

St. Johns Lutheran Church



St. Johns Lutheran Church
3738 Morgan Ford Rd. St. Louis, Missouri 63116

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8th, 2026

Divine Service Setting 2

LSB 167

AS WE GATHER

Although the work of composers of church music and writers of hymn texts are often observed and even celebrated, the faithful and thoughtful work of text translators is rarely noted. One of the most gifted translators, whose work brought into English many historical and doctrinally powerful German hymns, was an Englishwoman named Catherine Winkworth. The contributors' index in *Lutheran Service Book* (p. 1002) lists forty-six hymns included in the hymnal that she translated from the original German. Her chosen words have both beauty and depth of meaning. In the second stanza of Johann Mentzer's hymn "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" (*LSB* 811), she phrases the call to all powers to praise God with these simple words: "Your noblest work is to adore." As we gather for worship and bring our praises in adoration to our gracious God, we are fulfilling our purpose as the crown of His creation. We are called in our worship to be joyfully carrying out the "noblest work." It doesn't get any better than that!

RINGING OF THE BELLS / WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phone: 314-773-0126

Email: stjohnslcstl@gmail.com

WELCOME (Bienvenido, स्वागत छ, Chào mừng, 환영, ようこそ,
Bienvenue, Karibu, እንኳን ደህና መጡ, Baga nagaan dhufte, Willkommen,
Benvenuto, 欢迎) **ALL**

We're glad you are here! If you are visiting for the first time, please 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/>).

If you have a prayer request that you would like offered during the service, please grab one of the blue sheets of paper next to the bulletins and place it in the basket during offering.

Our service today includes the celebration of God's presence, as He comes in the true body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Any who are not yet instructed or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please see the pastor. You may come forward to the communion rail for a blessing. Please cross your hands to indicate you would like to receive a blessing.

PREPARATION

HYMN “Arise and Shine in Splendor” *LSB 396*

**Arise and shine in splendor;
Let night to day surrender.
Your light is drawing near.
Above, the day is beaming,
In matchless beauty gleaming;
The glory of the Lord is here.**

**See earth in darkness lying,
The heathen nations dying
In hopeless gloom and night.
To you the Lord of heaven
Your life, your hope has given
Great glory, honor, and delight.**

**The world's remotest races,
Upon whose weary faces**

**The sun looks from the sky,
Shall run with zeal untiring,
With joy Your light desiring
That breaks upon them from on high.**

**Lift up your eyes in wonder
See, nations gather yonder
From sin to be set free.
The world has heard Your story;
Her sons come to Your glory;
Her daughters haste Your light to see.**

**Your heart will leap for gladness
When from the realms of sadness
They come from near and far.
Your eyes will wake from slumber
As people without number
Rejoice to see the Morning Star.**

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES *(Stand as you are able)*

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

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!
Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!
**All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing
praises to Your name.”**
Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard.
**You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and
Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!**
Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
and His righteousness endures forever.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.
Humble yourselves, then, before God; confess your sins to Him and
implore His forgiveness.
**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.

God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ is given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 119:9–16; antiphon: v. 12* *(Spoken)*

Blessèd are you, O Lord;

teach me your statutes!

How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not wander from your commandments!

I have stored up your word in my heart,

that I might not sin against you.

Blessèd are you, O Lord;

teach me your statutes!

With my lips I declare

all the just decrees of your mouth.

In the way of your testimonies I delight

as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts

and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes;

I will not forget your word.

**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.**

Blessèd are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes!

KYRIE LSB 168

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST

LSB 171

This is the feast of victory for our God

Alleluia

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor

And blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God

Alleluia

Sing with all the people of God,

and join in the hymn of all creation:

**Blessing and honor and glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God

For the Lamb who was slain

has begun His reign. Alleluia Alleluia

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You called us out of darkness into light so that we will show forth Your praise in all the world. Direct the discipline of our

devotion to Jesus, our radiant King, as we live out our lives day by day to reflect Your glory through the working of the Holy Spirit in us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

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.’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Psalms 117:1–2a; 96:8 (Spoken)*

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 *1 Corinthians 2:1–12*

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *LSB 173 (Stand as you are able)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 5:13–20*

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

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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (*Sit*)

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.
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!**

SERMON

NICENE CREED *(Stand as you are able)*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen



OFFERING *(Sit)*

(Scan this code with your phone if you would like to give online)

OFFERTORY

LSB 176

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Stand as you are able)*

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 promises to hear us.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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, 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 *[name(s)]* and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. 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.

Special Petitions....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.

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came in the flesh and for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Rejoicing in our Baptism, which creates faith in our hearts and daily renews us, we fulfill the noble work of praising You and magnifying Your holy name. With joy, we join in the unending adoration of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

SANCTUS *LSB 178*

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You graciously invite us to be the people who proclaim the salvation that is in Christ alone. Gathered at Your Table, we ask that you grant us to receive His blessed body and blood, fully trusting in the promises that are fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Unite us to Christ, our Savior, that we may live and respond to the opportunities for service and witness brought to us by the Holy Spirit and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom.

Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your

coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

AGNUS DEI LSB 180

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace,
grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS *(Sit)*

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

LSB 563

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “Thank the Lord” LSB 181
(Stand as you are able)

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev’ryone what He has done.

Let ev’ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in Joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Let us pray.

Faithful God, whose blessings are new to us every morning, we humbly pray that You would look upon us in mercy and renew us by Your Holy Spirit. As You have welcomed us at Your Table, so preserve us in Your righteousness and grant us a portion in that eternal life that is in Christ

Jesus, through whom be glory and praise to You and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26* LSB 183

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 “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.

Preacher Pastor Ben Wescoatt

Liturgist Michael Felten

Lector Sandy Gerber

Elder Earl Welch

Organist Suzanne Manelli

Children’s Message Pastor Ben Wescoatt

Bible Class Pastor Ben Wescoatt

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Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love last Week:

9:00 Attendance: 44

Offering: \$2,231.75

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL will meet next Sunday, February 15th, after Bible Study.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND REQUEST

Our Scholarship Fund is in need of a boost. This fund is used to help cover the cost of our young members to attend Lutheran Schools. Please consider giving a donation to this fund so that we can continue to support our youth. Thank you for your help.

YOUTH TRIVIA NIGHT Support our youth while competing with friends to see who knows the most unimportant things. Tickets are \$25 per person and \$160 per table until February 21st. After that, ticket prices go up to \$30 and \$200 so save your spot now. You can purchase tickets at messiahstl.org. Doors open at 5PM, trivia begins at 6PM. Popcorn and sodas provided and you may bring your own food and beverages as well. All proceeds go to support our youth attending the Missouri District Youth Gathering in April.

Shrove Tuesday

PANCAKE DINNER

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

5PM TO 7PM

ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN

3738 MORGAN FORD

Donations accepted



Prayers

Prayers for Health –for President R. Lee Hagan, Richard, Bob, Jessica, Kate, Mary, and Cat; **Sandy Key** who has cancer;

Area Ministry – Word of Life Lutheran School

Shut Ins – Debra Frerichs, Carolyn Dickhoener, and Ruth Trauth (Sherbrooke)

Special Prayer Petitions –**For** those displaced from home and church;

Melba that her walking ability may improve so that she can return to church; **Evangelist** Idonis King; **Compass Director** Jaylynn Mennel;

Our Associate Pastors Nabin & Ratna; **Momentum Academy and All**

Schools; The Food Pantry and those who receive food: Compass;

Our Field-Workers Michael and John; **For** those traveling;

Missionaries Zach Barz (for life & ministry) and Erin Mackenzie;

South City Circuit Prayers Idonis King, Chris Shearman, Paul Gaschler, Lewi Jerimya, President Hagan and all district officers and staff, Gagan Gerung, and Geordie Denholm

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week February 8 – February 15

Sunday	<u>9:00am</u> Worship w/ Communion / <u>10am</u> Fellowship <u>10:30am</u> Bible Study / <u>10:30am</u> Nepali Worship <u>NO</u> Sunday School 12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship <u>1pm-4pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer Club / <u>6pm-8pm</u> Nepalese Volleyball
Monday	8am-12pm Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass <u>6pm</u> Ladies Exercise
Tuesday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass
Wednesday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>9am</u> Midweek Bible Study <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass
Thursday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass <u>3:25pm</u> Compass Chapel
Friday	8am-12pm Office Open / <u>2pm-6pm</u> Compass
Saturday	<u>8:30am</u> Food Pantry 6pm-8pm Abundant Grace Choir Practice 6pm-8pm Nepalese Volleyball
Next Sunday	<u>9:00am</u> Worship / <u>10am</u> Fellowship <u>10:30am</u> Bible Study / <u>10:30am</u> Nepali Worship <u>NO</u> Sunday School / <u>11:30am</u> Executive Council Meeting 12:30pm Abundant Grace Chapel Worship <u>1pm-4pm</u> Tower Grove Soccer Club / <u>6pm-8pm</u> Nepalese Volleyball