



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Icon of John the Baptist c. 1300 – Museum of Russian Icons

## *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

*January 9, 2022 10:30 Service of the Word*

John the Baptist prepares the way for the coming of Jesus. John does not mince words. He bluntly calls people to repentance. He knows that God's inbreaking kingdom is challenging everything in the world. But John is not angry for anger's sake. He is passionate that people not miss the God's grace and love.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

# † 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,  
who creates us,  
redeems us,  
and calls us by name.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you  
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory  
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word  
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality  
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done  
and the things we have left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe  
in the glory of your Son born among us,  
and reflect your love for all creation.**

**Amen.**

P: Rejoice in this good news:  
In Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.  
You are descendants of the Most High,  
adopted into the household of Christ,  
and inheritors of eternal life.  
Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn All My Relatives  
(for music please turn to Hymn 52 in the Songbook)

1. **Listen my sister, listen my brother,  
so many features, so many colors;  
I have not loved you like I should love you  
if I believe that God is love.**

*Refrain*

**Ev'ry face, All My Relatives.  
Ev'ry race, All My Relatives.  
Ev'ry place, All My Relatives.  
Hear creation sing,  
one with ev'ry thing.**

2. **Where there is hurting, we share the hurting.  
Where there is justice, we share the justice.  
Where there is praising, we share the praising.  
If we believe that God is love.**

*Refrain*

3. **Where there is suff'ring, we share the suff'ring.  
Where there is praising, we share the praising.  
Where there is freedom, we share the freedom  
If we believe that God is love.**

*Refrain*

Text and Music Copyright 1992 Dakota Road Music, CCLI Song# 1763486

Gathering Dialog (John 1)

P: In the beginning was the Word,

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

P: In the Word was life,

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

P: 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, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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 Amos 5:10-15*

B:<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproveth in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry Psalm 51:14-19 (Read responsively)*

D: Save me, bring back my joy,  
support me, strengthen my will.

**C: Then I will teach your way  
and sinners will turn to you.**

D: Help me, stop my tears,  
and I will sing your goodness.

**C: Lord, give me words  
and I will shout your praise.**

D: When I offer a burnt offering,  
the gift does not please you.

**C: So I offer my shattered spirit;  
a changed heart you welcome.**

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-29

E: <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him<sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.<sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (1 John 3:11)

**C: Alleluia. Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading and Reflections Luke 3:1-20

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”<sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”<sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of

them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

*Hymn of the Day* On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry  
(For music see Hymn 249 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2. Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow’rs that wither and decay.**
- 4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.**
- 5. All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite. Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1517-1621

## **✠ INCORPORATION OF NEW MEMBERS ✠**

We welcome Joe Pow II into the membership of St. John’s!

*Affirmation of Baptism service, Pg. 234 in the front of the Red Hymnal*

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.*

Special Music

‡ PRAYER ‡

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.**

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: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,  
who rejoices over you,  
and who calls you by name,  
bless your going out and your coming in,  
today and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn I'll Fly Away

(For music see Hymn 96 in the Songbook Binder)

1. **Some bright morning when this life is o'er**  
I'll fly away,  
to that home on God's celestial shore  
I'll fly away.

*Refrain* I'll fly away (O glory).

I'll fly away (in the morning).  
When I die, Hallelujah by and by,  
I'll fly away.

2. **When the shadows of this life have gone**  
I'll fly away,  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown  
I'll fly away. *Refrain*

3. **Oh, how glad and happy when we meet**  
I'll fly away,  
No more cold iron shackles on my feet  
I'll fly away. *Refrain*

4. **Just a few more weary days and then**  
I'll fly away,  
Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away. *Refrain*

Text and music: American Traditional

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

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

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