

St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Second Sunday After the Epiphany
January 16 and 19, 2025

Serving Us Today:
Pastor Rob Schrader
Organist: Nancy Wallner
920-361-9935
www.stjohnberlin.org

Large Print Bulletin

AS WE GATHER... The miracle of water turned into wine is a surprising one. It is marked by the fact that this is the choicest of wines, that the sheer amount of wine was embarrassingly extravagant, and that the full benefit of this miracle was limited to the servants who did what Jesus said, Mary, and the disciples who were with Jesus. It is the mark of what is to come. Jesus' whole ministry is one of goodness beyond compare, of extravagant mercy beyond what we deserve or even dare ask, and of grace hidden in ordinary things like words, water, bread, and wine. This is then a precursor of what is to come, the first of many manifestations of His mercy and the rich and overflowing provision of His grace to supply salvation to a world that otherwise knows no joy.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS... Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

Pre-Service Music

Ringling of the Bells

The Welcome

Preparation / Confession and Absolution

412 The People That in Darkness Sat

**1 The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.**

**2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,
The gath'ring nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home,
Their harvest treasures home.**

**3 To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.**

**4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.**

**5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,**

**His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.**

△ **6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.**

Text: John Morison, 1749–98, alt. Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 117:2; 36:7

P Great is His steadfast love toward us,
C and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

P How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!

C The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

P Bidden by His steadfast love, let us take refuge in the mercy of God, confessing our sins and rejoicing in His gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

WORD

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son,

our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:7–12

⁷Again, I saw vanity under the sun: ⁸one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Cherub Choir sing on Sunday

Epistle

Acts 2:42–47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together

and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 17:9–19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are

not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

589 Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens

**1 Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,
Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me,
Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,
Wars against Your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor
That I cling to You forever!**

**2 Oh, what blessing to be near You
And to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You,
Let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at Your Word;**

**But to all who feel sin's burden
You give words of peace and pardon.**

**3 Lord, Your words are waters living
When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;
On Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light
Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailing!**

**4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven.**

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–83; (sts. 1–3): tr.
George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship,
1993 Text: Public domain

Sermon "Connection Groups"

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Offering

SACRAMENT

Preface

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.**

Proper Preface

P Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim
shout the glory of Your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

The Words of Our Lord

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."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 198*

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

587 I Know My Faith Is Founded

1 I know my faith is founded

**On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing,
Unmoved I stand on His sure Word.**

Our reason cannot fathom

**The truth of God profound;
Who trusts in human wisdom
Relies on shifting ground.**

**God's Word is all-sufficient,
It makes divinely sure;
And trusting in its wisdom,
My faith shall rest secure.**

2 Increase my faith, dear Savior,

**For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure
And take my hope of bliss away.**

**But, Lord, with You beside me,
I shall be undismayed;
And led by Your good Spirit,
I shall be unafraid.**

**Abide with me, O Savior,
A firmer faith bestow;
Then I shall bid defiance
To ev'ry evil foe.**

**3 In faith, Lord, let me serve You;
Though persecution, grief, and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me,
Let me a steadfast trust retain;
And then at my departure,
Lord, take me home to You,
Your riches to inherit
As all You said holds true.
In life and death, Lord, keep me
Until Your heav'n I gain,
Where I by Your great mercy
The end of faith attain.**

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Text: Public domain

580 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

- 1 The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That we might thus be justified.**
- 2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
Who made the atoning sacrifice,
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed
To come and find eternal rest.**
- 3 It brings the Savior's righteousness
To robe our souls in royal dress;**

**From all our guilt it brings release
And gives the troubled conscience peace.**

**4 It is the pow'r of God to save
From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith which firmly clings
To all the treasures which it brings.**

**5 It bears to all the tidings glad
And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The weary, burdened souls it cheers
And banishes their guilty fears.**

**6 May we in faith its message learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord, our righteousness.**

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt. Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Psalm 118:1

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
C for His steadfast love endures forever.

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with

all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless 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.

584 Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

1 Faith and truth and life bestowing,

Open now the Scriptures, Lord,

Seed to life eternal sowing,

Scattered on the wind abroad.

Let not hearts, Your Word receiving,

Like a barren field be found,

Choked with thorns and unbelieving,

Shallow earth or stony ground.

2 May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing

Bring to life the hidden grain,

Daily in our hearts increasing,

**Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story,
Savior, may Your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold Your glory
Give us ears to hear Your Word.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024 Text: © 1997 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.
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Acknowledgments

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Attendance Last Week: 214	
General giving last week:	\$8211.80
Budget giving needed:	\$7500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

21 Tuesday	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
22 Wednesday	Senior Choir	6:30 pm
23 Thursday	Worship Service/HC	6:30 pm
26 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
26 Sunday	Sunday School	10:15 am
26 Sunday	Adult Bible Class	10:15 am
26 Sunday	PTL Meeting - 10:30 am	Potluck - 11:30 am

PASTOR ROB'S NUMBER: If you or a loved one are hospitalized or going through something difficult and need to speak with a pastor, please call or text Pastor Rob at any time at (920) 539-4603. He would be happy to speak with you and set up a time to visit.

CONNECTION GROUP LEADERS NEEDED! Connection Groups connect Christians to other Christians, Christians closer to Christ, and non-Christians to Connection Groups. With God's help, they are going to be an important part of our church and will impact your life, our church, and our community. But, in order to have this important ministry, we need Connection Group leaders. Please pray about this opportunity and consider if God has given you the skills to be a Christian leader. If you have questions, please talk with Pastor Rob. If you would like to sign up, there is a sheet in the back of church. Thank you!

MINISTRIES AT ST. JOHN BOOKLET: Our Savior, Jesus, came to serve us by dying on the cross. Inspired by what he has done, the Bible encourages us to likewise serve our neighbors. If you're looking for a way to follow God's command, pick up our NEW "Getting Involved" ministry booklet in the rack in the back of church to see the different ways that you can serve in and through our church and school! Thank you!

"BADGERBYTES" the weekly newspaper of St. John Lutheran School is available in the information rack of the Narthex. Pick one up today and keep abreast of all the happenings at our Christian Day School!

YOUTH GROUP: February will have an outdoor activity on the 22nd. It will depend on how much snow we have. Either sledding at Zobel Hill or snow tubing Nordic Mountain. We would plan again for around 1:00 pm and go for 2 hours. If we buy tickets online ahead of time, they will be \$20.00. At the hill, they are \$35.00. If you have a suggestion of something for future activities, please let me know. I am available via email tpett@stjohnberlin.org or 262-470-2152.

ATTENTION CONGREGATION MEMBERS: The Board of Christian Education is looking for someone to teach the Preschool/Kindergarten Sunday School class for the remainder of the school year. Sunday School runs from 10:30-11:30 am on Sunday mornings. The teaching/student materials are provided and there are some experienced helpers ready to help in that classroom. Please contact the school office, Miss Linse or any Board of Education member if you are interested in helping out.

Sermon Notes – 1-19-24 – Connection Groups

-Acts 2 is the story of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came in power on the Apostles, and they started preaching to the people of Jerusalem.

-Through that message, _____ people were baptized that day!

-What I especially want to focus on today is how they lived now that they knew the Gospel and were baptized.

-“And they _____ themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

-“And _____ came upon every soul.” (Acts 2:43)

-“And many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.” (Acts 2:43)

-“And all who believed were together and had all things in common.” (Acts 2:44-45)

-“They received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God.” (Acts 2:46-47)

-“Having _____ with all the people.” (Acts 2:47)

-“The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

-Impacted by the preaching about their sin and Jesus’ forgiveness, these people were baptized and devoted their daily lives to God’s Word, _____, communion, and prayer. And as God continued to work through that, amazing things started happening in their lives and community.

-As we hear about our sinfulness and the grace of God given through Jesus' death and resurrection, and as God works through that message, we should be brought to devote ourselves to God's Word, fellowship, communion, and prayer.

-That's where Connection Groups come in.

-Connection Groups give you an opportunity to be more devoted to those essential _____ that should characterize our Christian lives.

-Just like in the earliest church, God will work in amazing ways in our community and lives as he brings us closer to him through his Word, fellowship, and prayer.

- _____ connect Christians to other Christians, Christians closer to Christ, and non-Christians to Connection Groups.