



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



Welcome to Worship!

The prophet Isaiah vividly described humanity as “people walking in darkness”—completely enveloped by sin and suffering and death. And even worse, when we honestly assess the state of our minds and hearts, we find darkness there too. However, Isaiah also foretold that within this deep darkness, a light would shine, a light so brilliant that it would be impossible to miss, a light brought to life in the person of Jesus Christ.

Today, Jesus continues to shine this light by preaching repentance and the good news of the nearing kingdom. Our Savior is the Light of the world, and so we shine his reflected light onto everyone around us.

Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God’s Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother’s room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother’s room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

Bible Study

This morning, we continue our Bible study on “Knowing Jesus Better.” So far, we’ve looked at the land Jesus lived in and the claims he made about himself.

This morning, Pastor Leyrer will lead us in a look at the miracles Jesus performed. We’ll consider our modern-day understanding of the word “miracle” and how that differs from the miracles Jesus performed throughout his ministry. By looking at the four categories of miracles and walking through a comprehensive list of Jesus’ recorded miracles, we’ll gain a deeper understanding of our Savior and the compassion he showed to those around him. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on

us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on

earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

Tune: © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 8:19—9:4

The people walking in darkness would see a great light.

When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 27 (see pg. 14)

Second Reading

1 John 2:3–11

God's children walk in the light of Christ by living in love for God and one another.

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 9:2

Alleluia, alleluia. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 4:12–23⁺

As Jesus began his preaching ministry, a brilliant light shone in the darkness.

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people living in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

***Matthew:** During this church year (“Year A” in the lectionary), the Gospel is generally a selection from the book of Matthew. The author of the first Gospel is Matthew the apostle, a tax collector who answered Jesus’ call to follow him. He is also known as Levi in Mark and Luke’s gospels.

Matthew likely wrote to Greek-speaking Jews and emphasized Jesus as the fulfiller of Old Testament prophecy. The genealogy at the beginning of his book traces Jesus’ ancestry back to Abraham, thus establishing Jesus as a legitimate heir of David. Although Matthew’s audience was likely Jewish, he also emphasizes the universality of God’s grace. This can be seen in the inclusion of four women in his genealogy of Jesus, the recounting of the visit by the Magi (Gentiles), and the extending of the Great Commission to all nations.

Be seated

Anthem (Sunday)

Adult Choir

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

by Martin How

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land;
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise,
and his glory will appear upon you.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

Nations will stream to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;
by day or night they will never be shut.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

Amen.

Text: Public domain

Hymn of the Day

O Christ, Our True and Only Light

Christian Worship 904

Sermon

Isaiah 8:19—9:4

The Light Still Shines in the Darkness

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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

Be seated

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Hymn

Arise and Shine in Splendor
Christian Worship 375

Please stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Lord, You Call Us as Your People
Christian Worship 736

Announcements

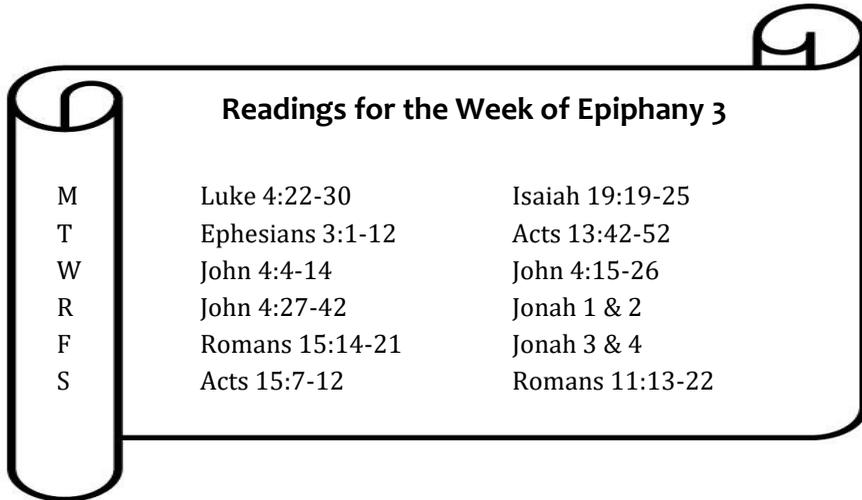
Postlude

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.



Readings for the Week of Epiphany 3		
M	Luke 4:22-30	Isaiah 19:19-25
T	Ephesians 3:1-12	Acts 13:42-52
W	John 4:4-14	John 4:15-26
R	John 4:27-42	Jonah 1 & 2
F	Romans 15:14-21	Jonah 3 & 4
S	Acts 15:7-12	Romans 11:13-22

Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Joel Schwartz

Presiding Minister

Pastor Joel Leyrer

Musicians

Marjorie Flanagan, piano (Saturday)

Lynn Kozlowski, organ (Sunday)

Adam Sipe, trumpet

Adult Choir Director

Adam Sipe

Worship Notes

- Joseph Edward Clark Jr., son of Joseph Clark Sr. and Melissa Buckler, will be baptized in our Saturday evening worship service.

In Our Prayers

- Mary Groth, whose kidney stone surgery has been delayed due to additional health issues and who is now convalescing at home.

Psalm 27

Refrain



The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of
whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Tone



Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.
Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.
I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.
Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: David Haas © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

Parents' Preview for January 29

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

"Glory to God"

After receiving forgiveness in the absolution, the congregation responds by praising the goodness of God and his eternal Word in the Gloria. This refrain is based on the song of the angels on the night of Jesus' birth from Luke 2:14.

Glo-ry to God in the high - est!

Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God! Glo-ry to God

in the high - est! Peace to his peo - ple on earth!

Tune: © 1999 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org

Pastor Eric Schroeder
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org

Pastor Joel Schwartz
joel.schwartz@sjtosa.org

Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
joshua.yu@sjtosa.org

School Principal

Mr. Dan Markgraf
dan.markgraf@sjtosa.org

Church Office

7809 Harwood Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7831
church@sjtosa.org

School Office

1278 Dewey Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-4214
school@sjtosa.org

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

sjtosa.org