



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA
"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"
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 Phone 210-223-2611

February 2, 2020
4th Sunday after Epiphany



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God...

Prelude

Bells

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
 the Eternal Voice from heaven,
 the Anointed and Beloved One,
 the Spirit moving over the waters. **Amen.**

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
 trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

God who searches us and knows us:
You have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves
instead of walking humbly with you.
With what shall we come before you?
Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Beloved of God:
 Do not receive the spirit of this world,
 but the Spirit that is from God,
 poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
 Receive the promise of baptism,
 that you are God's child; † and your sins are forgiven.
 Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn **"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"** **ELW #310**

Greeting
 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with
 you all. **And also with you.**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture and preaching; we respond in profession of faith and prayer

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

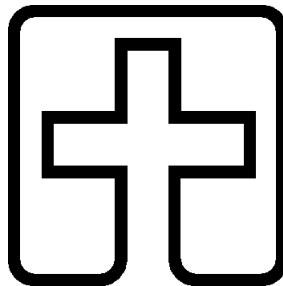
According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where 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? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 15



Psalm 15:1

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Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart; R**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

Gospel Acclamation



Cantor: Alleluia. Rejoice | and be glad, for your reward is | great in heaven. Alleluia. (Matt. 5:12)*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

The good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children are invited to go to their Sunday lesson and activity. They will return at Holy Communion. Parents are welcome to accompany them.

Sermon

Pastor James Dew

Hymn of the Day

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

ELW #712

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith...

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

*Each petition concludes: "Hear us, O God," The congregation responds: **"Your mercy is great."***

We hold in prayer: Bob Cauble, Frances Bara, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Arlene Schirmer, Jon Bohmann, Louis Spreen, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny Knippa, Nat Castillo.

*For prayer requests and updates, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org*

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

(Please share with those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")

MEAL

*We bring our "first fruit" offerings to the Table of the Lord
where we are strengthened and nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ*

Offering

"Blessed to Me, O God"

Gawthrop

Offertory Hymn

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW #182

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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Offertory Prayer

God of wonder,

We bring our gifts to your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.

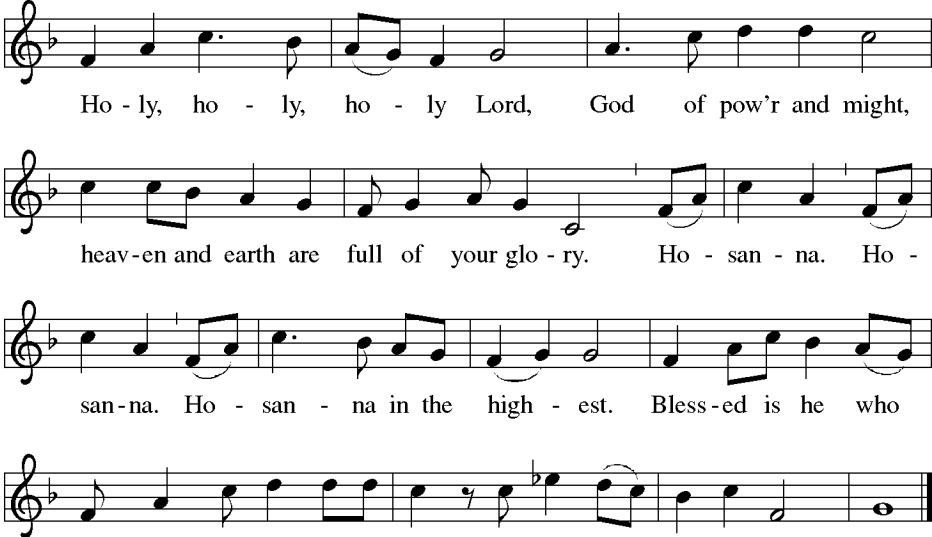
Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy, Mighty, and Merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love for us and for all your creation, you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who took upon himself our own flesh and blood, who showed us your face, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

For on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

As we bind ourselves to his life, his death, and his rising, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, upon these gifts of this bread and wine, and upon all who come to your table seeking, your touch upon their lives. Shape us to be a kingdom people, living out your vision for our world. Transform us, that we may be your vessels of hope, mercy, justice, and peace. And work through us, that we, who are truly abundant in gifts beyond measure, might share from all your give us, for the sake of the life of the world.

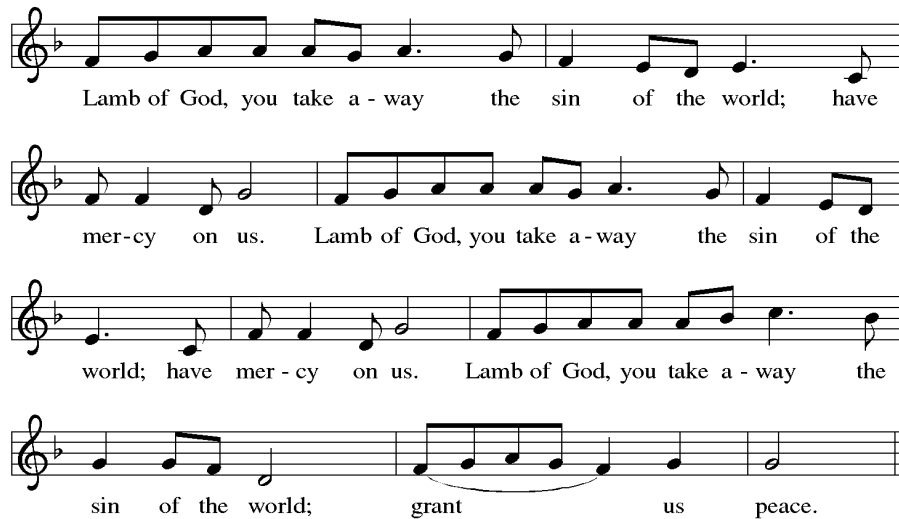
(Intoned) Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, who welcomes you to his table of mercy and joy.

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Holy Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. Please follow the direction of the ushers. A gluten free host is available upon request.

Communion Hymns

ELW #728 *Blest Are They*
ELW #474 *Bread of Life from Heaven*

Communion Blessing

Communion Prayer

Faithful God,
You have kept your promise to us in this meal,
nourishing us with the gift of salvation.
Now send your servants forth in peace,
that we may testify to your goodness
and share the hope that is ours
in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending of Eucharistic Ministers

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your Word and Sacrament with those who are sick and homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world

Announcements

Benediction

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
and the source of our life together,
keep you united in mind and purpose.
And the blessing of Almighty God,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"Let Justice Flow like Streams"

ELW #717

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Praeludium and Fugue in C Major

J.S. Bach

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister + Pastor James Dew
Assisting Minister + Rosemary Petry
Lector + Tanya Anderson

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Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

This week at St. John's

Sun 2 • Evangelism Team Meeting 11:00 AM

Sun 2 • Worship Team Meeting 11:00 AM

Wed 5 • Mid-Week Word and Prayer 12:15 PM

Wed 5 • Campus Ministry Dinner 6:00 PM

Wed 5 • Choir Practice 7:00 PM

Fri 7 • First Friday Concert Series 12:05 PM

Joshua Bryant, Classical Saxophonist

Samuel Gaskin, Organist

Sun 9 • Confirmation Instruction 11:00 AM

Please see the current month's Tidings for other calendar events.

Financial Reports and Council Minutes are available in the church office by request.

Liturgical Calendar Commemorations

Presentation of Our Lord Sunday, February 2, 2020

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865 Monday, February 3, 2020

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named Bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597 Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.