



The Season of Epiphany

February 16, 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

This Our Sacrifice Of Praise
Kevin Agner, cello

Prayers of Confession

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.

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, **we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.**

God's Promise of Forgiveness

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with his light, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

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.**

Lord, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Please be seated

FaithLife Moment



Word

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

First Reading Isaiah 43:18-21

The prophet writes: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-22

St. Paul writes: ¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where

would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.

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

Children's Worship. *During the following response hymn, children are invited to Children's Worship, returning after the sermon.*

Response Hymn

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Please stand

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said: ²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

Please be seated

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Marty Stevens

Please stand

Hymn 546

To Be Your Presence

ENGELBERG

Please be seated

Welcoming of New Members

Bob and Jill Simon

Please stand

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.**

Please be seated



Meal

God shares with us the Bread of Life.

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

Offertory Anthem

Faithfulness

arr. Joel Raney

words by Thomas O. Chisholm

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee, thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever will be.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

(Refrain) Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

(Refrain)

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

The Classic Ringers

Exuberant Joy

arr. by Arnold B. Sherman

Kim Lentz, Director

472 *Eat This Bread*

826 *Thine the Amen*

Please stand

Blessing and Prayer



Sending

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

Benediction

Sending Hymn 545

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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