



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Jesus & John the Baptist

February 8, 2026 10:30 Service of the Word

In today's gospel John the Baptist will ask of Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Apparently Jesus isn't living up to John's expectations. In reply Jesus asks the crowds who they think John is. John isn't fitting into people's expectations either! God's is at work in both men even if the world didn't see it.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are a visitor we invite you to sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

A: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

A: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.**

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

**We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.**

Turn us to seek your face.

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Amen.

A: The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:

Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Sanctuary

(For music turn to Hymn 90 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true**

**With thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You**

- 1. It is You, Lord,
who came to save
the heart and soul of
every one.
It is You, Lord,
who knows my weakness,
who gives me strength with
Thine own hand.**

- 2. Lead me on Lord,
from temptation.
Purify me
from within.
Fill my heart, Lord,
with Your Holy Spirit.
Take away
all my sin. *Chorus***

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Gathering Dialog (John 1)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 35:3-6

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 146:5-10 (*read responsively*)

A: They are wise who depend on God,
who look to Jacob’s Lord,

**C: creator of heaven and earth,
maker of the teeming sea.**

A: The Lord keeps faith for ever,
giving food to the hungry,

**C: justice to the poor,
freedom to captives.**

A: The Lord opens blind eyes
and straightens the bent,

**C: comforting widows and orphans,
protecting the stranger.**

A: The Lord loves the just
but blocks the path of the wicked.

**C: Zion, praise the Lord!
Your God reigns for ever,
from generation to generation.
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 11:10)

C: Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:1-20

The gospel is announced:

A: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. ²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵Let anyone with ears listen!

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

After the reading:

A: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon Skit

Hymn of the Day O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate
(For music see Hymn 722 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
bore ev’ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God;
its breadth, God’s vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ
Combined in perfect rhyme
to write God’s love in human deeds,
eternity in time.**

2. **As once you welcomed those cast down
and healed the sick, the blind,
so may all bruised and broken lives
through us your help still find.
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep
that none may weep alone,
and help us bear another’s pain
as though it were our own.**

3. **O Christ, create new hearts in us
that beat in time with yours,
that, joined by faith with your great heart,
become love’s open doors.
We are your body, risen Christ;
our hearts, our hands we yield
that through our life and ministry
your love may be revealed.**

4. **O Love that made the distant stars,
yet marks the sparrow's fall,
whose names stretched wide upon the cross
embrace and bear us all:
come, make your church a servant church
that walks your servant ways,
whose deeds of love rise up to you,
a sacrifice of praise!**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. 1923-2007. Music: German melody, 18th century, adapt.

Apostles' Creed

A: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† THANKSGIVING †

Offertory

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

open to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Merciful God,

C: in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives

with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask

that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may

continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

“Bring More of What I Dream” from *Guerillas of Grace* by Ted Loder.

O God,

who out of nothing

brought everything that is,

out of what I am

bring more of what I dream

but haven't dared;

direct my power and passion

to creating life

where there is death,

to putting flesh of action

on bare-boned intentions,

to throwing bridges of care

across canyons of loneliness;
so I can look on creation,
together with you,
and, behold,
call it very good;
through Jesus Christ my Lord.
C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

A: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

† SENDING †

Blessing

A: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn The Church's One Foundation
(For music see Hymn 654 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her**

**to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

- 2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with ev'ry grace endued.**
- 3. Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**
- 4. Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**
- 5. Yet she on earth as union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **God's work. Our hands.**



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Sunday School Children
Acolyte Charlotte Stroup
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 15

Greeters and Ushers Helen Crown
Acolyte Elijah Young
Altar Care Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants Sue Kaufmann
Counters Greg and Mary Zuege
Coffee Hour

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