



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Sunday after Epiphany*

*January 7, 2018*

*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.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn I Wonder as a I Wander  
(for music, turn to Hymn 642 in the Blue Hymnal)

1. **I wonder as a wander, out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**
2. **When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,  
came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,  
and high from the heavens a star's light did fall;  
the promise of the ages it then did recall.**
3. **If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,  
of all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,  
he sure cold have had it, 'cause he was the king.**
4. **I wonder as a wander, out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

Text and music: Appalachian folk tune; Collected and adapted by John Jacob Niles; Copyright 1934 G. Shirmer, Inc.

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, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

**C: Amen.**

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

(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: Loving God,

**C: we confess that we have turned from your way  
to follow our own ways.**

**Forgive us for the times**

**we have spoken too quickly;  
we have not spoken or acted at all;  
we have hurt those closest to us;  
we have hurt those we have yet to know;  
we have thought more about ourselves than others;  
we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.  
Turn us around and give us a fresh start,  
so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

P: Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.  
Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.  
God's love never runs out.  
God never tires of calling us beloved children.  
Hear God say to you now:  
Your sins are forgiven,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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*

Text and music: Marty Haugen; Copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc.

*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 †

### Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders

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

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

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

A: 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.**

A: 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

A1: 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!”

A2: 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.”

A3: 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.”

A4: 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.”

A1: 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.

A2: 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.

A3: 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.

A4: Then he went home; <sup>20</sup>and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “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.” <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

<sup>28</sup>“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”— <sup>30</sup>for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

<sup>31</sup>Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup>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

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.**

### 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 †

Offering

Hymn of Thanksgiving 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

A: Let us pray: Merciful God,

**C: receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

*(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.**

### Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. If you need gluten free wafers please ask the assistant distributing bread. You may receive wine from either the common cup or in an individual glass. If you would like to receive in a glass please pick one up from the tray as you approach the altar rail. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

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

**310** *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (Red Hymnal)*

**318** *Alleluia, Song of Gladness (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:

O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now – today, tomorrow, every day – that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The God of glory dwell in your richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Shine, Jesus, Shine

*For music turn to Hymn 671 in the Red Hymnal*

*Refrain*

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;**

**blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.**

**Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;**

**send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.**

**Shine on me,**

**shine on me:**

*Refrain*

2. **As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
so our faces display your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.**  
**Shine on me,  
shine on me:** *Refrain*

Text and Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950, copyright 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

*Dismissal*

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	John and Gay Card
Acolyte	Molly Perdan
Altar Care	Helen Crown
Communion Assistants	Bruce and Diane Boncke
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Burdie Gillern

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 14, 2018

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Cassie Ross
Acolyte	Katya Kurilovitch
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	Linda Thompson

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