



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Sunday after Epiphany*

*January 7, 2024*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

Today we move into the second and third chapters of Mark's gospel. We'll discover that Jesus is doing great work. He's healing many, preaching good news and sharing the love of God. Nevertheless he's upsetting many people, especially the religious leaders. It is easy to scoff at the hypocrisy of these leaders, but when we discover their motives we realize they are a lot like ourselves. May we be able to rejoice in the work of our savior even when it threatens our way of life.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

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

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Gathering Hymn Messiah

(for music, please turn to Hymn 25 in the Songbook)

1. **Someone's calling from the table,  
someone's calling you and me.  
Someone's pleading you to follow,  
come and join us to be free.**

### *Chorus*

**Messiah, come and be with me.  
Messiah, come and be with me.**

2. **Fill your heart with all his blessings,  
fill your mind with all he taught.  
Cleanse your soul of all your trouble,  
Turn to him when you're distraught. *Chorus***
3. **Take the gift that He has offered,  
take the grace that He has shown.  
Now go out and tell another,  
of His love that's now your own. *Chorus***

Dakota Road Music, used by permission

### Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

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

### *Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: God, our rock and refuge,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.  
**C: Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise* Now the Feast and Celebration  
(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)

*Refrain*

**Now the feast and celebration,  
all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and freedom  
praise and glory forevermore!**

1. **Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
whose blood has freed and united us  
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*
2. **Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*
3. **For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us people of God;  
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

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 †

Scripture Poetry Psalm 3:1-7 (*read responsively*)

B: Lord, how daunting the armies  
massed against me!

**C: All of them jeer at me,  
“God will not save you.”**

B: But you are my shield, Lord,  
my reason to boast;  
you hold my head high.

**C: When I call, you answer  
from your holy mountain.**

B: I rest easy at night  
and rise in the morning  
sure of God’s protection.

**C: I do not fear thousands  
standing against me.**

Bible Reading Mark 2-3

D: When [Jesus] returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” <sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>“Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” <sup>8</sup>At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your

hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? <sup>10</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup>“I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” <sup>12</sup>And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

E: Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. <sup>14</sup>As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. <sup>15</sup>And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. <sup>16</sup>When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>17</sup>When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

F: Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup>The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

<sup>21</sup>“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. <sup>22</sup>And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.”

P: One sabbath he was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? <sup>26</sup>He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; <sup>28</sup>so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.”

D: Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup>And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

E: Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; <sup>8</sup>hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon. <sup>9</sup>He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him; <sup>10</sup>for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. <sup>11</sup>Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and shouted, “You are the Son of God!” <sup>12</sup>But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

F: He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup>And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, <sup>15</sup>and to have authority to cast out demons. <sup>16</sup>So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); <sup>17</sup>James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); <sup>18</sup>and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, <sup>19</sup>and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

P: Then he went home;

a. and the **crowd** came together again, so that they could not even eat.

b. When his **family** heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying,

c. “He has gone out of his mind.”<sup>22</sup> And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has **Beelzebul**, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.”

d. And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan?<sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.<sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.<sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.

e. But no one can enter a strong man’s house and **plunder** his property

f. without first tying up the strong man;

e’. then indeed the house can be **plundered**.

d’. “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter;<sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—

c’. for they had said, “**He has an unclean spirit.**”

b’. Then his **mother and his brothers came**; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.

a’. A **crowd** was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.”<sup>33</sup> And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?”<sup>34</sup> And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!<sup>35</sup> Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

*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 Lord of the Dance  
(for music, see Hymn 24 in the Songbook)

**1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun**

**and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.**

*Refrain:*

**Dance, dance wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance said he.  
“And I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I’ll lead you all in the dance,” said he.**

**2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
and they would not dance and they wouldn’t follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen and James and John;  
They came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain***

**3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
the holy people said it was a shame;  
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,  
they left me there on the cross to die. *Refrain***

**4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it’s hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I’d gone,  
but I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain***

**5. They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that will never, never die,  
And I’ll live in you if you live in me,  
for I am the Lord of the dance, said he. *Refrain***

Text: Sydney Carter. Music: American Folk Tune. Copyright 1963 Stainer and Bell, Ltd. (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company)

*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.**

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.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,*

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

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

**C: 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.*

† MEAL †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord

*For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Holy One,

**C: for all good things come from you.**

**In bread and cup you open heaven to us.**

**Meet us at this table,**

**that we may receive what we seek**

**and follow you Son, Jesus,**

**in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

*(Isaiah 6:3 - spoken)*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please pick up a communion glass as you come forward to the altar. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the assistant.) The pastor will pour wine into your glass. If you prefer grape juice it is prefilled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

*Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)*

**815** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Red Hymnal)*

**42** *Mercy (Songbook Binder)*

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
bless you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer  
(For music see Hymn 618 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow'rful hand.**

**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.**

- 2. Open now the crystal fountain  
where the healing waters flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
shield me with your mighty arm,  
shield me with your mighty arm.**
- 3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises  
I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.**

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt. Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | John and Linda Thompson    |
| Acolyte             | Alyssa Young               |
| Altar Care          | Gary Boisseau              |
| Communion Assistant | Sue Kaufmann               |
| Counters            | Bruce and Connie Stevenson |
| Coffee Hour         | Sue Kaufmann               |

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 14**

|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Sue Kaufmann                  |
| Acolyte             | Thomas Bullwinkle             |
| Counters            | Michele Myers and Helen Crown |
| Coffee Hour         | The Spawtons                  |

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**St. John's Lutheran Church**

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor - William Shi, Pianist