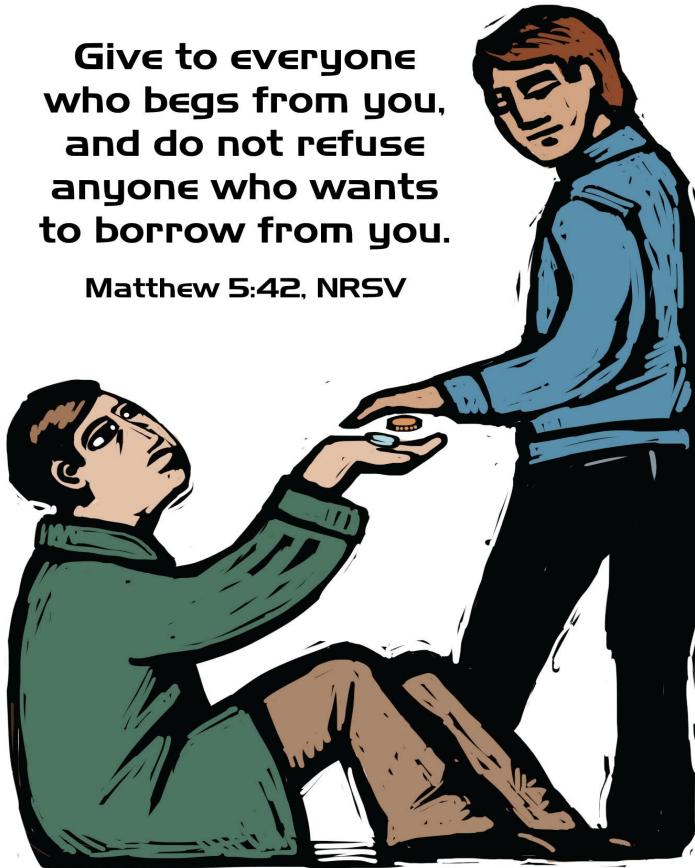


**St. John Lutheran Church & School**  
**Berlin, Wisconsin**  
**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

**Give to everyone  
who begs from you,  
and do not refuse  
anyone who wants  
to borrow from you.**

**Matthew 5:42, NRSV**



***The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 22 and 25, 2026***

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

***Large Print Bulletin***

**AS WE GATHER...** The Epiphany season proclaims and celebrates the salvation of God coming into the world as a light shining in a dark place. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah predicting the dawning of that light into the darkness of unbelief, separation from God, sin, and "the shadow of death" (Matthew 4:16). That light was and is Jesus and His message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (v. 17). It may seem like a minor detail that Matthew says Isaiah's prophetic words were fulfilled when Jesus left His hometown of Nazareth to live "in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali" (v. 13). Yet even this little fact testifies to how real the words of the Old Testament are and how they are fulfilled in Jesus, the 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**

#### **812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs**

**1 Come, let us join our cheerful songs**

**With angels round the throne;**

**Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,**

**But all their joys are one.**

**2 "Worthy the Lamb that died," they cry,**

**"To be exalted thus!"**

**“Worthy the Lamb,” our lips reply,  
“For He was slain for us!”**

**3 Jesus is worthy to receive  
Honor and pow’r divine;  
And blessings more than we can give  
Be, Lord, forever Thine.**

**4 Let all creation join in one  
To bless the sacred name  
Of Him who sits upon the throne  
And to adore the Lamb.**

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** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **Service of the Word**

### **Introit**

*Psalm 22:27–31; antiphon: v. 22*

I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the  
LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before  
you.**

For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.  
**All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.**

Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;  
**they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.**

**ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

**Kyrie** **LSB 204**  
**C Lord, have mercy;**  
**Christ, have mercy;**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**Gloria in Excelsis** **LSB 204**

**C 1 To God on high be glory**  
**And peace to all the earth;**  
**Goodwill from God in heaven**  
**Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!**

**We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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

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

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**CAmen.**

*Sit*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Deuteronomy 15:7–8*

<sup>7</sup>“If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, <sup>8</sup>but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **St. John Seraphim Choir sings on Sunday**

### **Epistle**

*Ephesians 5:1–2*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**

**LSB 156**

**C Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**C Glory to You, 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 to You, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

**C 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.**

**And 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.**

## **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      “ Taken Advantage Of”**

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

*Sit*

**Offering    St. John School Handbells play during Offering**

**Service of the Sacrament**

*Stand*

## Preface

LSB 208

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 "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 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!**

## 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.**

### **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 210**

**C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

### **Distribution Hymns**

#### **Hymn 634**

**1 The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
We celebrate with one accord;  
It is our comfort in distress,  
Our heart's sweet joy and happiness.**

**2 He blotted out with His own blood  
The judgment that against us stood;  
For us He full atonement made,  
And all our debt He fully paid.**

**3 That this forever true shall be  
He gives a solemn guarantee:  
In this His holy Supper here  
We taste His love so sweet, so near.**

**4 His Word proclaims and we believe  
That in this Supper we receive  
His very body, as He said,  
His very blood for sinners shed.**

**5 We dare not ask how this can be,  
But simply hold the mystery  
And trust this word where life begins:  
"Given and shed for all your sins."**

**6 They who this word do not believe  
This food unworthily receive,  
Salvation here will never find—  
May we this warning keep in mind!**

**7 But blest is each believing guest  
Who in these promises finds rest;  
For Jesus shall in love remain  
With all who here His grace obtain.**

**8 Help us sincerely to believe  
That we may worthily receive  
Your Supper and in You find rest.  
Amen! They who believe are blest.**

Text (sts. 1–4, 6–8): Haquin Spegel, 1645–1714; (sts. 1–4, 6–8): tr. Olof Olsson, 1841–1900, alt.; (st. 5): composite Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742 Text and tune: Public domain

### **848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service**

**1 Lord, whose love through humble service  
Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken,  
Offered mercy's perfect deed,**

**We, Your servants, bring the worship  
Not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to Your purpose  
Ev'ry gift that You impart.**

**2 Still Your children wander homeless;  
Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom;  
Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion  
Healed the sick and freed the soul,  
Use the love Your Spirit kindles  
Still to save and make us whole.**

**3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
Till Your love's revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness,  
Dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens  
Your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to tireless striving,  
Your abundant life to share.**

**4 Called by worship to Your service,  
Forth in Your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged,  
Love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,**

**That Your servants, Lord, in freedom  
May Your mercy know and live.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt. Text: © Oxford University Press.  
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*Stand*

**Post-Communion Collect**

**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.**

**Benedicamus**

*LSB 212*

**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.**

**739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

**1 Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**

**2 When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call;  
Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**

**3 When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near  
And the day is almost gone,  
At the river I stand;  
Guide my feet, hold my hand,  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993 Text: © 1938 (renewed)  
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## **Acknowledgments**

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<b>Attendance Last Week:</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>General giving last week:</b>	<b>\$8525.00</b>
<b>Budget giving needed:</b>	<b>\$7500.00</b>

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

28 Wednesday Grandparents Day at School

**29 Thursday Worship Service/HC 6:30 pm**

30 Friday Mother/Son Night @ School 5:00-7:00 pm

**1 Sunday Worship Service/HC 9:00 am**

1 Sunday Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30 am

**HUMAN CARE** will take a door collection NEXT WEEK to help provide funds for the work they do for people in need.

**THIS SUNDAY 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.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS:** If you're interested in joining our church or learning more about our Christian faith, we would love to have you join us for our next New Member class! The 8 week class will be held on Sunday evenings at 6:00PM beginning Feb 22 and ending Apr 19 (excluding Easter). If you're interested, even if you can't make every class, please contact Pastor Rob at [pastor@stjohnberlin.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnberlin.org). Current members are also welcome!

**WOMEN IN MISSION PRAYER SERVICE 2026!** Will be held at Grace on February 14, 2026 at 11:00 with a light lunch to follow. Everyone is invited to attend. Bring a friend! Prayer Service 2026 was authored by Reverend Barrie E. Henke and the theme verse is: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1Thessalonians 5:16-18. The goal of Prayer Service 2026 is: Confident that God answers my prayer, I entrust all my concerns to Him and share the joy of a confident faith with those whose lives intersect mine. Come celebrate God's love!

**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.

**EMAIL OR ADDRESS CHANGE? PHONE # CHANGE?** Please let the church office know so we can keep our records current. You may drop a note in the church office mailbox or write "CHANGED" on your next communion card and then fill in what has changed in your information. Thanks!!

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** Would you like your stewardship to be automated? St. John enables you to give your church offering by using electronic funds transfer (EFT). You may already be using EFT to have your mortgage, car payment and bills automatically paid using this method. Now your gift to God can be regular and "off the top," just like these other commitments.

There is no cost to you for this service. Just think – you won't have to write 52 checks a year! And you won't have to wonder where you put your church offering envelopes.

If you would like to participate, contact Amy Radliff by phone 920-361-1437 or by email at [theradliffs@gmail.com](mailto:theradliffs@gmail.com) for an enrollment form.

You can give weekly or monthly. Your giving is recorded at the church office and will reflect on your annual statement.

**MEN'S MINISTRY - February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5:30 pm:** Brothers, come join us for a laid-back evening! We'll start with a short Bible passage, enjoy some warm food together, and play your favorite games. Bring whatever game you love—board, cards, or anything fun—and let's connect, laugh, and grow in faith. All men welcome—hope to see you there!

## **Sermon Notes – 1-25-26 – Taken Advantage Of**

– “\_\_\_\_\_ to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:42)

-The vast majority of even the most generous people I know stop far short of following Jesus' very clear command.

-“Jesus' words should \_\_\_\_\_ our instincts, our quick reactions, our unwillingness to sacrifice.”

-Jesus is instructing us to allow ourselves to be taken advantage of.

-Instead of ignoring it, we should let Jesus' words \_\_\_\_\_ us. He's God, and we're not; we should submit to him.

-Jesus gives us another really good reason to listen to him: He led by example. He was taken advantage of to benefit us and to \_\_\_\_\_ us to follow even this difficult command.

-When we “beg” forgiveness, life, and love from God, he should look at us and say, “No, you don't deserve that.”

-In order to give us his forgiveness, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ everything; he paid the ultimate price – he gave his life!

-When you realize what you have because of Jesus' generosity, it frees you from clinging so tightly to your wealth.

– “The only limit to the believer's response in these situations is what the Scriptures and \_\_\_\_\_ impose.”

– “If Jesus' disciples will err, let it be on the side of being taken advantage of.”

-“Although an enlightened conscience must decide how to serve the other, love has already decided that one must \_\_\_\_\_.”

-Giving doesn't have to be financial. You can give time, effort, or wisdom.

-Ask yourself not, “What's best for me?” But rather, “What's \_\_\_\_\_ for my neighbor?” And whatever is best, if you are truly able, give.