



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Matthew 8-9 Miracles – Epiphany 3

January 25, 2026 10:30 Service of the Word

Last week we read Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount'. It is a massive collection of teachings showing us how to think and act and live. Today we continue in Matthew and discover two chapters about Jesus' miracles. These miracles come after the Sermon on the Mount for a purpose. They show what life is like when Jesus puts his words into action.

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

Apostles' Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: 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.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: 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.

P: 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 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
For music turn to Hymn 815 in the Red Hymnal

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain **In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2. I want to see... the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

**3. I'm looking for... the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run... with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934, copyright 1970,1975 Celebration

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.

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever,
that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you
follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4

B: Here 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.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 78:1-11 (*read responsively*)

D: Listen, my people, mark each word.

I begin with a story, I speak of mysteries
welling up from ancient depths, heard and known from our elders.

**C: We must not hide this story from our children
but tell the mighty works and all the wonders of God.
The Lord gave precepts to Jacob, instructions to Israel,
that the people before us could teach their children.**

D: Let future generations learn and let them grow up
to teach their young to trust in God,
remembering great deeds, cherishing the law.

**C: Not like their ancestors, stubborn, bitter, wavering,
unfaithful to God; not like the Ephraimites,
archers who fled the battle, breaking their covenant,
defying the Lord.**

They forgot all God had done, wonders revealed to them.

Structure of Matthew

Gospel Reading Matthew 8-9

A: When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds
followed him; ²and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before

him, saying, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.”³ He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.⁴ Then Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

B: When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him⁶ and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress.”⁷ And he said to him, “I will come and cure him.”⁸ The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed.”⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.”¹⁰ When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, “Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,¹² while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And the servant was healed in that hour.

D: When Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever;¹⁵ he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him.¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick.¹⁷ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

P: Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side.¹⁹ A scribe then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”²¹ Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”²² But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

A: And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.²⁴ A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep.²⁵ And they went and woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”²⁶ And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the

sea; and there was a dead calm. ²⁷They were amazed, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”

B: When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. ²⁹Suddenly they shouted, “What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?” ³⁰Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. ³¹The demons begged him, “If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.” ³²And he said to them, “Go!” So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water. ³³The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. ³⁴Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

D: And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town. ²And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” ³Then some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” ⁴But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? ⁶But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he then said to the paralytic—“stand up, take your bed and go to your home.” ⁷And he stood up and went to his home. ⁸When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

P: As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

¹⁴Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁵And Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is

with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

A: While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.

When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, “Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

B: As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” ²⁸When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” ²⁹Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” ³⁰And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.” ³¹But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

D: After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. ³³And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, “Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.” ³⁴But the Pharisees said, “By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons.”

P: Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is

plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Beautiful Savior

(Music for this may be found as Hymn 838 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
2. **Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**
3. **Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**
4. **Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

Text: Gesangbuch, Munster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, Music: Silesian fold tune 1842

Apostles' Creed

P: 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

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

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

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

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

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: 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

P: 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 Touch the Earth Lightly
(For music see Hymn 739 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

2. **We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster-
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

3. **Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.**

4. **God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.**

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931. Music: Colin Gibson, b. 1933. Text and music copyright 1992 Hope Publishing Company

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: God's work. Our hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Greg and Mary Zuege
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 1

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Altar Care Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants Greg Zuege
Counters Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2026* copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress.

St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Dongwon Shin, Pianist