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*St. John  
The  
Apostle  
Lutheran Church*



*Rejoicing in God's Grace  
and  
Sharing the Love of Christ with Others*

*February 1, 2026*

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Epiphany**

Call to Worship: 10:30 AM

Order of Divine Service Setting 1

Opening Hymn: #702 — My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
2. May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart;
3. While life's dark maze I tread and grief's around me spread,
4. When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream



Savior divine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my  
 My zeal inspire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
 Be Thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's  
 Shall o'er me roll, blest Savior, then, in love, fear and dis –



guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly Thine!  
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!  
 tears away, nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.  
 trust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

## Confession and Absolution

**Pastor:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**Pastor:** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People:** who made heaven and earth.

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

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

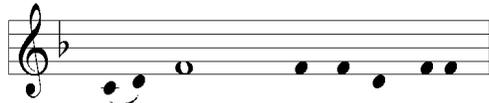
**Pastor:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** 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

**Pastor:** 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 the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

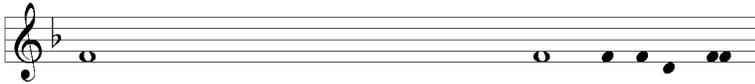
**KYRIE**



A: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy



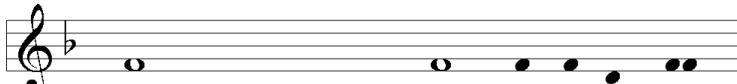
For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy



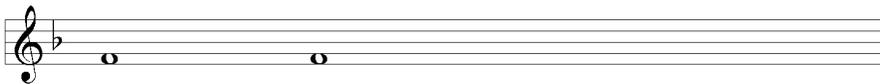
A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity 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 worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy



A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C: A - men

## HYMN OF PRAISE



A: Glory to God in the highest 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 take a - way the sin of the world;



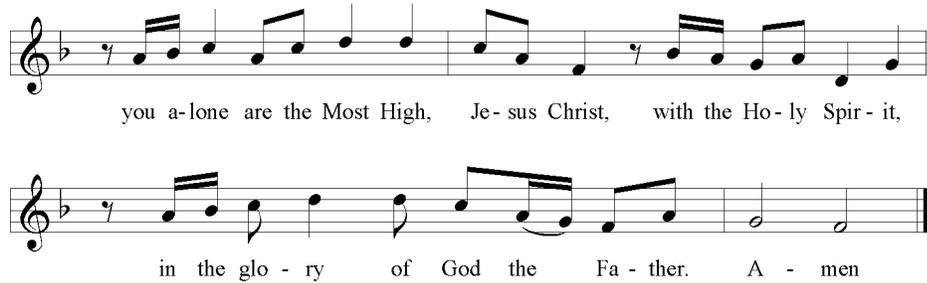
have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



## THE READINGS

**Old Testament Reading:** *Micah 6:1–8*

**6** Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,  
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

**Psalm 15: 1-5**

*Psalm 15*

**15** <sup>1</sup> O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? \*  
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> He who walks blamelessly and does what is right \*  
and speaks truth in his heart;  
<sup>3</sup> who does not slander with his tongue  
and does no evil to his neighbor, \*  
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;  
<sup>4</sup> in whose eyes a vile person is despised,  
but who honors those who fear the LORD; \*  
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;  
<sup>5</sup> who does not put out his money at interest  
and does not take a bribe against the innocent. \*  
He who does these things shall never be moved.

**Glory be to the Father and the Son \*  
And to the Holy Spirit  
As it was in the beginning \*  
Is now and will be forever. Amen**

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18–31**

<sup>18</sup> For 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God

**Alleluia and Verse Common**

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P: The Holy Gospel according to St. *Matthew 5:1–12*

C: *Glory to You O Lord*

*Matthew 5:1–12*

<sup>5</sup> *Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.*

<sup>2</sup> *And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:*

<sup>3</sup> *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>4</sup> *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

<sup>5</sup> *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

<sup>6</sup> *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

<sup>7</sup> *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

<sup>8</sup> *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

<sup>9</sup> *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons<sup>1</sup> of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>11</sup> *“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

**Nicene Creed**

Pastor: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All: 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.

Hymn of the Day: # 718 —

Jesus, Lead Thou On



1. Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won; and although the
2. If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let not faithless
3. When we seek relief from a long-felt grief, when temptations
4. Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won. Heav'nly leader,



way be cheerless, we will follow calm and fearless.  
fears o'ertake us; let not faith and hope forsake us;  
come alluring, make us patient and enduring.  
still direct us, still support, console, protect us,



Guide us by Thy hand to our fatherland.  
For through many a woe to our home we go.  
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
Till we safely stand in our fatherland.

The Sermon

Rev. Wachter

Prayer of the Church

OFFERTORY



C: Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



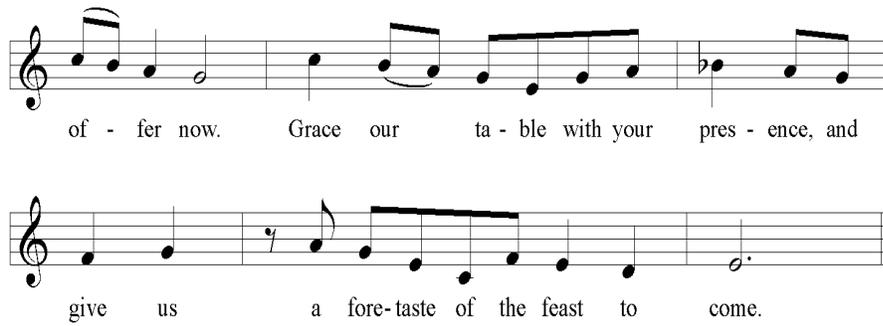
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the



hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and  
give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**Benediction**

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**Closing Hymn: # 783 – Take My Life and Let It Be**



1. Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord to Thee;
2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love;
3. Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
4. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;



Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.  
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.  
Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

**Announcements:**

- Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM

- Service time: 10:30 AM
- Minister: Pastor Brian Wachter
- Website: [stjohntheapostlelutheran.com](http://stjohntheapostlelutheran.com)
- SJTA Men's study – Wednesday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM TBD
- SJTA Women's study – Thur. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM TBD
- Conformation class after service today
- Happy Anniversary to Pat & Kieth Camperman Feb. 17
- Happy Birthday to our February Birthday:
  - Jim Cuckler Feb. 12
  - Leroy Horst Feb. 24

## Today's Thought

While the wisdom of this world promotes prosperity, Jesus teaches humility. Those characteristics that the world might look down on, God calls blessed. While we might be persecuted for these things, God reminds us that our reward is in heaven. For what may seem wise to the world is truly foolish, and what seems foolish to the world—Christ crucified—is wise. Just as He redeemed the Israelites and calls them His own people, so also has He rescued us from our sin.