

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
February 2, 2025

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m.

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to Worship! The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord's table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell

Prelude

"Sinfonia" (God's Time Is Best) by JS Bach

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Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

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

Please stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of **✠** Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW 705

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969 Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932 Public Domain

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,

3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
let we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Greeting

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

Canticle of Praise

Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

All

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10

A reading from Jeremiah.

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 71:1-6 (Read responsively)

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

² **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

⁶ **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb
you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

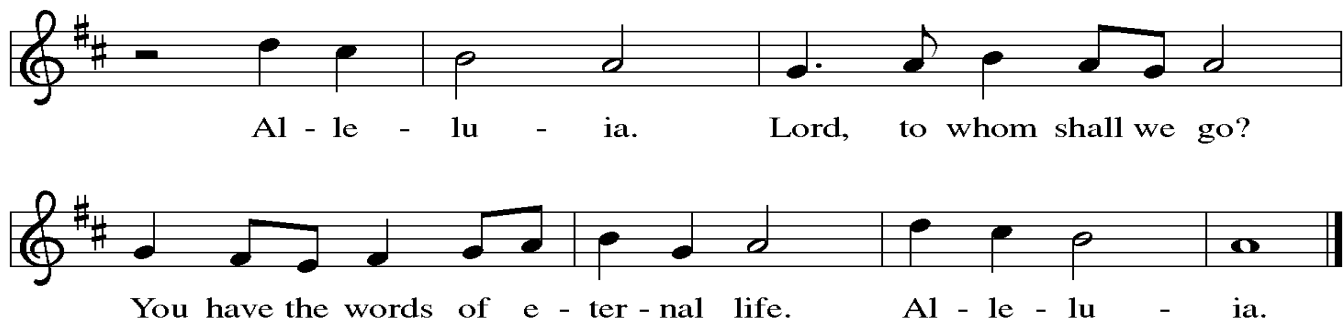
⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

²¹ Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand

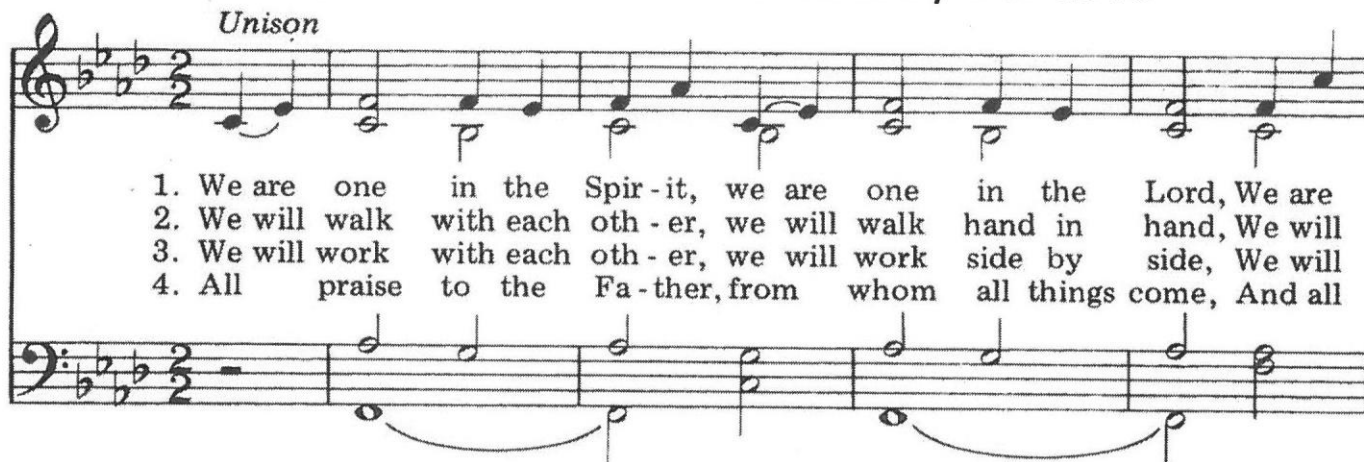
Hymn of the Day

"We are One in the Spirit" Peter Scholtes

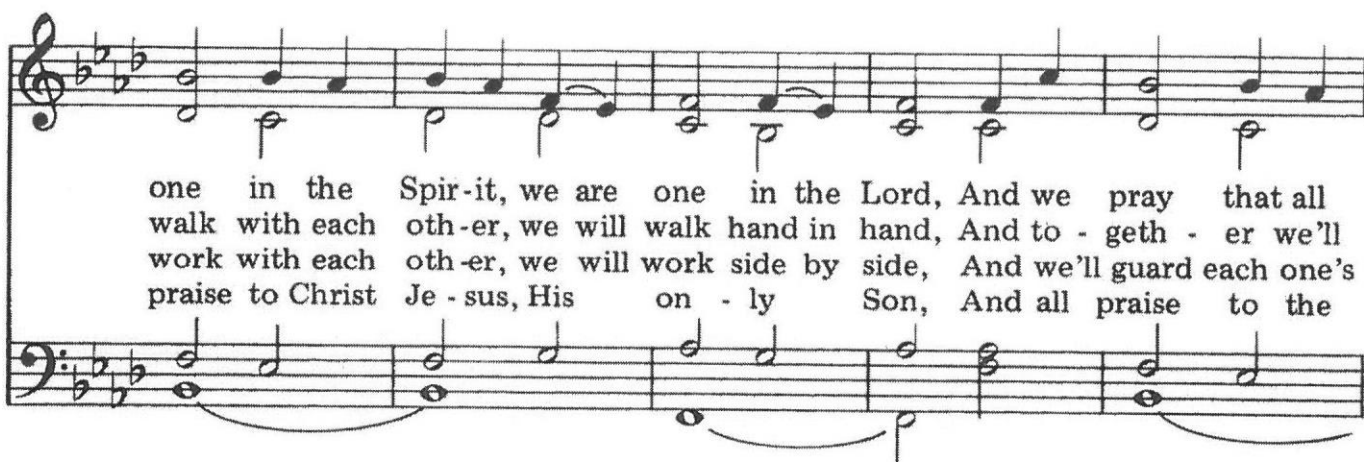
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They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Unison



1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord, We are
 2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand, We will
 3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side, We will
 4. All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come, And all

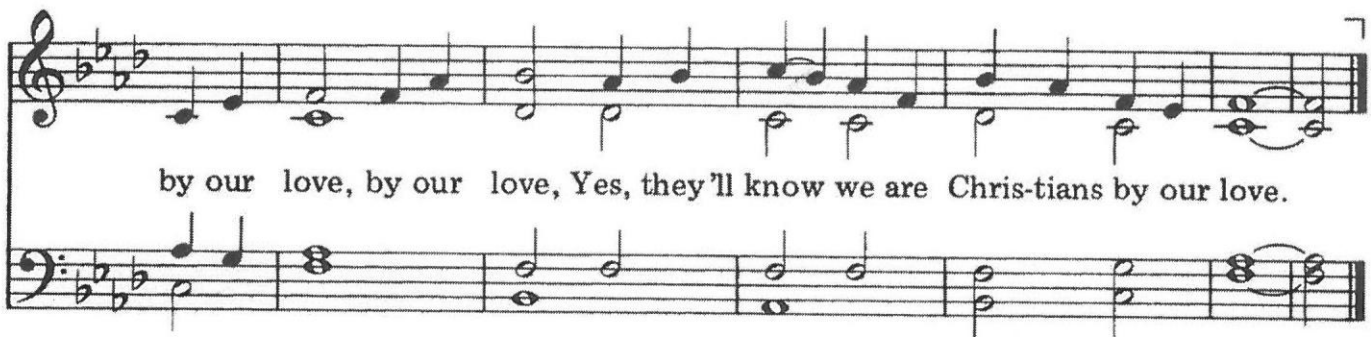


one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that all
 walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand, And to - geth - er we'll
 work with each oth-er, we will work side by side, And we'll guard each one's
 praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son, And all praise to the

Refrain



u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 spread the news that God is in our land:
 dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride: And they'll know we are Chris-tians
 Spir - it, who makes us one:



by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

Prayers of the people: God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Choir Offering

“Take My Heart”

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Please stand

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



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 your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

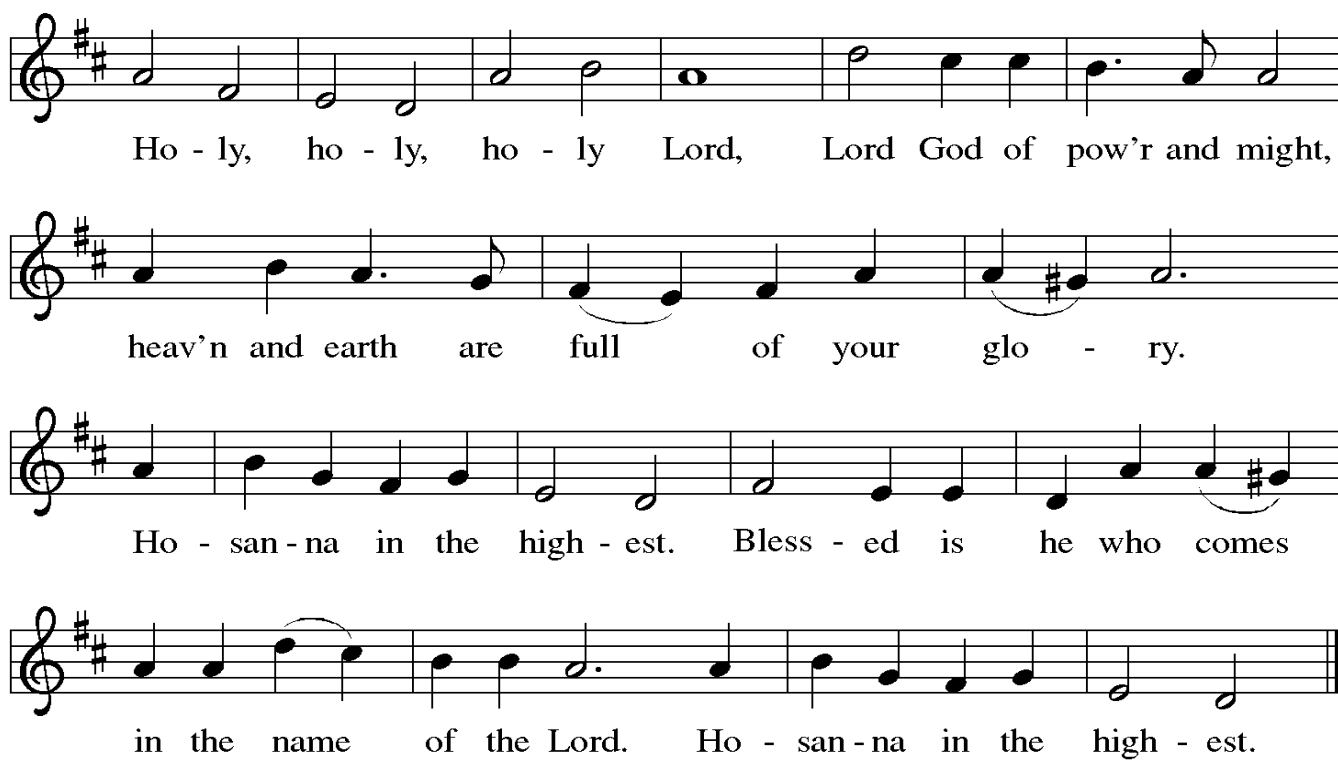
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In 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 for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

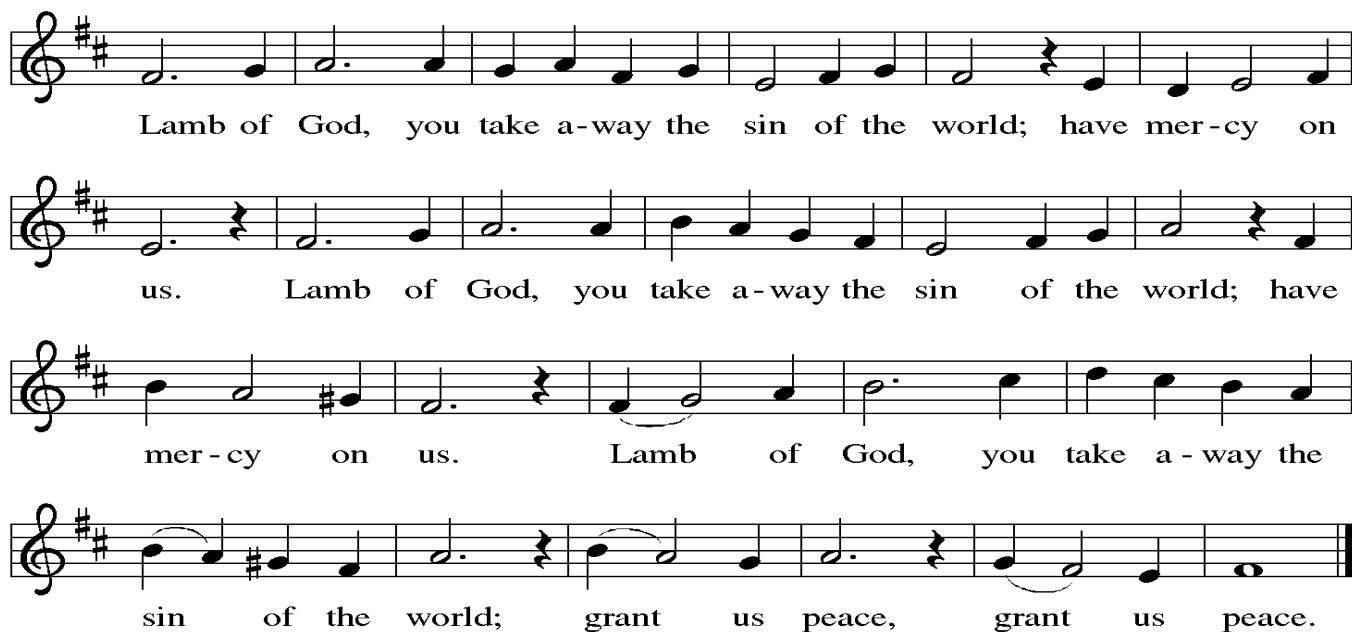
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Distribution



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.

Distribution Hymn:*"What Feast of Love"*

ELW 487

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1 What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

2 What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!

3 What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?

This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Distribution Hymn:*"I Am the Bread of Life"*

ELW 485

Text and music © 1966 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

1 "I am the Bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the
Father beckons."

Refrain

"And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

4 "I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die, you shall live forever."

Refrain

2 "The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

3 "Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*

5 Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who have come into the world. *Refrain*

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in
His grace.

Amen

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

ELW 836

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933 Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:
“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”
And a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS

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Ushers: Ray Witt	Communion Assistant: Melinda Zorn
Audio/Visual Tech.: Rich and Kathy Schlessman	Att.: Jan. 26 - 46
Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com	
Like us on Facebook: St John's Lutheran Church Sandusky	

2025 The Year of Listening Memory Verse.

“Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live...” (Isaiah 55:3a).

In this season of Hope, Council asks the congregation to pray that all people remain united in sharing with those suffering from unimaginable loss due to wildfires and severe weather, that we patiently help those struggling with day-to-day issues, and that we refocus and recommit to God's word and work at our Annual Congregational Meeting.

Communion explanation:

16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. I Corinthians 10:16-17.

Today's Eucharistic bread is naan. Naan is a flatbread that is a staple of south Asia and Middle Eastern countries, and associated with Indian cuisine. It was originally only available to royalty, possibly making it a good choice for our remembrance of Jesus.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Feb. 9 – Set-up – Jim Kluding Cleanup –

Feb. 16 - Set-up – Joleen Dillender Cleanup –

Feb. 23 –Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup - Elizabeth

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help, please see Toni Nossaman, Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

Congratulations and God blessings to Reverend Kathy Shuck who celebrates today the 30th Anniversary of her Ordination. God bless you for your caring and faithful service. God's blessings on this special day and always.

Youth event!! Most schools are off February 14th. We will go to Norwalk Rec Center and enjoy swimming at the pool. There are lifeguards on duty, and parents are not required to swim unless youth are under 6 years of age. Once they release their schedule, we will finalize the times. Hope you can join us!

Bible Study: The Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA has a focus this year on Listening. Listening to God. Listening to Ourselves. Listening to Others. And Listening to the Community. God's invitation to listen is a gift that permeates the Scriptures. From the Shema, "**Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might**" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). To the Psalms, "**Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer**" (Psalm 61:1). To the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, "**Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock**" (Matthew 7:24). To the words the Exalted Jesus repeats to the seven churches in Revelation, "**Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches**" (Revelation 2-3). God longs for us to hear, so God invites us to listen.

We will do a five-week Bible study on listening. It begins February 3rd at 10 AM and will go for five Mondays (not including President's Day), ending on March 10th. No experience with Bible studies is necessary, this is a small-time commitment, and we hope you will join us!

Happy Birthday to Kylie Ross.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2ND THRU FEBRUARY 16TH

Sunday, February 2	9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship Annual Congregational Meeting
Monday, February 3	10:00 am	Bible Study on Listening
Tuesday, February 4	1:00 am	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, February 5	12 noon	Scripture and Prayer at Parkvue
Sunday February 9	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School Worship (Souper Bowl Sunday)
Monday, February 10	10:00 am	Bible Study on Listening
Tuesday, February 11	10:00 am	Book Discussion Chapters 9 & 10
Saturday, February 15	10am-2pm	Love at the Laundromat Huron Plaza
Sunday, February 16	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School Worship



Winter “Love at the Laundromat” is a new joint outreach ministry for Zion and St. John’s. There is a need in the community for this help more than once a year. Our goal is to help struggling families by paying for their machine use at the laundromat. We are sharing God’s love in a practical way! This outreach will be at the Lakeshore Laundromat in the Huron Plaza on West Cleveland Road.

Preparations are underway and many hands will be needed. If you are available for a few hours **on Saturday, February 15** from 10am until 2pm, **please check the sign-up sheets** on the display on the table in the sanctuary. There are a wide variety of opportunities to help. Many can be done sitting down. The event is broken down into two shifts and you can work one shift, or sign up for jobs in both shifts depending on your time schedule and energy. Come and see the blessing this is to our community and joy you receive from serving with God’s love. Feel free to talk with Paula Hoffman if you have concerns or questions.

We are asking for **donations** of cartons of individual packages of cookies and chips, juice boxes, and dessert cookies. Distribution of towel sets with soap or bodywash, toothbrushes and toothpaste is also planned. Please see the donations sign-up sheet. **Please place donations in the bin in the back of the sanctuary. Monetary donations may be placed in the collection plate designated for “Love at the Laundromat.”**

Weekly Listening Plan

For this Year of Listening, we have invited local musicians to select a song for collective reflection each month. We encourage you to explore the monthly scripture and weekly listening practices.

We invite you to join us in these four unique listening practices each month!

February 2025 **“We Believe”** Newsboys

Week 1 – “We believe in God the Father...”

1. Enjoy the song selection video.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKhDj6laLVY&t=2s>
2. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. **Matthew 28:19**
3. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.
4. Sit quietly in God’s creation. Take time to thank God for all that has been given. Ask God to help you strengthen your belief as you become more aware of God’s many blessings all around you.