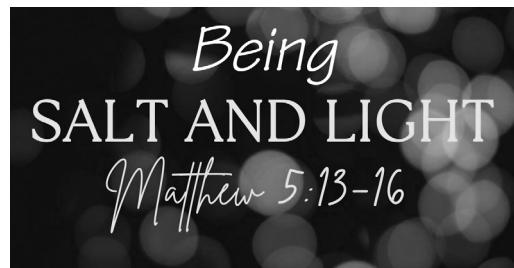
C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
 hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
 who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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.**



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we -
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath-ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76

Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944

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POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Ron Weidler, Homilist & Liturgist
Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist
The Cantata Choir of St. John's | 8:00am
Lynne Braun, Lector | 8:00am
Chad Hemminger, Lector | 10:45am

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Altar are given by Margery Bobysud "In loving memory of my brother Larry Millsap on his 70th birthday 02/09/56 to 08/25/01."

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.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL *from the Board of Education*

The day school here at St. John's has always been a big outreach ministry of our church. Our school is smaller, but our mission remains the same - teaching children and their families about the love of Jesus while providing excellent academic education with a Christian worldview.

The Board of Education is happy to report on the addition of three new part-time students to our pre-school class in January, now totaling 14. An Open House has been scheduled for February 22nd from noon - 2pm.

If you would like to help our school grow, please consider one or more of the following:

- 1) Volunteer to be a "librarian" who reads to students 2-4 times a month.

- 2) Share a special skill with the preschoolers (such as a craft or art project, a fun activity in the gym, etc.)
- 3) Give or continue to give to the Annual Fund (goes directly to support the school.)
- 4) Participate in TRIP program (goes toward school scholarship fund.)
- 5) Assist with delivery of flyers to local churches and families.
- 6) Pray for the school staff and Board of Education members, as well as more students and families that need to hear the Good News about Jesus.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
WISCONSIN**

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

2026 Tour

Dr. Louis Menchaca, Director

Saturday, February 28
7:00 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church
505 S. Park Rd.
La Grange, Illinois 60525
(708) 354-1690 Ext. 222
m.brunelle@stjohnslagrange.org

Free Will
Offering

A stylized logo for St. John's Lutheran Church. It features a red heart in the center, surrounded by a circular pattern of smaller red shapes, all contained within a white cross outline.

Equipping + Engaging + Encouraging

St. John's Lutheran Church and School
505 S. Park Rd. La Grange, IL 60525
www.sjlagrange.com
708-354-1690