



Darkness cannot drive
out darkness; only light
can do that. Hate
cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2020 | 8:30 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC

Welcome to St. John's!

For more information about today's worship, please refer to the pew card found in the hymnal.



Gathering

Welcome *Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.*

Prelude

Thee We Adore

arr. Henry Coleman

Prayers of Confession. *Please stand.*

As we gather for worship, we make the sign of the cross as a reminder of our baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8-9*

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

adapted from the Prayers of Martin Luther

Waken our hearts, O Lord;

make them ever watchful to serve You and Your purposes.

Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and work.

Trouble us with the greatness of Your command to make disciples of all nations.

Trouble us with Your great love for sinners

and our own slowness to make You our greatest love.

Awaken us to your unfailing mercy.

Rekindle in us a desire for Your glorious kingdom

when all wrongs will be made right,

when everything that is broken will be made whole,

and when we will trade a cross for a crown.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

God's Promise of Forgiveness

Dear people of God, hear the good news: Jesus Christ is your Light and Salvation. Through him all things are made new. By his grace and mercy God draws near and forgives all of your sins. Rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Entrance Hymn 834

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

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

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Please be seated

FaithLife Moment

Mark Lewis, chair, G2G Campaign



Word

We hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

God challenges Israel

The Prophet writes: ¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?
 Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you
 but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading: Psalm 15

Who shall abide in God's sanctuary?

¹O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
 Who may dwell on your holy hill?
²Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
 and speak the truth from their heart;
³who do not slander with their tongue,
 and do no evil to their friends,
 nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
⁴in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
 but who honor those who fear the LORD;
 who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
⁵who do not lend money at interest,
 and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
 Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel. "Alleluia" is an ancient Jewish acclamation that means "God be praised." In the Christian tradition, Alleluia means "He is risen!"



Jesus said to his disciples and those who had gathered around him:

- ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

On another occasion, Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

³⁷The righteous will *ask of their king*, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

Sermon

Dr. Vergel Lattimore
President, Hood Theological Seminary
Salisbury, NC

Please stand

Hymn 715

Christ Be Our Light

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Apostles' Creed. *The three paragraphs of the Creed express our belief in the three-fold nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

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.**

Please be seated

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Offering Voluntary

Offertory Hymn *As the gifts are presented, the congregation stands and sings the Doxology.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayers of Intercession. *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*