



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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January 12, 2020

First Sunday after Epiphany

Baptism of Our Lord



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

**Prelude Chorale Prelude on *Christ our Lord Came to Jordan*
By Johann Pachelbel**

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

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

"This Is the Spirit's Entry Now"

ELW #448

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.



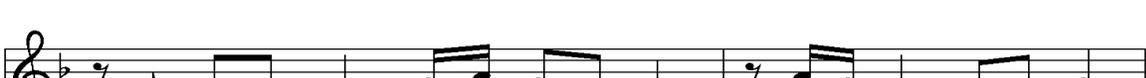
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



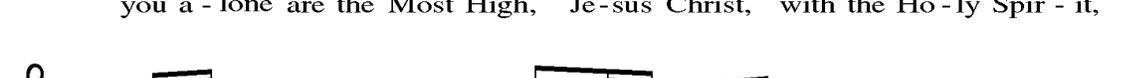
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

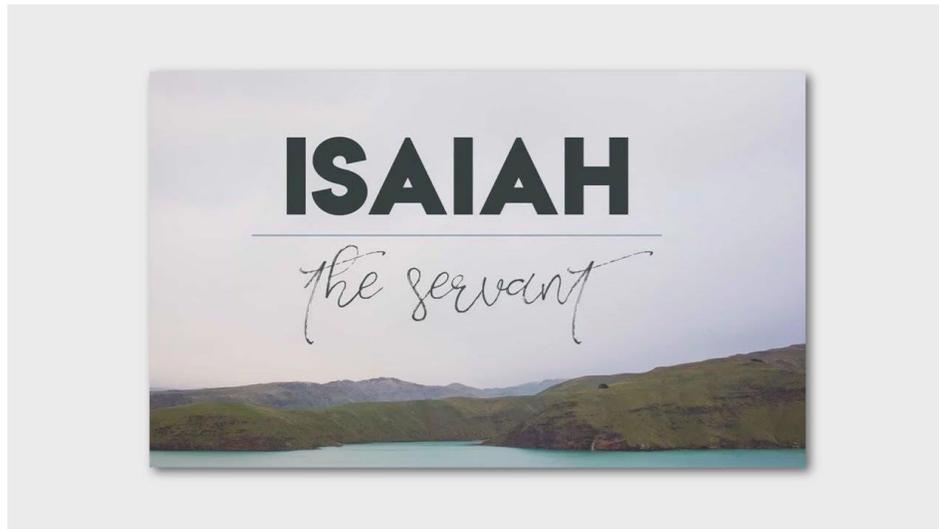
God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 29



Psalm 29:3

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Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. R**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R**
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. R

Second Reading: Acts: 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

- ³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Cantor: Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, | the Beloved,* with whom I | am well pleased." Alleluia. (Matt. 3:17)

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

"When Jesus Came to Jordan"

ELW #305

Installation of Church Council

(The Pastor addresses those being installed into leadership roles)

Hear these words offered us by the Apostle Paul: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities needed for various ministries, but the same God who gives those particular abilities. The Spirit's presence is manifested in some way in each of us, for the good of all. (1st Corinthians 12:4-7)

In Holy Baptism, we are each called to a shared life of service and witness. You all have been elected and set apart to serve as councilpersons, officers, and leaders of this congregation, and we thank God for placing you into these positions.

As our leaders, you have been given the task to ensure that the many and various ministries here at St. John's reflect the same Spirit and intent of Him in whose name we gather;

You have been given the task of working with each other, and with the other members of this congregation and even beyond, to positively impact the lives of one another, the life of our surrounding community, and the life of the world which God so loves;

And you have been given the task of embodying in yourselves the vision and mission of Christ's Church, as you lead the rest of us in living-out of the reign of God.

I ask you, then... will you commit yourselves to fulfilling the expectations placed upon you, modelling for the people of this congregation and for all others, an intentional practice of discipleship lived-out through regular worship, daily prayer, study of the Word, outward service, and generous giving? *(Yes, by the help of God.)*

And will you, the people of God... will you openly support, joyfully assist, and regularly pray for these leaders as they strive to meet all these responsibilities? *(Yes, by the help of God.)*

We thereby commission you as the lay leaders of St. John's Lutheran Church. May God, who has chosen you for these tasks, abide among you, and give you the strength, vision, and compassion to fill them fully. In the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

*Each petition concludes: "Lord, in your mercy," The congregation responds: "**Hear our prayer.**"*

We hold in prayer: Bob Cauble, Frances Bara, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Joan Arnet, Frances Franz, Mourette Boehme, Louis Spreen, Jon Bohmann.

*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

"Spirit Song"

John Wimber/arr. Tom Fettke

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.

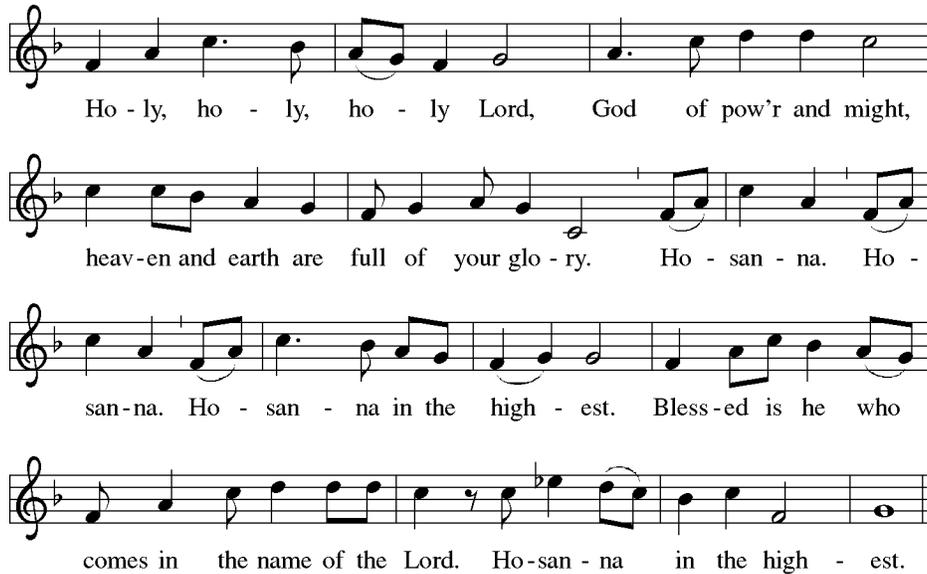
Great Thanksgiving

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.

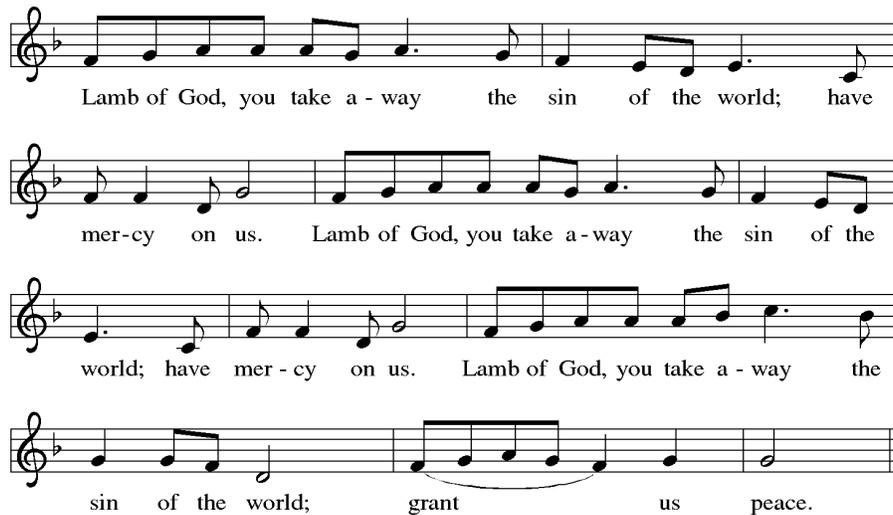
(Intoned) Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 #396 *Spirit of Gentleness*
ELW #459 *Wade in the Water*

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

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

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

"Baptized in Water"

ELW #456

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Improvisation on I Bind unto Myself Today

(ELW # 450)

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister † Pastor James Dew
Assisting Minister † Julie Shadrock
Lector † Dan Robison

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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 12 • Confirmation Instruction 11:00 AM
Sun 12 • Evangelism Team Meeting 11:00 AM
Mon 13 • Congregation Council Meeting 6:15 PM
Tues 14 • Fiesta Team Meeting 6:30 PM
Wed 15 • Mid-Week Word and Prayer 12:15 PM
Wed 15 • Choir Practice 7:00 PM

*Please see our online calendar at stjohnssa.org (under the Home tab)
for weekly recurring events and the current month's Tidings.*

**Financial Reports and Council Minutes are available in the Member Section
of the church website, and in the church office by request.**

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest

Consider the benefits of estate and legacy plans that provide forethought and encourage maximizing funds that will be shared with family members and the ministries of the church. Attend the **Legacy Giving for Family and Ministry Seminar** on Sunday, Jan. 26 and learn how individual congregation members can make a major impact for ministry in St. John's future and in the future of other Lutheran ministries. Deacon John Dellis, our synod's senior gift planner with Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, will be here to share some ideas and information. The seminar will take place at 11:00 AM in Memorial Hall.

Liturgical Calendar Commemorations

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968 Wednesday, January 15, 2020

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356 Friday, January 17, 2020

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346 Friday, January 17, 2020

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Confession of Peter Saturday, January 18, 2020

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.