

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2024 | 10:30 AM



Hear God's Word. Reflect God's Grace.
Share Christ's Love.

All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

The present form of this world is passing away. Therefore, help us to keep our focus on you, Lord, for true power and steadfast love belong to you. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1

Gathering

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

ELW *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

ACS *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

PRELUDE Intermezzo

Herbert Sumsion

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly stands or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge, we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 675 O Christ, Our Light, Our Radiance True



1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers
3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -
4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on
5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,



those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -
lost in er - ror's maze. Set free all those whose hearts and
way the need - less fears of those who trem - ble to ex -
oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed
ev - er to re - joice with wond - ring grat - i - tude and



gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.
minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and binds.
press the faith their in - most hearts con - fess.
sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.
praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite
Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

APOSTOLIC 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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

Let us pray. Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Jonah 3:1–5, 10

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. ***The assembly responds:*** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 62:5-12

*Refrain sung first by choir, thereafter by all.
Light verses sung by choir. Bold verses sung by all.*



God a - lone is my rock and my sal - va - tion.

⁵For God alone I | wait in silence;
truly, my hope | is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and | my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance | and my honor;
God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one | is our refuge. R**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath;
those of low estate can- | not be trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,
that power be- | longs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,
for you repay all according | to their deeds. R**

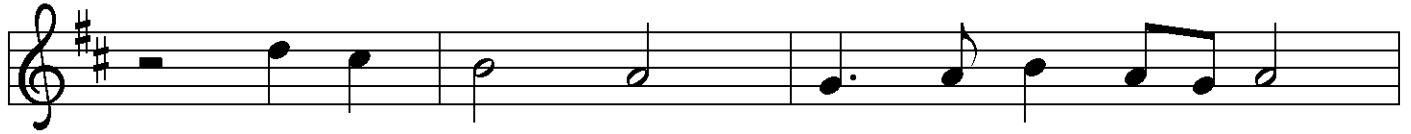
SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 7:29–31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

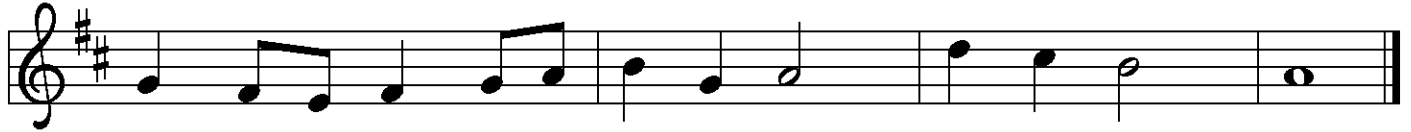
The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Mark 1:14–20

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Maristela Freiberg,
Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission



Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 580 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Holy Baptism

God brings those who are baptized out of death and into life.

PRESENTATION

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: I present Mason Drey Rodriguez for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture your child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Mason and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

Please stand.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Mason, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW 211 You Have Put on Christ



You have put on Christ; in him you have been bap - tized.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Mason with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Mason, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal

Alice Parker

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.

And my soul, tho' stain'd with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters, to the city far away.

Souls have cross'd before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the lamb!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, glory to the great I AM!

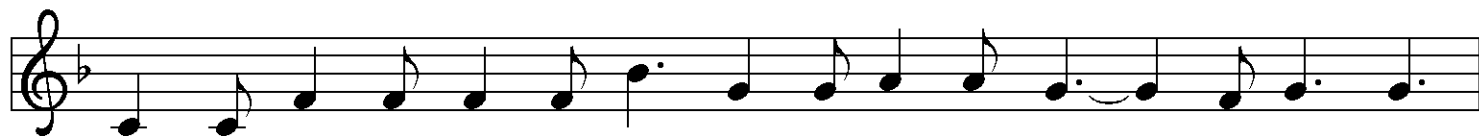
– Words attrib. to F.R. Warren

Please stand.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 460 Now the Silence



Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed



Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come



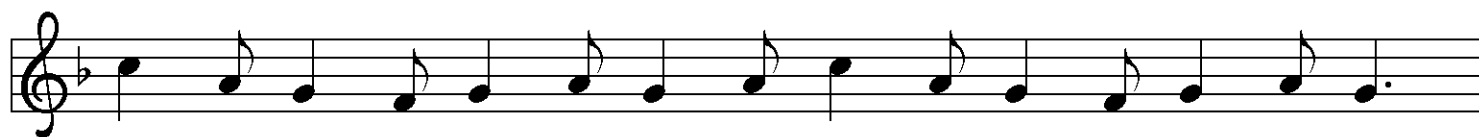
Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing



Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion



Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing



Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny



Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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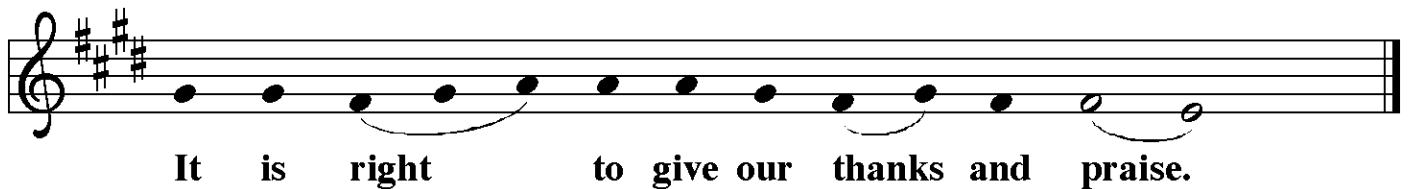
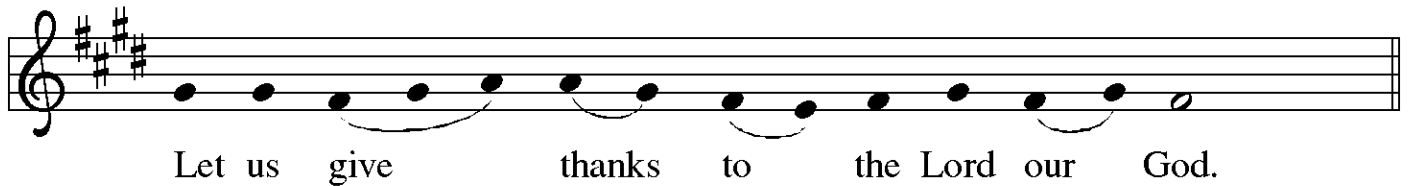
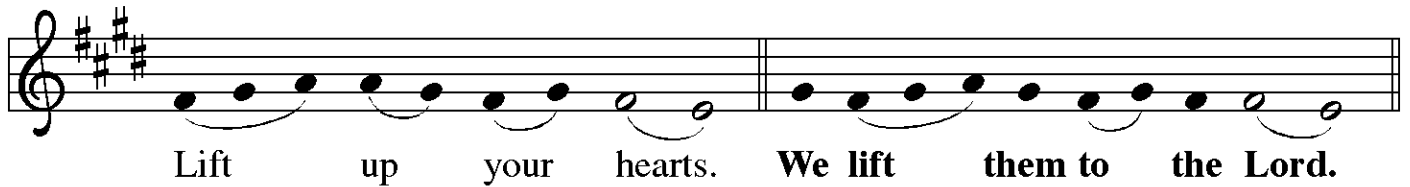
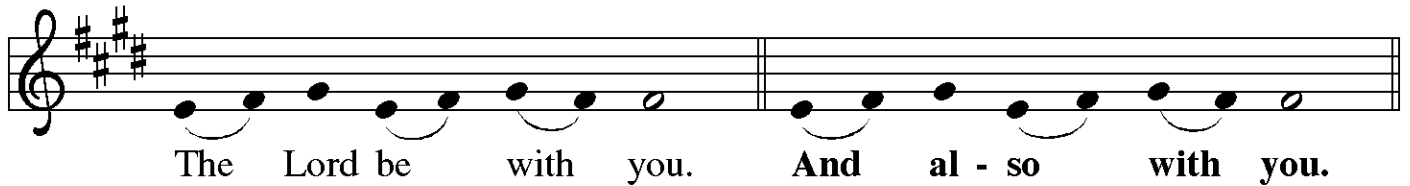
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

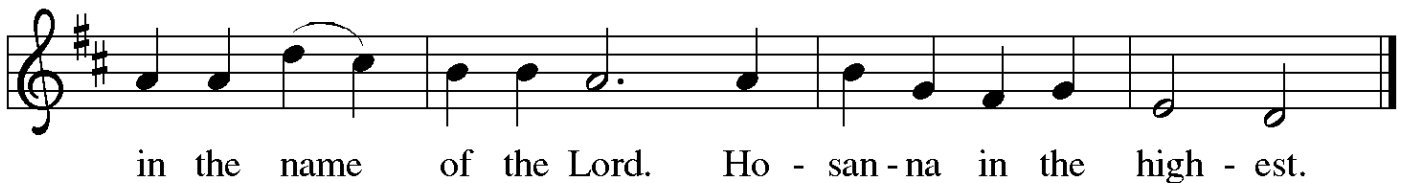
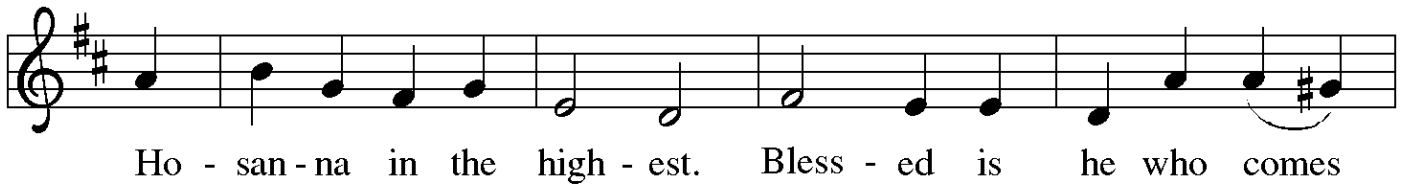
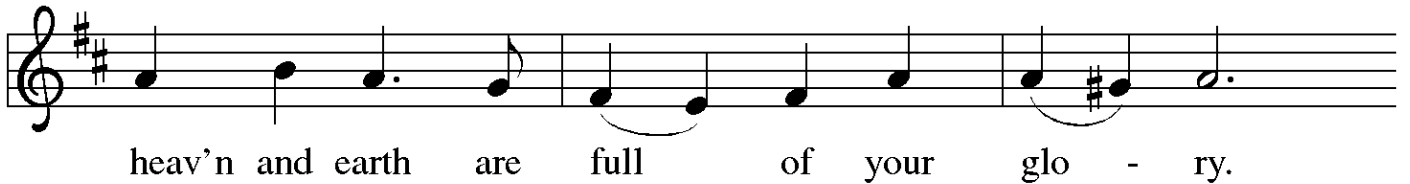
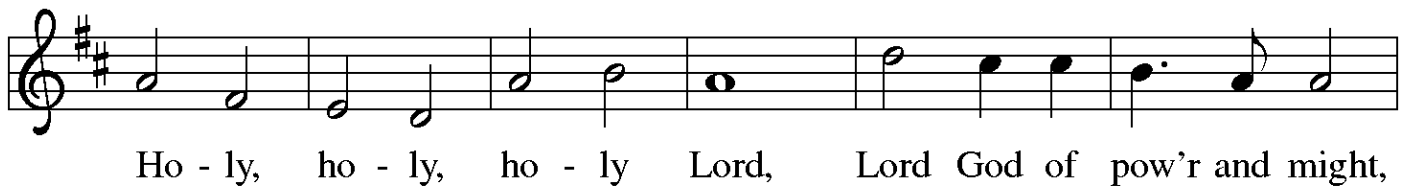
Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PROPER PREFACE

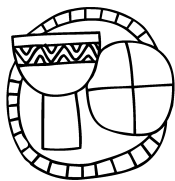


EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



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

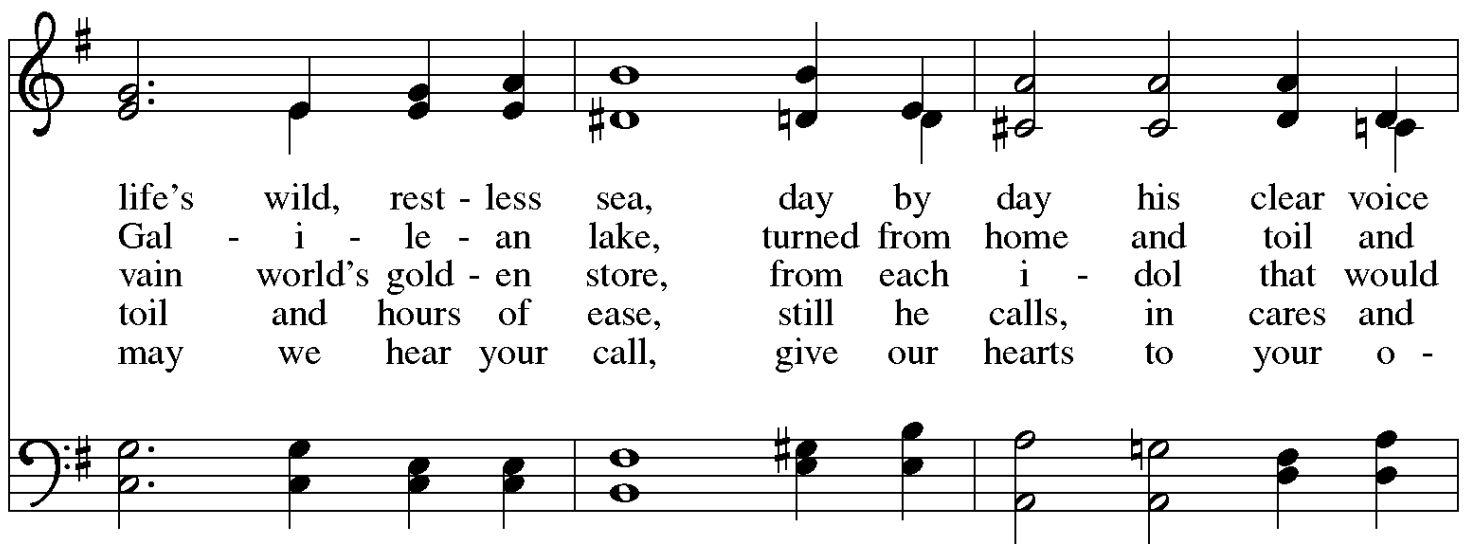


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 696 Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending

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

BLESSING

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 668 O Zion, Haste



1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

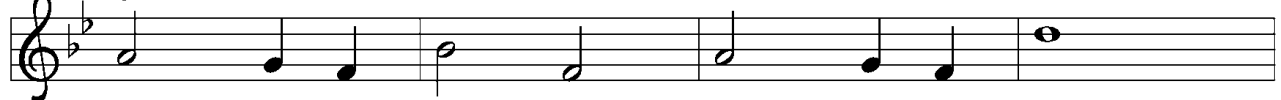


that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain



Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923

Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Walch, 1837–1901

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Fanfare in D

Jacques Lemmens

January 21, 2024

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the Snyder family.

Guest Preacher, TODAY: The Rev. Maristela Freiberg, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission of the NJ Synod, will be our guest preacher and forum leader. A native of Brazil, Pastor Freiberg helps congregations think about growth and evangelism, with a particular emphasis on reaching out to immigrant and minority communities.

Forum, TODAY at 9:00 AM, led by Rev. Frieberg, *Joining God's Invitation, Actions, and New Adventures of Hope* will explore where we see potential for mission and evangelism at St. John's.

Children's Choir TODAY at 9:30 AM and Faith Formation at 10:00 AM. All children are welcome. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings or Deacon Walker for more information.

Holy Baptism, TODAY at 10:30. The whole church joins in welcoming Mason Rodriguez into the family of God.

Luther Ringers, TODAY at 11:45.

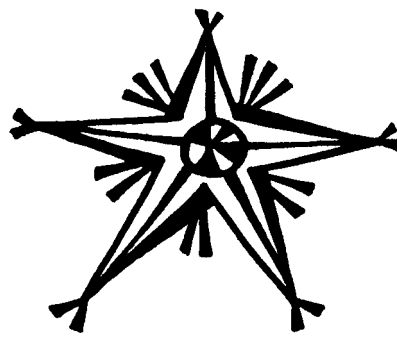
Sign Up by January 22 for Dialogue Circles on Race: Summit Interfaith Council Anti-Racism Committee is offering another semester of Dialogue Circles on Race beginning the week of February 11. Please see the weekly email to sign up by **January 22.**

LSMNJ Forum, January 28, 9:00 AM: Beth Gebhardt, Director of Community Relations & Volunteers at Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, will be leading a forum about the robust and diverse ministries of Lutheran Social Ministries, a ministry partner of which our congregation has long supported.

Budget Forum, February 4 at 9:00 AM: Please join us to review the 2024 Proposed Ministry Spending Plan and ask any questions in preparation for the Annual Meeting on February 11.

Annual Congregation Meeting, February 11, immediately following the **9:30 AM service.** Please note that there is only one service on this Sunday.

2024 Flower Chart is posted on the rear bulletin board and available for you to sign up. Weekly flowers cost St. John's \$85 per week. Please give as you are able.



Upon you the Lord shines
and over you appears his
Glory!