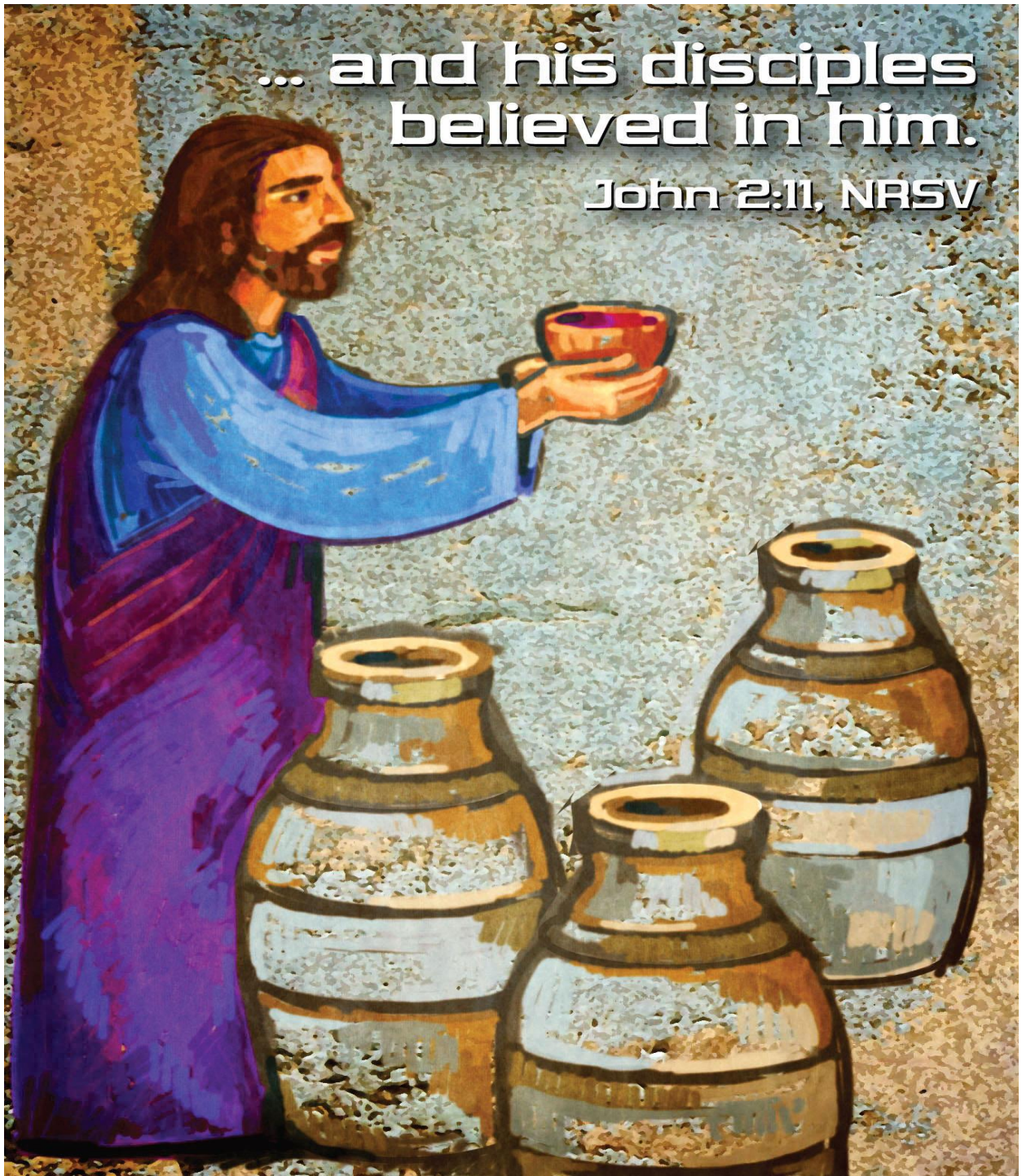


... and his disciples
believed in him.

John 2:11, NRSV



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 19, 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

January 19, 2025 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to Worship! The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

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

“Kyrie” from Requiem in D minor
by Gabriel Fauré, arr. Nathan Samsa

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, our creator, our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.
Show us your loving kindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"All Are Welcome"

ELW 641

Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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1 Let us build a house where love can dwell

and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
Refrain

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
Refrain

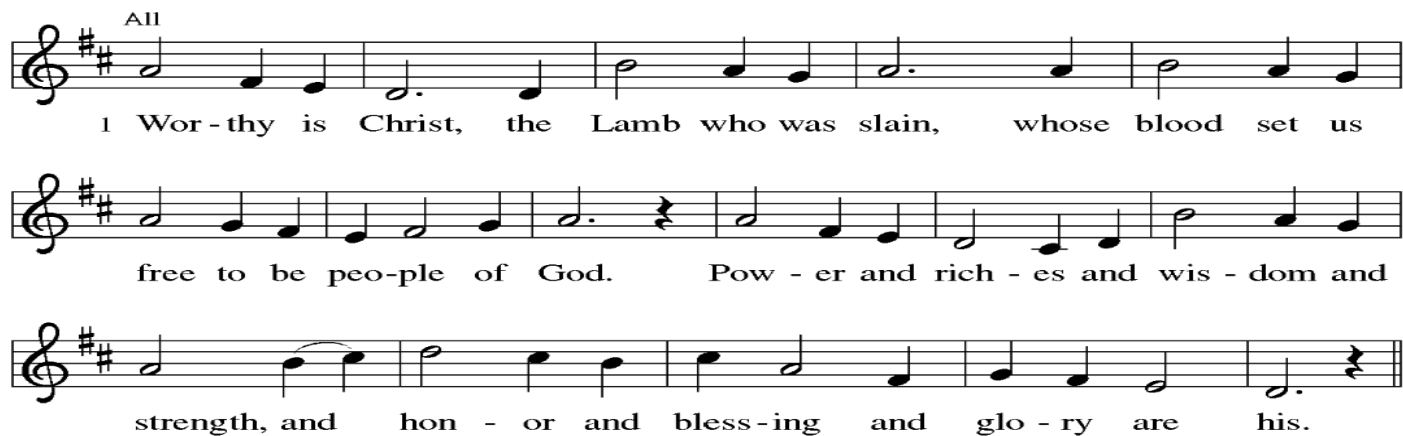
Greeting

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.

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people.

**Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Please be seated

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

- ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- ² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
- ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- ⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
- ⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

Psalm 36:5-10 (Read responsively)

- ⁵ Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- ⁶ **Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;
you save humankind and animals, O LORD.**
- ⁷ How priceless is your love, O God!
All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

⁸ **They feast upon the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

⁹ For with you is the well of life,
and in your light we see light.

¹⁰ **Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you,
and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

A reading from 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

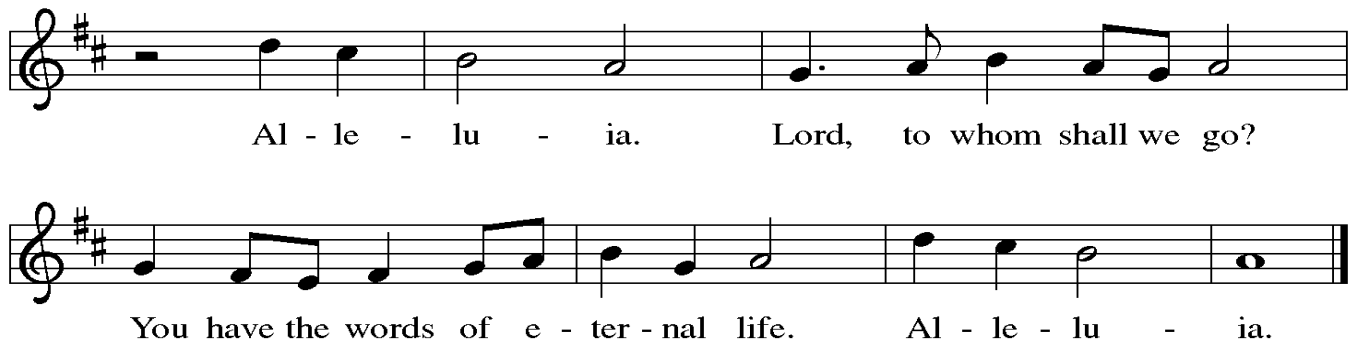
¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: John 2:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

"The Butterfly Song" Brian Howard

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If I were a butterfly
 I'd thank you, Lord, for giving me wings
 And if I were a robin in a tree
 I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing
 And if I were a fish in the sea
 I'd wiggle my tail, and I'd giggle with glee
 But I'd just thank you Father for making me me

For you gave me a heart
 And you gave me a smile
 You gave me Jesus
 And you made me your child
 And I just thank you Father for making me "me"

Sermon

Please stand

Chime Introduction

Older Youth and Adults

Hymn of the Day

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

ELW 310

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750 Public Domain

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole
weakened body, fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee
at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in flesh made manifest.

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

“Beautiful Savior”

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent. Public Domain

Please stand

Offertory

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
 give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
 Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
 give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
 And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
 rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
 now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
 rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith
 Music: GIVE THANKS. Henry Smith

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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:

“Now We Join in Celebration”

ELW 462

Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.

2 Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,
of your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

3 Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.

Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.

Distribution Hymn: *“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”*
Text © 1925 Robert Jeffreys Jr., admin. Augsburg Fortress

ELW 494

1 For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

2 By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heav'n above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.

3 With the saints who now adore you,
seated at the heav'nly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

4 In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Please stand

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, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Youth Bells

“Jesus Love Me”

Sending

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

Blessing

“Go Now In Peace” Don Besig and Nancy Price

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Sending Hymn

“We Are All One in Mission”

ELW 576

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“We Are All One in Mission”

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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

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

Church: 419-625-2192

Pastor Stacy’s Day Off – Friday

Cell: 419-680-0358

Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Admin.

419-625-2192

E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Nathan Samsa, Organist

Lay Reader: Sandy Thompson

Ushers: Jeff Justi

Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson

Audio/Visual Tech.: Melinda Zorn

Att.: Jan. 12 - 40

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).

Today we give thanks for Morgan and all of the joy she brought to our congregation. We continue to miss her, so we remember her near her birthday with today’s service that is full of music.

We give thanks to all who offered up their God given musical gifts in loving memory of Morgan Noon during today’s worship. These musical gifts show just how many lives Morgan touched at St. John’s during her time as music leader. We give thanks to God for bringing Morgan to St. John’s congregation and the blessing of her music.

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Morgan Noon by the St. John’s congregation.

Communion explanation

In Exodus 12 God gives Moses and Aaron dietary instructions for the Israelites as preparation for the Passover. This included the use of Matzah bread – a simple bread made of grain (flour) and water that could be made and eaten quickly.

Years later as Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples we read in the Gospel of Matthew, “While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it¹ he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”” Jesus used the bread and wine that were available; matzah would have been the bread.

As we gather today, we will share in our Lord’s Supper using matzah bread. It may not be exactly like the Passover bread, but it is similar. As you receive this bread, remember the words of Jesus: “Take, eat; this is my body.” When they finished the Passover meal, Jesus and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives and Jesus’ journey to the cross began.

Council asks the congregation to pray in this season of Hope, to pray that all people are united in sharing, giving, and loving.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Jan. 26 - Set-up – Joleen Dillender Cleanup – Sue and Lynn Schlessman

Feb. 2 – Set-up – Toni Nossaman Cleanup – Sandy Thompson

Feb. 9 – Set-up – Jim Kluding Cleanup – Paula Hoffman Laws

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.

New Ministry Lists are posted on the bulletin board for the first quarter of 2025. If you are looking for an opportunity to help with ushering, lay reading, help serve communion or help with streaming our worship, see all the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

2025 Calendars: Have you received a 2025 calendar or an abundance of calendars that you don't need? Please bring in your 2025 calendar and place in the basket in the back of the sanctuary and they will be taken to the nursing homes. Thank you.

Happy Birthday to Preston Luman, Brittany Semon, William Lucht, Don Johnson (90th) and Mia Scovanner.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 19TH THRU FEBRUARY 2ND

Sunday, January 19	9:15 am 9:45 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Bell ringing practice Worship
Tuesday, January 21	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Book Discussion Church Council
Thursday, January 23	5:30 pm	Worship Team
Sunday, January 26	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship
Sunday, February 2	9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship Annual Congregational Meeting



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 narthex. 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!

January 2025

"Shine Jesus Shine"

ELW 671

Week 3 – "As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness"

1. Enjoy the song selection video.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FssM5ezQE7g&t=4s:1-5As>
2. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. **Isaiah 60:1-5**
3. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.
4. Look for illuminators who bring out the best in others. What traits do illuminators share? What could you adopt in your life?