

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



***January 15 and 18, 2026***  
***The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany***

**Serving Us Today:**  
**Pastor Rob Schrader**  
**Organist: Nancy Wallner**  
**920-361-9935**  
**[www.stjohnberlin.org](http://www.stjohnberlin.org)**

***Large Print Bulletin***

**AS WE GATHER...** Every year, the Epiphany of Our Lord is announced by the coming of the Magi from the East (on January 6) and the Baptism of Our Lord on the following Sunday. Likewise, every year on the next Sunday, John summarizes the significance of what we will hear concerning the earthly ministry of Jesus leading to the glory of His cross. Jesus enacts His first sign or miracle at a wedding in Cana. Turning water into wine signifies more than the joy of the marriage of God to His people. To Christians, it instantly calls to mind the Means by which God literally pours the new life of forgiveness into us through the blood of the cross of Christ. As the Bride of Christ, the Holy Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a life of the reverent worship of God and loving service of one another and the world. The one Spirit works through the many members of the Body of Christ.

**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.

## **Confession and Absolution**

### **814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul**

1 O bless the Lord, my soul!  
    Let all within me join  
    And aid my tongue to bless His name  
    Whose favors are divine.

2 O bless the Lord, my soul,  
    Nor let His mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness  
    And without praises die!

3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;  
    'Tis He relieves thy pain;  
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses  
    And makes thee young again.

4 He crowns thy life with love  
    When ransomed from the grave;  
He that redeemed my soul from hell  
    Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;  
    He gives the suff'ers rest.  
The Lord hath judgments for the proud  
    And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways  
    He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world His truth and grace  
    By His belovèd Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748. Text: Public domain

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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.

P 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.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

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.**

*Stand*

## **Service of the Word**

### **Kyrie**

*LSB 186*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB 187*

P Glory be to God on high:  
**C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee,  
for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,**

**receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.**

**For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.**

**Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

**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.**

*Sit*

## **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 50:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word  
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear  
to hear as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not my face  
from disgrace and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 12:14–21*

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia**

*LSB 190*

**C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 5:38–42*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ <sup>39</sup>But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. <sup>40</sup>And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup>And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup>Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**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.**

## **Children's Sermon**

### **722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me**

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me  
Upon life's way;  
Direct, protect, and feed me  
From day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor  
I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior,  
And lead the way.

2 Lord, when the tempest rages,  
I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages,  
Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding,  
I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding,  
In peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen  
And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen  
My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me,  
O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me  
Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

## Sermon

## **“Retaliation”**

# Offering

## Stand

## Prayer of the Church

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C It is meet and right so to do.**

P "Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, let us now and evermore praise God's glorious name, singing:

### Sanctus

LSB 195

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in  
the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

### Lord's Prayer

ALL

LSB 196

**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 Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 197*

**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**

*LSB 197*

**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.**

*Sit*

## **Distribution Hymns**

### **727 On Eagles' Wings**

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
My rock in whom I trust!" **Refrain**

**REFRAIN: And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,

And famine will bring you no fear;

Under His wings your refuge,

His faithfulness your shield. **Refrain**

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,

Nor the arrow that flies by day;

Though thousands fall about you,

Near you it shall not come. **Refrain**

4 For to His angels He's given a command

To guard you in all of your ways;

Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. **Refrain**

Text: Michael Joncas, 1951Text: © OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005513

## 845 Where Charity and Love Prevail

- 1 Where charity and love prevail  
    There God is ever found;  
    Brought here together by Christ's love  
    By love are we thus bound.
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear  
    His charity we learn;  
    Let us with heart and mind and soul  
    Now love Him in return.
- 3 Forgive we now each other's faults  
    As we our faults confess,  
    And let us love each other well  
    In Christian holiness.
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown;  
    Let all contention cease;  
    Be God's the glory that we seek;  
    Be ours His holy peace.
- 5 Let us recall that in our midst  
    Dwells Christ, His only Son;

As members of His body joined  
We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan  
That names the Savior's name;  
His family embraces all  
Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

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*Stand*

## **Thanksgiving**

*LSB 200*

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C and His mercy endureth forever.**

P Let us pray.  
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 in 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.**

P The Lord be with you.  
**C And with thy spirit.**

## **Benedicamus**

*LSB 202*

P Bless we the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Benediction**

*LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you  
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you  
and + give you peace.

**C Amen, amen, amen.**

## **801 How Great Thou Art**

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; Refrain

**REFRAIN Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **Refrain**

3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
    Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—  
    That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
        He bled and died to take away my sin; **Refrain**

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
    And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
    Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
        And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"  
Refrain

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**Attendance Last Week: 237**

**General giving last week: \$7045.00**

**Budget giving needed: \$7500.00**

**Calendar of Activities this week at St. John**

<b>20 Tuesday</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>21 Thursday</b>	<b>Worship Service/HC</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>25 Sunday</b>	<b>Worship Service/HC</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
25 Sunday	Bible Class & Sunday School	10:30 am

**NEXT WEEK IS OUR SOUP COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER!** Please join us after church in the school gymnasium to sample a variety of homemade soups and vote for your favorite.

**We are still looking for volunteers to provide a bread side or dessert for the event. If you are able to help, please sign up on the sheet in the back of church.**

Admission: \$10 for adults (18+), \$5 for kids, and free for ages 5 and under. Toward the end of the event (roughly around 11:30–12:00), remaining soup will also be available for \$5 per pint. **We hope you can join us for a fun afternoon filled with delicious soups and fellowship!**

**MOTHERS AND SONS ARE "WANTED"** for the PTL's Rhinestone Cowboy Night at St. John Lutheran School, Friday, January 30th from 5pm to 7pm. The cost is \$20.00 for each mom, and all sons are FREE. Wear western attire if you like and join us for Music, dancing, games, activities, food and drinks.

**THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL:** "The Passover Promise" is this week's lesson about God's establishment of the Passover. God, through Moses, threatens one final plague—worse than any

previously experienced. Following God's instructions, the Israelites make careful preparations for the Passover, marking their doorposts with the blood of a lamb prepared for the feast. The final plague takes place at midnight as all the firstborn throughout Egypt die. The Egyptians hand over their valuables, hastening the Israelites away.

**TRIVIA NIGHT- SAVE THE DATE:** The St. John PTL is hosting a trivia night Saturday evening on March 14th at (time TBD) to raise funds for the school. Please join us in the school gymnasium for this fun event. More details to come soon!

**TRUSTEE NEEDED!** Our Board of Trustees takes care of our buildings and grounds, and could really use one or two more people to help out. Please contact Pastor Rob if you have questions or are interested in helping out.

920-539-4603 or [pastor@stjohnberlin.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnberlin.org). Thank you!

**IF: GATHERING AT RIVER SHORES:** Please consider joining this one-day conference on **February 28th** for women of all ages (teens on up!) that is hosted at River Shores Church each year. The IF:Gathering exists for the women of the church & community to experience powerful biblical teaching, engage in deep conversations and be encouraged to surrender their lives in greater obedience to God. Tickets cost \$20 and lunch is included (gluten-free options available). Online registration closes on Feb 20th. Tickets at the door cost \$25. If you have any questions, talk to Paige Schrader or check out their Facebook page.

**NO REGRETS MEN'S CONFERENCE:** On Saturday, February 7 River Shores will be hosting a Christian Men's Conference. If you register online by Feb 1, the cost is \$20 otherwise it's \$25 at the door. It's an excellent opportunity to grow in your faith and to connect with some other Christian men. If you have any questions or would like someone to go with, please talk with Pastor Rob or Adam Gilmore.

**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!

**FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE USING THE SCREENS EXCLUSIVELY** and may not want or need a full bulletin...we have available in the back of church and from the ushers a "news" sheet which contains the same calendar, announcements and sermon outline found in the regular bulletin. If interested, please pick one up and see if it meets your needs.

### **RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE WEB**

#### **WWW.STJOHNBERLIN.ORG:**

Enter the CHURCH section by clicking on the left portal at the entry page. Once there, you will see tabs for access to the video recording of the weekly church service, copies of the bulletin, the newsletter, the monthly calendar, and other resources. You can also visit the St. John School web pages from a tab in the church section.

## .....

## Sermon Notes – 1-18-26 – Retaliation

- "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'" (Matthew 5:38)

- Revenge and retaliation come \_\_\_\_\_ for us; that's our first instinct when we're wronged.

- "But I say to you, Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the one who is evil." (Matthew 5:39)

- "If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." (Matthew 5:39)

- "And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well." (Matthew 5:40)

- "And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him \_\_\_\_\_ miles." (Matthew 5:41)

- The reality is that by our continual sinning, we've \_\_\_\_\_ God so much more than we'll ever be hurt by anyone else.

- "He committed no sin...When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten...He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree." (1 Peter 2:22-24)

- \_\_\_\_\_ perfectly lived each of the examples he told to us.

- I understand that Jesus' teaching sounds ridiculous and probably impossible, and for us alone, it would be! But Jesus gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ to look to. He led by example. And trusting what he did for us sinners fills us with enough love to not only not retaliate but to even submit to those who hurt us.

- It's important that we do it – acting like this changes lives, it changes eternal lives!

-Jesus taught us to not retaliate but to submit to further pain from those who hurt us. By going to the cross to pay for our sins, Jesus is the perfect example of this teaching. \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus' example, we can \_\_\_\_\_ this radical teaching even though it's hard. And through our obedience, people will catch a glimpse of Jesus.