

*We humans aren't the only ones celebrating Epiphany! Though the whole earth shall be covered with darkness, "nations shall come to Your light" (Isaiah 60:3). Isaiah mentions the wealth of all nations, and we are reminded of the Magi bearing gifts. We have gifts, too, of a spiritual nature, connecting other people with our gracious God, "in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith" (Ephesians 3:12). "Singing camels"? Well, who really carried the gold and silver so far? The camels, Isaiah writes, "shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6). If the camels are praising God, so must we. Get ready to celebrate!*

**PRELUDE:** (8 a.m.) "The Little Drummer Boy" Bell Choir  
(5 p.m. & 10:30 a.m.) "The People That in Darkness Sat" *arranged by Johann Gottfried Walther*

**THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.**

**OPENING HYMN:** *"The Star Proclaims the King Is Here" (LSB 399)*



1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,  
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed  
3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood The heav'n - ly  
4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, When wa - ter  
△ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,



why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly  
on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they  
Lamb in meek - ness stood That He, of whom no sin was  
red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it  
Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.  
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.  
known, Might cleanse His peo - ple from their own.  
flowed In streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.  
dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

**INVOCATION:**

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

**C:** Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:**

*Ephesians 3:12; Psalm 72:11*

P: In Christ, we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

C: **May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!**

P: In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: Almighty God, King of all,

C: **we confess to You that we are sinful by nature. We have lived in darkness rather than light. Our selfish thoughts, harmful words, and faithless actions reveal our sinfulness. But for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became flesh for us, we pray, forgive us our sins. Amen.**

P: God’s grace is revealed in the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has brought light to this world darkened by sin. In the stead and by the command of Jesus, I announce to you the full forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

**INTROIT:**

*Psalm 45:6–8a; antiphon: v. 17*

P: I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

C: **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**

P: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

C: **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.**

P: I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

**KYRIE:**

*(LSB 186)*



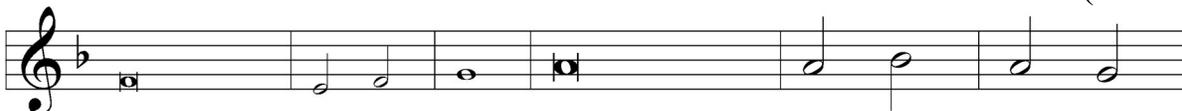
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**HYMN OF PRAISE:**

*“Gloria in Excelsis” (LSB 187-189)*



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee,  
 we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
 O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.  
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.  
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.  
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray: O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.

**C: Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence;**

P: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**ANTHEM:** (8 a.m.) “*We Three Kings*”

*Bell Choir*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:**

*Isaiah 60:1–6*

*(The Lord’s coming will be good news for everyone.)*

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL:**

*Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

P: Praise the Lord, all nations!

**C: Extol Him, all peoples!**

P: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

**C: and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

P: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

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

**EPISTLE:**

*Ephesians 3:1–12*

*(Everyone is welcome to partake in the promise in Christ Jesus.)*

P: For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was

given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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

**VERSE:**

*Matthew 2:2b*

P: Alleluia.

**C: Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.**

P: Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

*(Gentiles bring gifts for the baby.)*

*Matthew 2:1–12*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

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

P: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH:**

*Nicene Creed (p 191)*

**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:**

*“As with Gladness Men of Old” (LSB 397)*



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,  
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,  
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;  
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
 There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;  
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last  
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.  
 So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.  
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.  
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.  
 There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

**SERMON**

**OFFERTORY:**

*(LSB 192-193)*



☐ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

**P:** Let us pray: We give thanks, Lord our God, that You have given us great physical gifts, amazing abilities, and one another to use to Your glory. Accept them all, as You received the gifts of the Magi, for we offer ourselves and our talents to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(please stand if you are able)*

*(Each petition ends "Lord, in Your mercy" and we respond, "hear our prayer.")*

**HEALING AND COMFORT:** Margaret Hanebutt, Roger Hanebutt, Brendan Harms, Ruth Hecht, Beth Kilpatrick, Rev. Russell Koen, Vernon Koester, Mary Liefer, Pat Malik, Paul Mollet, Norma Preston, Jay Prigge, Mary Schultz, David Snyder, Eugene Stamm; *Family/Friends of St. John's Members:* Andy Amann, Doug Burford, Mary Gibson, Shirley Hartmann, Tina Heinemann, Gerald Hitzemann, Andrea Kuehner, Izzy McDermott, Tyson Moonier, Ron Pflueger, Sue Schreier, Lorraine Serio, Mary Jo Shelton, Ted Stellhorn, Milton Theobald III, Matthew Vallett, Amy Winkelman, Roger Womack.

**MILITARY:** Army- Casey Vallett, Brandon Voss, Adrienne Vallett, Easton Lucht, Chase Lucht, Ethan Summers, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Austin Scheibe, Jessica DeMarco, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan, Tyler Wahlman, Gavin Roche-Voss; Navy- Carl Muehler, Abbey Vallett; Air Force- Gage Baldwin, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Keenan Turnure, Austin Grohmann; National Guard: Jeremiah Brandt

**EMERGENCY PERSONNEL:** Fire/EMS- Jerre Atchison, Kaleb Barriger, Tom Beshoar, Kevin Biffar, Breanna Bingel, Chad Buch, Savannah Cowell, Chad Crafton, Steven Falkenhain, Curt Guebert, Jason Guebert, Scot Heller, Blake Koppel, Chad Langrehr, Matt Liefer, Kevin Miller, Craig Moll, Alan Piel, Jason Rippelmeyer, Brad Stechmesser, John Valentine, Mike VanDorn, Tanner Winkelman; Police- Abigail Browne, Ralph Sievers, Chris Hewitt, Nick Mounts, Doug Brennan

+those who mourn: family of Oliver Scarvie; died in the Lord on Thursday, December 18  
+those who mourn: family of Rosalie (Wiatr) Montgomery; died in the Lord on Wednesday, December 31

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE:

*Timothy 4:22*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

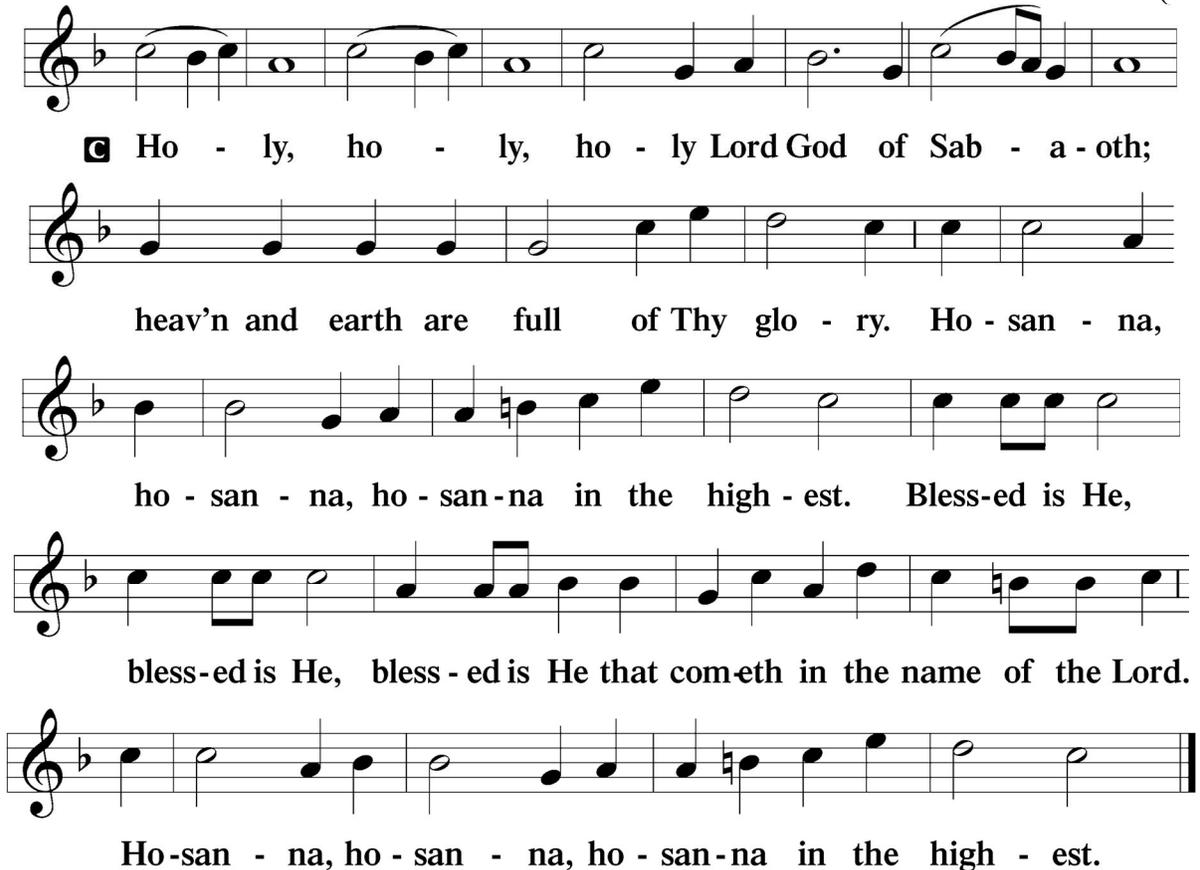
C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

### PROPER PREFACE:

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS:

*(LSB 195)*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,  
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You sent Your only-begotten Son to take our place on the cross and be our Savior. We receive the salvation He accomplished for us by that sacrifice. Gather us together from near and far to the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**LORD’S PRAYER:**

*Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:**

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P: 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.”

**PAX DOMINI:**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

**AGNUS DEI:**

*(LSB 198)*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: (please be seated)

(8 a.m.) "In the Bleak Midwinter" Bell Choir

"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning" (LSB 400)



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'ings di - vine,  
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.  
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;  
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?  
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

"Hail, O Source of Every Blessing" (LSB 409)



1 Hail, O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Fa - ther of our  
2 Once far off but now in - vit - ed, We ap - proach Your  
3 Hail, O all - in - vit - ing Sav - ior! Gen - tiles now their



hu - man race! Gen - tiles now, Your grace pos - sess - ing, In Your  
sa - cred throne, In Your cov - e - nant u - nit - ed, Rec - on -  
of - f'ings bring, In Your tem - ples seek Your fa - vor, Je - sus



courts ob - tain a place. Grate - ful now, we fall be - fore You,  
 ciled, re - deemed, made one. Now re - vealed to east - ern sa - ges,  
 Christ, our Lord and King. May we, bod - y, soul, and spir - it,



In Your Church re - joice to live, See Your glo - ry  
 See the Star of Mer - cy shine, Mys - t'ry hid in  
 Live de - vot - ed to Your praise, Glo - rious realms of



and a - dore You, Thank - ful for the grace You give.  
 for - mer a - ges, Mys - t'ry great of love di - vine.  
 bliss in - her - it, Grate - ful an - thems ev - er raise.

*“The People That in Darkness Sat” (LSB 412, please stand for last stanza)*



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
 3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
 na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
 Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
 last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
 har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
 God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

**5 His righteous government and pow'r  
 Shall over all extend;**

**On judgment and on justice based,  
 His reign shall have no end,  
 His reign shall have no end.**

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
 And make us Thine alone,  
 Who with the Father ever art  
 And Holy Spirit, one,  
 And Holy Spirit, one.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

(LSB 199-200)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING:

P: Let us pray: Thanks be to You, heavenly Father, for You have stopped at nothing to assure us of a place with You forever. Guide and protect us that whoever sees us will be drawn to the light that shines through us to all the blessings You have prepared for those who love You; through Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.

C: 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, amen, amen.

**CLOSING HYMN:**

*“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (LSB 411)*



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.  
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,  
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.  
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

**POSTLUDE: “Hail, O Source of Every Blessing”**

*arranged by Paul Soulek*

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***This Week with Our Lord, January 4-11, 2026***

**SUNDAY, January 4-**

**9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School**

Monday, January 5- *No School*

9:00 a.m. Faculty Meeting  
1:00 p.m. Office Staff Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Choir in School Music Room  
7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting  
8:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, January 6- *Welcome back! School Resumes*

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study at Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. GBB @ New Athens (A team only)  
6:30 p.m. Bible Recap Class at Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 7-

7:00 a.m. Public School Confirmation Class  
9:00 a.m. Quilting at Fellowship Hall  
9:00 a.m. Grades 3-8 Chapel @ Church  
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study at Fellowship Hall  
3:15 p.m. Public School Confirmation Class  
6:30 p.m. Divine Service  
BBB "B" Tournament @ Collinsville begins  
BBB "C" Tournament @ Steelville begins

Thursday, January 8- *Pastor Mark Winkelman day off*

3:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service  
5:30 p.m. BBB @ Chester Grade School  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice at Church  
6:00 p.m. Men's Club Meeting  
GBB 5th Grade Tournament @ ICS begins

Friday, January 9-

8:30 Early Childhood Chapel @ School –New Gym

Saturday, January 10-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service; Acolyte – Sophia Zeiger

SUNDAY, January 11-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service; Acolyte – Jackson Carnahan  
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion; Acolyte – Brayden McCarthy  
12:00 p.m. Senior Youth meeting

**OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:**

Christmas Eve: Worship: 649; Communion: 491; Christmas Day: Worship: 95  
December 28: Worship: 228; Communion: 64; Adult Bible Classes: 41; Sun. School: n/a  
Dec. 30-31: Women's Bible Study: *No classes held this week.*

**WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN, WHATE'ER THE GIFT MAY BE:**

We join together in the grace of giving. 12/28- General: \$31,939.33; School: \$320.00; Debt Elimination: \$78,433.63. *Count for December 31<sup>st</sup> will be recorded next weekend.*

**VOTERS' MEETING & NOMINATION OPENINGS FOR 2026:**

St. John's Lutheran Church and School will elect officers and board members at the annual Voter's Meeting which will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall**. If you are interested in serving your church and school in this manner, please contact Stuart J. Langrehr at 618-663-4890 for additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026:**

Offering envelope boxes for 2026 are on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not find one with your name(s) on it or have one that you do not intend to use, please call Cynthia in our office (282-2394) so she can adjust the list.

**MEN'S CLUB MEETING:**

The Men's Club will meet on **Thursday, January 8** at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**SECOND THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES:**

We will be having a Holy Communion Service on the second Thursday of the Month. Our next Service will be held on **Jan. 8th** at 3:00 pm. Feel free to come and join us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office or Pastor Mark Winkelman.

**EPISTLES:**

Paper copies of the January edition of our congregation's newsletter are on the tables in the entryway. It is also posted on our website and has been sent by email to those for whom the office has an email address. *To ensure an article is in the February Epistle, please send an email to the office by **January 23<sup>rd</sup>**!*

**FLOWERS IN CHANCEL:**

To have flowers in worship please call the office at 618-282-2394 to notify the committee and to have proper thanks in the bulletin of those donating.

**NEW WORSHIP SERVICE:**

Starting **January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, St. John's will offer a mid-week worship service year-round. On Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm we will have a spoken word service. We know our lives have become busier, travel is easier, and the world increasingly does not care about Church as it schedules more and more activities even on Sunday mornings. However, it is our desire to help our members prioritize worship while also living in this world (though we are not of the world). When Lent and Advent seasons arrive, we will transition the worship service appropriately to mid-week services. We will also offer Bible studies and Gatherings throughout the year on Wednesdays (schedule to come). As your pastor, I hope to see more and more attend weekly worship, receiving our Lord's precious gifts and encouraging one another as we travel through this world together with our Lord.

*Rev. Mark Winkelman*

### **NEW DEVOTIONAL FOR MEN:**

Men, are you interested in pursuing a path of Christian masculinity and discipline? Check out Memento at [www.memento70.com](http://www.memento70.com). Memento is a new men's devotional and discipline system backed by LCMS pastors and theologians. Its foundation is built on discipline, devotion, and brotherhood, drawing from the historic rhythm of the Church Year to provide a path that is both ancient and deeply relevant today. Please let us know if you are interested in joining a group of us on this journey by contacting Pastor Mark ([mwinkelman@stjohnsredbud.org](mailto:mwinkelman@stjohnsredbud.org)) or Mike DeRousse ([derousse@gmail.com](mailto:derousse@gmail.com)). The program officially begins on **February 1st** so don't wait!

### **UPDATE ON MATCHING GIFTS OPPORTUNITIES:**

We sincerely Thank you for your generosity these last couple months to not only meet but to exceed our matching goals. We were able to repay the borrowed \$200,000 back to the Estate Fund on December 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition to that, we will be able to make a sizeable payment towards our School Expansion Loan in January too. While our matching gifts were met, we continue to collect offerings towards the expansion loan as we still owe on that.

### **KINDERGARTEN TEACHING POSITION:**

St. John's Lutheran School in Red Bud is looking for a Kindergarten homeroom teacher. We invite interested applicants to use this link <https://forms.gle/a6nEts8pyapaiDcR7>, to learn more about the position and send in a resume for review. You may also email ([office@stjohnsredbud.org](mailto:office@stjohnsredbud.org)) or call the office (618-282-3873) Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 4:00 for more information. We have competitive pay and a great benefits package which includes insurance for the employee and a pension. We look forward to the responses that come in and await the plans and people God has in store for St. John's Lutheran School in Red Bud. Deadline for submission of applications is **January 9, 2025**.

### **THANK YOU:**

+ Dear Members of St. John's, I want to thank you for remembering me during this Christmas season with your monetary gifts. Your love and support for the past 28 years is truly appreciated! May God bless you all!! Love, Mr. Becker and family.

+ Family and Friends of St. John's, I am truly blessed to serve at a place that thinks so highly of God's servants. The many well-wishes, cards, treats, and gifts were too much. Thank you for blessing me this CHRISTmas season, and I will continue to work my hardest to be an asset to St. John's Lutheran Church, School, and Daycare. *Mr. Justin Palm*

+ Dear Members of St. John's. Thank you so very much for all of the thoughtful and generous gifts and cards you have given to me and my family this Christmas season! Your generosity never ceases to amaze me! I am very blessed and grateful to be here and serve our Lord together! May God bless you in this new year and always! In Christ, *Mrs. Lindsey Hudak*

+ Thank you, St. John's, My kids and I thank you greatly for your overwhelming generosity and love shown this Christmas season. Your cards and gifts caused us to overflow with thanksgivings to our God. May you be blessed with abundance and generous hearts to all throughout the year, increasing the praise and thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ. *Rev. Mark Winkelman*

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE:**

Perfect Attendance for December- Pre-K3: August Guebert, Dallin Liefer, Eleanor Liefer, June Russell; Pre-K4: Cash Grohmann, Kane Whelan; Kindergarten: Eve Guebert, Lillian Guebert, Nolan Liefer, Clay Zeller; First Grade: Bennett Buch, Demi Grohmann, Nolan Kassing, Benjamin Langrehr; Third Grade: Jettson Grohmann; Fifth Grade: Amelia Langrehr, Liam Langrehr; Seventh Grade: Natalie Kassing. Thank you for your participation and your dedication to our Sunday School ministry!

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

1/4- Richard Miller, Jeffrey Koester, Nicholas Grohmann, Hudson Schmidt, Colton Gulley; 1/5- David Blankenship, Melissa Miller, Derek Mayberry, Sara Shepherd, Devin Johnson; 1/6- Andre Voges, Damon Trost, Dane Stellhorn, Emry Voss, Eli Liefer; 1/7- Marie Voges, Ronald Lewis; 1/8- Dekan Russell, Karleigh Liefer, Kade Liefer; 1/9- Jennifer Liefer-Koester; 1/10- Jessica Schloemann, Cheyenne Windsor.

### **ELDER ZONES FOR 2025-2026:** (Chairman, Stuart Langrehr)

Zone 1: D. Adams thru R. Collins- Elder Bruce Schneider (618/521-0028)

Zone 2: S. Conboy thru D/K Grohmann- Elder Louis Stellhorn (618/623-8495)

Zone 3: N/E Grohmann thru R/K Herriman- Elder Ron Liefer (618/282-3950)

Zone 4: R. Herriman thru T/E Krick- Elder Gerald Hanebutt (618/317-4574)

Zone 5: W/M Krick thru J. Maes- Elder Gary Buatte (618/719-5034)

Zone 6 : P. Malik thru L. Pensoneau- Elder Stuart Langrehr (618/304-5082)

Zone 7: A/A Piel thru D. Schrader- Elder Kirk Liefer (618/282-8228)

Zone 8: J/D Schrader thru B/C Turner- Elder Michael Schnepel (618/363-9575)

Zone 9: D/K Uffelmann – A. Zeller- Elder Joshua Voss (618/719-1840)

### **THE PRAYER CHAIN:**

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. To serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact her at [dvheller@htc.net](mailto:dvheller@htc.net) or 618/521-7417. Call our office to add someone to our worship prayers.

### **PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT:**

Addington Place-Sparta: Kathryn Chunn; Oak Hill-Waterloo: Mary Gross, Jean Menke, Martha Rohlfing, Jody Winkelmann; Magnolia Terrace-Waterloo: June Lawrence; Cedarhurst of Tesson Heights: Ruth Hecht, Paul Schrieber; Freeburg Care Center: Dorothy Byers, Wil Guebert, Margaret Hanebutt, Geraldine Koester.

### **PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT GARDEN PLACE:**

Columbia: Pat Byer; Red Bud: Elaine Guebert, Alice Hick, Mary Liefer, Omer & Neva Liefer, Vernon Muench, Lorna Schneider, Esther Williams, Helen Winkelman.

### **PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH CONFINED IN-HOME:**

Don & Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, Vernon Koester, Barb Korves, LuAnn & Rick Liefer, Joyce Lopez, Trudy Woolbright.

### **LCMS FOUNDATION:**

We live in a “I can do it myself” culture. That has been cultivated by our access to technology. Yet the question is, “Do I need help to create my Christian estate plan?” This month we consider that your estate plan represents the biggest collection of decisions with far more impact than any others in life. To begin with, a good estate plan will include a good attorney, who can take your goals and put them down into carefully crafted, precise documents. Without an attorney, you risk allowing your will to be contested, or making mistakes that could leave something out you wished to do. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can get you ready to meet with your attorney. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 [scott.radden@lfnd.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfnd.org).

### **CONCORDIA SEMINARY GUILD LUNCHEON:**

**Date:** Friday, Feb. 13, 2026      **Registration:** 11:30 a.m. in Koburg Hall

**Luncheon:** Noon

**Program: Serving Those Who Serve: LCMS Military Ministry Since the Civil War**

*Chaplain Craig G. Muehler, Director, Ministry to the Armed Forces, LCMS*

**Menu:** Grilled chicken with artichoke cream sauce or lemon pepper cod fish, rosemary roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, triple layer chocolate cake

**Cost: \$20 per person**      **RSVP Deadline: Jan. 30, 2026**

Mail reservation with your check(s) made payable to Concordia Seminary Guild to:  
Ellyn Petrovic, 3375 Dana Dr, Arnold, MO 63010 **Questions?** 314-952-8202

### **LIFE THOUGHTS FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:**

God used Joseph, who adopted Jesus as his own son (Luke 2:41), to care for our Lord as He (Jesus) mysteriously lived a perfectly human life as our substitute. Through Jesus, God has now adopted us as His own children and has promised us an eternal inheritance in His kingdom (Ephesians 1:5, 11). Christians should be encouraged to likewise consider and promote adoption as a godly way to preserve and care for the lives of God’s precious children and bring them into His kingdom.

### **STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: LCMS Stewardship Resources**

**Matthew 2:11 – “And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”** For the wise men and for us, worshiping and offering gifts go together. How could this not be, since our God is the great Giver of gifts? We receive His gifts in worship and then, being conformed to His image, we imitate His generosity.

### **KFUO AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:**

A blessed New Year and Happy Epiphany! This week on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.), we're launching into a new study of the book of Genesis. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.) as we begin "The Magnificent 37", a new series on the miracles of Jesus! On the Coffee Hour this week (weekdays at 9 a.m.), we have some fun things to share, including a new series on the history of the Augsburg Confession with Dr. Cameron MacKenzie and an introduction to this year's Searching Scripture theme! Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or in the KFUO Radio app.

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR: “Knowing and Being Known in a New Year”**

God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved. (John 17:3). Listen on KFUE AM 850 Sundays at 12:30 & 5 p.m., on Bott Christian Radio Sundays at 8 a.m. on KSIV 1320AM or 91.5FM or on Sirius XM Family Talk 131 Sundays at 9 a.m.

**LCMS MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE:**

The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand. Psalm 37:23–24

**ATTENTION COFFEE DRINKERS:**

We are in Community Coffee’s program, “Cash for Schools.” By clipping the proof of purchase off packages of ground coffee and/or K cups our school earns rewards. You can drop off proof of purchases at the school office. Thank you for participating in this program to benefit our school!

**CASEY’S REWARDS:**

Cash for Classrooms- When you shop at Casey’s using its rewards program you can donate your points to St. John’s school through the Casey’s app.

**St. John’s Lutheran Church – LCMS 508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois**

Church Office & School: 808 S Main Street 618/282-3873 Fax 618/282-4087

E-mail: [office@stjohnsredbud.org](mailto:office@stjohnsredbud.org) Web address: [www.stjohnsredbud.org](http://www.stjohnsredbud.org)

Senior Pastor Mark Winkelman 815/499-1135

Associate Pastor Brian Nowak 708/369-7741

Principal – Mr. Justin Palm 618/214-1103

Director of Parish Music – Mrs. Lindsey Hudak 618/340-6055

Director of Christian Education/School Librarian–Mr. Bill Becker 618/282-2958

Secretaries – Mrs. Sara Shepherd and Miss Cynthia Wilson

Senior Youth – Kirk and Stephanie Liefer 618/967-0804

Junior Youth – Erin Kuehn 618/581-5928

*Faculty and Staff*

Preschool – Heather Nowak Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz

First Grade – Rachel Miller Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer

Third Grade – Stephanie Valleroy Fourth Grade – Monica Snyder

Fifth Grade – Amanda Ruhmann Resource Teacher – Lara Vause

Sixth Grade Homeroom – Doreen Schnepel Seventh Grade Homeroom – Nancy Whelan

Eighth Grade Homeroom: Kristin Sachtleben Jr High Science – Sara Shepherd

Athletic Director – Scott Voss Cooks – Catrena Heck and Marilyn Oettle

Before/After School Care – Courtney Schoenbeck

School Custodians – Wil Krick, Bob Schramm, and Christian Stechmesser

Day Care

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Lisa Quinn, Amy Williams, Nicole Kadlec, Christy Deterding, Kristi Martel, Courtney Schoenbeck, Brittney Eichholz, Brooke Supancic, Pam Henry, Melissa Schilling, Kaitlin Schmitz, Madison Falkenhain, Kaitlyn Brown, Emma Trost, Madison Trask, Mycah Clements, Zandra Harless, Tori Muench, Molly Huether, Cailee Strong, Reagan Birkner, and Olivia Noethen.

Church Council

Chairman: Michael DeRousse Vice-Chairman: Kevin Guebert  
Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Eric Fritsche Board of Finance: Becky Biffar  
Elder Chair: Stuart Langrehr Parish Education Chair: Kortney Moll  
Trustee Chair: Leonard Salger Estate Fund Chair: Thomas Mulherin  
Lutheran High School Board: Vickie Heller and Rebekah Liefer

Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Winkelman  
Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak (10:30 a.m.) Lector: DCE Bill Becker  
Acolytes: (5 p.m.) Amelia Cheek; (8 a.m.) Elle Sutton; (10:30 a.m.) Austin Stellhorn  
Greeters: (5 p.m.) Stanley & Lynn Langrehr; (8 a.m.) Kalin & Kathy Liefer  
(10:30 a.m.) Jim & Judy Guebert  
Video: Eric Fritsche/Justin Palm Communion Cloths: Lynn Langrehr  
Flower Servers: Vickie & Sarah Heller Paraments: Ella Hemmer