

# St. Johns Lutheran Church



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## **AS WE GATHER**

The Epiphany season continues to illuminate the miracle of Christmas shining its light forward to the goal and purpose of Christ's coming to us in the flesh. That purpose is the salvation of the world through the forgiveness of our sins. That forgiveness can and will happen only through the sacrifice on Christ's cross. As often as we Christians have heard this Gospel and believe it, however, the more often we tend to forget that this knowledge, this faith, remains a hidden mystery to the world, which ignores, rejects, or explains away "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." Many really don't get it! Yet, here through the Divine Word and Sacraments, God the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, enlightens minds and hearts to a spiritual epiphany.

## **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 time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

#### **PREPARATION**

#### **HYMN**

Rise, Shine, You People

*LSB 825*

**Rise, shine you people!**

**Christ the Lord has entered Our human story;**

**God in Him is centered.**

**He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,**

**With grace unbounded.**

**See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,  
Now are forgiven.**

**Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,  
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story  
Of Jesus' glory.**

**Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
His new creation.**

## **INVOCATION**

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

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*(Video - Michael W. Smith - Lord have mercy)*

*The congregation is invited to join in on "The Lord have mercy*

Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken  
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim  
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom  
Forgive me for my unbelief  
Renew the fire again

*[Chorus]*

**Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy on me  
Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy**

**Lord have mercy on me**

I have built an altar where I worship things of men  
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You  
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing  
Pardon my transgressions  
Help me love You again [*Chorus*]

I have longed to know You & Your tender mercies  
Like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end  
I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence  
Your grace forever shining  
Like a beacon in the night [*Chorus 2x*]

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my 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** All Glory Be To God on High LSB 947

**All glory be to God on high And thanks for all His favor;  
No harm can touch or terrify A child of God forever.  
God shows His good and gracious will  
And grants His peace, the world to fill  
All strife at last has ended.**

**We praise and laud and worship You;  
We give you thanks forever, O Father, for Your rule is true  
And just and changes never. With boundless pow’r,  
Your mighty reign Fulfills whatever You ordain,  
Lord, grant us ev’ry blessing!**

**O Jesus Christ, the only Son Begotten of the Father,  
Your saving death has made us one  
With God and with each other.  
O Lamb of God, to You on high  
In our distress we sinners cry, Have mercy on us, amen!**

**O Holy Spirit, our delight And source of consolation.  
Protect us from the devil's might Through Jesus, our salvation,  
Who by His death upon a tree Has rescued us from misery;  
To this we hold forever.**

### **SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, by Your light of grace shining in our hearts and enlightened by the cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ, inspire in us a faith that is alive and glorifies You in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **MEMORIZED WORD**

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:18

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Isaiah 58:3–9a*

<sup>3</sup>“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. <sup>4</sup>Behold, 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.

<sup>5</sup>Is 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? <sup>6</sup>“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? <sup>7</sup>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 him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup>Then 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. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

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

**GRADUAL** *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

**Praise the Lord, all \* nations!**

**Extol him, all \* peoples!**

**For great is his steadfast \* love toward us,**

**and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for \* ever.**

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory \* due his name;**

**bring an offering, and come in \* to his courts!**

**EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 2:1–16*

<sup>1</sup>And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. <sup>6</sup>Yet 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. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden

wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, 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”—  
<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For 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. <sup>12</sup>Now 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. <sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. <sup>14</sup>The 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. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

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

**VERSE**        *Matthew 5:16b*

**Alleluia. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Alleluia.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**        “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.**

*Refrain*

**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.**

*Refrain*

**Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hopes confess.**

*Refrain*

**From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light**

*Refrain*

**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. *Refrain***

**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!**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**      *Matthew 5:13–20*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>[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. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In 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. <sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>For 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. <sup>19</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to Thee, O Christ.**

**CREED** (We All Believe In One True God) LSB 953

**We all believe in one true God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Ever-present help in need,  
Praised by all the heav'nly host;  
All He made His love enfolds,  
All creation He upholds.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Mary's son,  
Who descended from His throne  
And for us salvation won;  
By whose cross and death are we  
Rescued from all misery.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost,  
Who from both in truth proceeds,  
Who sustains and comforts us  
In all trials, fears, and needs.  
Blessed, holy Trinity,  
Praise forever be to Thee!**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

### **OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH LSB 215**

Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

**God, our Father in heaven**, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that **Your holy name be hallowed** by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

May **Your kingdom come to us** and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to **Your will be done**, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend *[names]* and all who are in need, Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Grant us our daily bread**, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us** so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Lead us not into temptation**, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

And lastly, O heavenly Father, **deliver us from all evil** of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.**

O God of God, O Light of Light,  
O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To You in heaven's glory bright  
The song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne,  
The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won,  
All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.

For deep in the prophets' sacred page,  
And grand in poets' winged word,  
Slowly in type, from age to age  
The nations saw their coming Lord;  
Till through the deep Judean night  
Rang out the song, "Good will to men!"  
Sung once by first-born sons of light,  
It echoes now, "Good will!" Amen.

That life of truth, those deeds of love,  
That death so steeped in hate and scorn--  
These all are past, and now above  
He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!  
So sang that host beyond our ken.  
Lift up your heads, your King awaits.  
We lift them up. Amen, amen.

Then raise to Christ a mighty song,  
And shout His name, His mercies tell!  
Sing, heav'nly host, your praise prolong,  
And all on earth, your anthem swell!  
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!  
Forever let the song ascend!  
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,  
All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Pastor Michael Tanney
Lector	Pastor Michael Tanney
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Cameron Hampel, John Benwell, Patrick Benwell, Jayvon Evers, Joan Potvin, William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Pastor Michael Tanney
Acolytes/Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Pastor Michael Tanney

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### **SUBSTITUTE LUNCH COOK**

WOL has an in-house lunch program. We are looking for someone with cooking experience who would be willing to be a substitute cook on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays should our daily cook be out sick. Please contact the school office at 314-832-1244 if you might have an interest and ability in helping WOL in this way.

### **TEACHER OPENINGS 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

WOL is seeking to fill two full time positions for next school year. One is for our Preschool 3/4 year old classroom at the St. Lucas campus and the other is for Middle School Mathematics. Applicants should have a Bachelor's degree in education and be a licensed teacher. Resumes can be sent to [mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net](mailto:mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net).

### **THE LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (LESA)**

would like to thank you for your support of the LESA mission. Many families have been greatly impacted by the LESA scholarship program and expressed their gratitude for the tuition assistance for the 2022/2023 academic year. Word of Life received \$11,575 for the Spring Semester, which supports 31 of their students.

# Announcements

## Saved to Share Called to Care

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

Attendance Sunday: 51

Communion: 43

Offering: \$1,301.80

**WOL RESTAURANT NIGHT** will be at the South County Freddy's 5479 Southfield Center from 4:00 - 8:00 pm on February 21<sup>st</sup>. For WOL to get credit: Enter code GIVEBACK for Digital Order, or Mention WOL or provide the flyer in the restaurant.

**MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE** Hope Ev. Lutheran in St. Louis will host the hymn festival featuring the works of Lisa Clark, hymnwriter and author, on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Lisa is a St. Louis native, alum of Hope Lutheran School, and serves as Senior Editor at Concordia Publishing House. The hymn festival will feature hymn texts written as part of her Ph.D. studies at the University of Bristol, England. The festival will be led by organist Jacob Weber and the combined choirs of Hope and Ascension Lutheran Churches. Hope Lutheran is located at 5218 Neosho St.

**SALEM AFFTON BBQ** Invite your friends and neighbors and attend Salem Men's Club All-You-Can Eat SAUSAGE DINNER on Sunday, February 5, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Salem Lutheran School cafeteria. Tickets are now available in the church office: \$12 per adult / \$6 per child (ages 5-12) Younger children eat FREE! Call (314) 352-4454 to reserve your tickets. Make checks payable to Salem Men's Club.

For more information,

visit <https://slcas.org/church/mens-club-sausage-dinner>.

**CFNA TRIVIA AND SILENT AUCTION EVENT** Please consider registering, sponsoring a round, and/or donating an item, service, or gift certificate for our sixteenth annual Trivia and Silent Auction to benefit CFNA. This event helps fund the many programs CFNA offers to assist refugees and immigrants in the St. Louis area including After School Tutoring, ESL, Driver's Education, Sewing Classes, Employment Support, Friend a Family Support Groups, and more. **When:** Saturday, April 1, 2023 **Doors open** 5:45 pm, Trivia begins at 6:30 pm **Where:** Lutheran Church of Webster Gardens 8749 Watson Rd, Webster Groves, MO **Cost:** \$30 per person, \$200 for a table of 8

## Prayers

**Special Prayer Petitions** – **Carmen Hobson** who is enduring pain, stability, and weakness with no surgery in sight; **Bobbie** who is suffering with mental issues; **Confirmation Class** for the Lord to mature their faith; **Our Vicars** as they continue to take classes at the Seminary; **Our Field-Workers** Tristan (and family), Alvaro and, Isaac; **Shut Ins** – Bobbie Kepford, Jerry Schmaltz, Steve Bain, Carmen Hobson

### *Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week February 5-February 12*

Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-12pm Office Open <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>6pm</u> Ladies Exercise 7pm Elders
Tuesday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass 6pm Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-12pm Office Open <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>3:45pm</u> Compass Chapel 6pm Choir
Thursday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>2pm</u> Ridgewood Bible Study <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>6:30pm</u> Adult Confirmation
Friday	8am-12pm Office Open 8am Bible Study 1pm Nepali Mother's Prayer Service 2pm-6pm Compass
Saturday	<u>8:30am</u> Food Pantry / <u>9am</u> Confirmation 2pm Vicar Meeting 5:30pm-7:30pm Young Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship