



## Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 19, 2020 | 11 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. You'll notice that our worship follows a simple pattern that has guided the church's worship since the first century — Gather, Word, Meal, Sending — a pattern designed to nourish and strengthen us for the week ahead. Welcome to worship!*



## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God.*

**Prelude**

*Praise, O Praise Our Lord and King*

*arr. C. S. Lang*

*We begin worship with an act of confession, a time when we come together just as we are, without benefit of disguise. In confession we admit out loud our need for God's forgiveness. The words of forgiveness announce the love of God, who accepts us as we are but continues to lead us beyond where we are, forming us into a new creation.*

**Prayers of Confession.** *Please turn to face the cross of Christ.*

*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.**

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

*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.**

### **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.**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **FaithLife Moment**

Mark Lewis, chair, G2G Campaign

#### **Anthem**

*Draw Us in The Spirit's Tether*

Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly in Thy name,  
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now Thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
Then with thanks to God the Father, break the bread and bless the cup.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of Thee,  
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve Thee faithfully.



## Word

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

**First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

*God challenges Israel*

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

<sup>2</sup>Hear, 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.

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

<sup>4</sup>For 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.

<sup>5</sup>O 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."

<sup>6</sup>"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?

<sup>7</sup>Will 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?"

<sup>8</sup>He 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?*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

<sup>3</sup>who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

<sup>4</sup>in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

<sup>5</sup>who 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!**

**Children's Worship.** *Please stand for the reading of the Gospel. During the following response, children are invited to Children's Worship, returning after the sermon.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:3-11, 25:37-40**

*The Beatitudes*

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

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"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:*

<sup>37</sup>The 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? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And 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 the Lord. Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated*

**Sermon**

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

Please stand

Hymn

Christ Be Our Light CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT (ELW 715)



All 1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
Women 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
Men 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
All 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
All 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

## Apostles' Creed

Gathered as God's people across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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.** *Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

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



## Meal

*God shares with us the Bread of Life.*

**Collection of our Tithes and Offerings, and Preparation of the Lord's Table.** *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. Amen.**

Let us pray. Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.** from Psalm 118:26

## Eucharistic Prayer, followed by 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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated*

**Distribution of Holy Communion.** *Gluten free bread and grape juice are available upon request. Please follow the usher's instructions. Welcome to the Lord's Table!*

## Communion Hymns

*Lamb of God, page 154 in the front section of the red ELW*

677 *This Little Light of Mine*

841 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

## Blessing and Prayer



## Sending

*Forgiven and nourished, we are sent into the world to share God's love.*

## Benediction

**Sending Hymn 815**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**