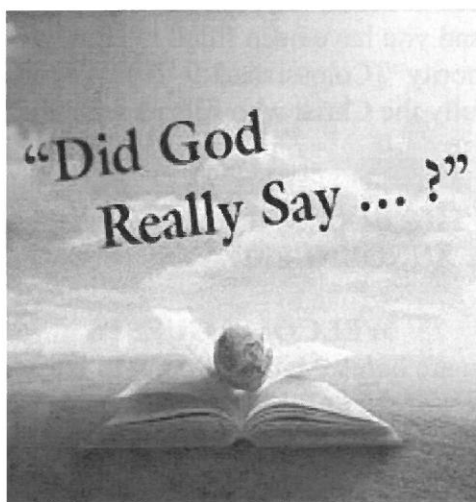


# St. Johns Lutheran Church

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**“Lord, to whom shall we go?**



**YOU have the words of ETERNAL  
LIFE!”**

**(John 6:68).**

## **AS WE GATHER**

The full identity of Jesus, which is revealed during the Epiphany season, demonstrates beyond a doubt that He is both human and divine. In the nativity accounts, the Gospel writers focus on the humanity of Jesus—that He is born a human baby and grows up with full humanity. In Epiphany, His divinity is revealed as well through His miraculous acts. As Paul wrote to the followers of Christ in Colossae of Jesus: “In Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority” (Colossians 2:9–10). We rejoice in coming to know more fully the Christ who fills us with His Spirit and His love.

## **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **WELCOME GUESTS**

We’re glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take to fill out an attendance card and drop in the basket during the offering.

## **PREPARATION**

### **HYMN**

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

LSB 545

**Word of God, come down on earth,  
Living rain from heav’n descending;  
Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
Faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere You;  
Word made flesh, we long to hear You.**

**Word eternal, throned on high,  
Word that brought to life creation,  
Word that came from heav'n to die,  
Crucified for our salvation,  
Saving Word, the world restoring,  
Speak to us, Your love outpouring.**

**Word that caused blind eyes to see,  
Speak and heal our mortal blindness;  
Deaf we are: our healer be;  
Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.  
Be our Word in pity spoken,  
Heal the world, by sin now broken.**

**Word that speaks God's tender love,  
One with God beyond all telling,  
Word that sends us from above,  
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;  
Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man,  
**to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.**  
They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;  
**there is none who does good, not even one.**  
The wicked are estranged from the womb;  
**they go astray from birth, speaking lies.**  
Against you, you only, have I sinned  
**and done what is evil in your sight.**  
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

**and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

What is man that you are mindful of him,  
**and the son of man that you care for him?**

For we are brought to an end by your anger;  
**and all our days pass away under your wrath.**

Yet you are he who took me from the womb;  
**on you was I cast from my birth.**

Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies  
**you have prepared praise.**

O Lord, open my lips,

**and my mouth will declare your praise.**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"

**and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

The Lord is a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. In His great compassion, He atoned for our iniquity and did not destroy us. He has delivered His Son into death for your trespasses and raised Him from the grave for your justification. In the stead and by the command of this Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** Christ Be My Leader

LSB 861

**Christ be my Leader by night as by day;  
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future His care,  
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**

**Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,  
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.  
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,  
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**

**Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;  
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain  
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, Whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **MEMORIZED WORD**

**Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!...The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. Psalms 98:1-2**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *Isaiah 49:1-7*

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." <sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God." <sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may

reach to the end of the earth.” <sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL**

Praise the LORD, all nations!

**Extol Him, all peoples!**

For great is His steadfast love toward us,

**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

**bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

## **EPISTLE**     *2 Timothy 3:16-4:5*

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **VERSE**

**Alleluia. Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! Alleluia.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**     *John 6:63-69*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN**                      Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens                      **LSB 589**

**Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,  
Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me,  
Let each promise still my fear.  
Death’s dread pow’r, its inward strife,  
Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love’s strong fervor  
That I cling to You forever!**

Oh, what blessing to be near You  
And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You,  
Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord,  
Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin's burden  
You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living  
When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;  
On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light  
Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
And my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;  
Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me  
That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise,  
From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given  
In the endless joy of heaven.

## SERMON "Did God Really Say...?"

### CATECHISM

#### *The First Article*

In the First Article of the Creed, our confession is focused on God our Creator, from whom our divine Savior Jesus Christ has proceeded. It is the blessed work of God the Father to grant us life and to place us into vocations through which we can serve Him and our neighbors. We speak the words of this article of the



Apostles' Creed, followed by the explanation from the Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther.

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

What does this mean?

**I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.**

## **OFFERING**

**HYMN:**    Your Are the Way; Through You Alone        LSB 526

**You are the way; through You alone  
Can we the Father find;  
In You, O Christ, has God revealed  
His heart and will and mind.**

**You are the truth; Your Word alone  
True wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind  
And purify the heart.**

**You are the life; the empty tomb  
Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in You  
Not death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life;  
Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win  
Whose joys eternal flow.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us pray. Almighty Maker, Let us receive every life as Your gift and safeguard especially those threatened by abortion, assisted suicide, and embryo experiments. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Incarnate Savior, Open our mouths to speak the sanctity of life with courage and show it with compassion. And open our hands to serve mothers with child and little ones awaiting adoption.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, You have no pleasure in anyone's death and You desire all men to be saved. Bring us to contrition and repentance for dismissing Your Word and despising the least of these.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, Silence Satan's accusations with the assurance of Your atonement for every sin and every person.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Great Redeemer, Bless our land with leaders and laws that ensure safety, freedom, and fairness for persons great and small.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, You have directed that our bodies and lives belong not to us but to You, having bought them for Your own. Preserve those suffering illnesses and injuries (including...) and bestow upon them recovery. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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**

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.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

Thy Strong Word LSB 578

**Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,**

**And our lives our hopes confess.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!**

*Stand*

**God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Pastor Michael Tanney
Lector	Pastor Michael Tanney
Elders	Al Bohannon, Ban Le
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Bob Rehmer, Maureen Rehmer, Melba Fanger, Ray Gluesenkamp, Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Pastor Michael Tanney
Acolytes	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Greeter	Ruth Evers

## Worship Screen Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Parts of this worship folder are copyrighted. Permission for reprint has been received from Concordia Publishing House. The Fellowship Publications, and C.C.L.I copyright license #386077.

### ***Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week January 19-January 26***

Sunday	8:00am Vietnamese Worship 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study 10:30am Nepalese Worship
Monday	MLK Day – Office Closed 6:00pm Evangelism
Tuesday	3:30pm Compass Chapel 6:30pm Nepali Confirmation
Wednesday	3:30pm Compass 6:30pm ESL 6:30pm Pre-Seminary Training 6:30pm Choir
Thursday	2:00pm Ridgewood Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Confirmation
Friday	8:00am Bible Study
Saturday	8:30am Food Pantry
Next Sunday	8:00am Vietnamese Worship 9:00am Joint Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study

## **Announcements**

### **Saved to Share Called to Care**

#### **Our Response to God's Love Last Week**

Attendance Sunday: 31

Communion: 30

Nepalese Attendance: 39

Offering : \$2,251.08

**E2 CONFERENCE** On January 25 from 8am-12:30pm in Arnold, MO, there will be an Encourage and Equip Gathering. There will be sessions such as "Tell the Next Generation", "Hope for Small Congregations", and Stewardship and Elder Training sessions. For more information, visit [https://mo.lcms.org/event/e2-equip-and-encourage-conference/?event\\_date=2020-01-25](https://mo.lcms.org/event/e2-equip-and-encourage-conference/?event_date=2020-01-25)

**CFNA SEWING AND SOWING** St. Louis businesses are searching for people with sewing skills. Refugees are calling for classes. Would you like to share Christ's love with a refugee, build a friendship and help someone learn a job skill? Your helping hands are needed for our sewing program. There are many ways to help. Call Carol (314) 517-8513

**BIG BAND SWING** The Lutheran South bands will host a Big Band Swing Dance on Saturday, January 25 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. This will be in the Lutheran South Kuhlmann Center. Beer, wine, and appetizers will be provided as well with free swing dance lessons starting at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Space will be limited to 200 guests. Questions? Please contact Laura Maschhoff at [lmashhoff@lslancers.org](mailto:lmashhoff@lslancers.org).

**SAUSAGE DINNER** Salem Lutheran Church will be hosting a sausage dinner Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 11am-5pm in the school cafeteria. Adults (\$10), Children 5-10 (\$5), and children 5 and under are free. For information, call Tim Howard at 314-574-7596

## Prayers

**Special Prayer Petitions** –Dennis Solomon healing from gum disease; **Doris Seevers** as she goes through therapy; **Me Nguyen** as she goes through therapy from knee surgery; **Carmen Hobson** who is having back surgery; **Nepali and Vietnamese** Communities worshipping here; **EAGLE** and **Compass** as they seek a new director.

**Shut Ins** – Jeanette Creamer, Gerry Engert, Carmen Hobson, Bobbie Kepford, Me Nguyen, Dennis Solomon, Jerry Schmaltz, Rosemary Taylor, Mabel Wilke, Carol Carr, Trinh Nguyen

**2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** are available to pick up on the table in the Narthex. Please take yours.

**SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS?** Are you comfortable having them? Register for a workshop and receive a free spiritual conversation starter kit. Saturday, January 25@ St. Paul Des Peres Lutheran Church [lhm.org/workshop](http://lhm.org/workshop).

**MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE** On Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, Hope Ev. Lutheran Church will host an Organ Vespers service at 4pm. The guest organist for this service will be Matthew Gerhardt.. Visit [hopelutheranstl.org](http://hopelutheranstl.org) for more information

**THANK YOU** Pastor would like to thank all those who sent cards and gifts to him and his wife during Christmas.

**VOTERS** First Voters meeting will be January 26<sup>th</sup>. The first Executive Council meeting will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The remaining schedule will be set at these meetings.



**Lutherans  
For Life**

Equipping Lutherans to be  
Gospel-motivated voices For Life

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) • [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org) • 888.364.LIFE

**L**utherans For Life (LFL) provides unique Gospel-centered, life-issue educational resources, audio/video, and Life Team and Life Chapter training from a Lutheran perspective. LFL seeks to “equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.” LFL makes resources available to thousands of Lutheran congregations and parishioners all year long. Through their Word of Hope outreach, they offer the love, hope, and healing power of Jesus Christ to post-abortion men and women.

In 2020, LFL is focusing on the theme **Did God Really Say ... ?** (based on Genesis 3 and John 6:68).

To make this work possible, LFL relies on financial support from congregations and other dedicated friends like you!

To assist LFL at this time, a special offering will be taken for Lutherans For Life. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact LFL at 888.364.LIFE (5433) or at [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org).

More information is also available at  
[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

**“Did God Really Say ... ?”**

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**A special offering will be taken for Lutherans For Life today.**