

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
FIFTH SUNDAY
after the Epiphany

10:00 AM

February 4, 2024

But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31



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Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

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WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD!

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us. If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church. A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

The Order of Holy Communion– Setting Three

✠ OPENING HYMN NO. **402**: “*The Only Son from Heaven*”



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by an - cient seers,
 2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!
 3 O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en To know and love You more,
 △ 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore You With God the Ho - ly Ghost



By God the Fa - ther giv - en, In hu - man form ap - pears.
 He comes, the king a - noint - ed, The Christ, the vir - gin - born,
 In faith to stand un - shak - en, In spir - it to a - dore,
 And Je - sus, we a - dore You, O pride of an - gel host:



No sphere His light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly
 Grim death to van - quish for us, To o - pen heav'n be -
 That we, through this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en
 Be - fore You mor - tals low - ly Cry, “Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As He, our Morn - ing Star.
 fore us And bring us life a - gain.
 prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.
 ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!”

✠ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent,

bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 40:21-31

Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full

use of my right in the gospel.

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

And immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made

man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

† SERMON HYMN NO. 398: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;
 5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
 To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
 All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.
 From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,
 To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.
 Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
 And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A kingdom with - out end.
 His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

(Be Seated)

† SERMON: *“The Fowlest Sermon”* Isaiah 40:21-31

† DEDICATION of OFFERINGS

(Please Stand)

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We give thanks to You, dear Father, for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh to preach the Gospel and cast out the works of Satan and the corruption of sin, which we could not overcome. By Your Word, rescue us from every evil of body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of the Church, give joy to Your servants on whom You have laid the necessity to preach the Gospel, that many would be saved in every nation and that together we may share in the blessings of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, give to all Christian homes the endurance that comes from Your Holy Spirit, that husbands and wives, parents and children may be disciplined and self-controlled in their duties, run their course in this life, and continue to the end in the holy Christian faith, ready to receive the imperishable wreath of eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, Creator of the world and its foundations, You hold sway over the powers of nature and the rulers of the earth. Graciously preserve our land, its produce and industry, and our leaders together with our people. Do not disregard us for our sins, but renew us, that our lives may be peaceful and our country governed according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, Your Son is the Great Physician of body and soul, at whose hand demon, disease and every ill must turn away. We bring before You those in any need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Father, where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. Bring us in faith to Your Holy Sacrament, that the blood of Christ, which atoned for our sins, may make us whole, strengthen us against every spiritual attack of the devil, turn us in love toward our neighbor, and preserve us in body and soul to life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

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 Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray: **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. Amen.**

✠ WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

† PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(Be Seated)

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN NO. **597**: "Water, Blood and Spirit Crying"



1 Wa - ter, blood, and Spir - it cry - ing, By their wit - ness
2 In a wa - t'ry grave are bur - ied All our sins that
3 Dark the way, yet Christ pre - cedes us, Past the scowl of
4 Though a - round us death is seeth - ing, God, His two - edged
5 Spir - it, wa - ter, blood en - treat - ing, Work - ing faith and



tes - ti - fy - ing To the One whose death - de - fy - ing
Je - sus car - ried; Christ, the Ark of Life, has fer - ried
death He leads us; Spreads a ta - ble where He feeds us
sword un - sheath - ing, By His Spir - it life is breath - ing
its com - plet - ing In the One whose death - de - feat - ing



Life has come, with life for all.
Us a - cross death's rag - ing flood.
With His bod - y and His blood.
Through the liv - ing, ac - tive Word.
Life has come, with life for all.

(Please Stand)

† THE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

† POST COMMUNION COLLECT

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with Thy Spirit.

P: Bless We the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† BENEDICTION

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.

C: Amen.

† CLOSING HYMN NO. **400**: *"Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"*



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'ring's di - vine,
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Share God's Love

Charlie Brown's young friend Linus made the mistake of confessing to his big sister Lucy that he wanted to be a doctor when he grew up. Lucy was astounded at her brother's declaration. "You, a doctor!" That's a laugh! You could never be a doctor! You know why? Because you don't love humankind!" Young Linus immediately responded, "I do love humankind! It's people I can't stand!"

Linus' comment may give us a chuckle. We find humor in it because we identify with Linus. Apart from the power of God's Spirit working in us, our love for others is weak and shallow at best. But God calls us to love all people and enables us to do so. Whether we are doctors, carpenters, policemen, teachers, secretaries, or plumbers, we are to love those with whom we work with as well as all people. God places us in different vocations where we can share God's love. We are His instruments through which He works. In his letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him" (1 Corinthians 7:17).

God has a purpose, a plan, in mind for each of us. Like Linus, one might consider being a doctor, but God may have a much different vocation in mind. No vocation is to be viewed higher or lower than another, and we are called, regardless of where we are placed by God, to let His love within us overflow to others.