



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



Welcome to Worship!

We have a holy God. He wants us to live a holy life: a life that that is wholly dedicated to him, a life that marks us as those set apart. As Jesus continues his Sermon on the Mount, he echoes God's command to live a holy life. He calls his followers to be different. But if we honestly examine our lives, we can only despair over our lack of holiness. Thankfully, Jesus lived a holy life in our place, sacrificed himself for unholy people, and loves us despite our failures. Secure in his grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit, each day we strive to live the holy lives to which we have been called.

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

"Tell me the facts and I'll learn. Tell me the truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story, and it'll live in my heart forever." This morning, Pastor Leyrer continues his study of "Knowing Jesus Better" on the topic of Jesus' parables. We'll define a parable, consider why Jesus taught using parables, introduce some tools and techniques for interpreting parables, and conclude by looking at a complete listing of Jesus' parables. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 11 & 12, 2023

The Savior's Sermon: Live a Holy Life

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

Christian Worship 873

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

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

Christ, have mercy.

For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

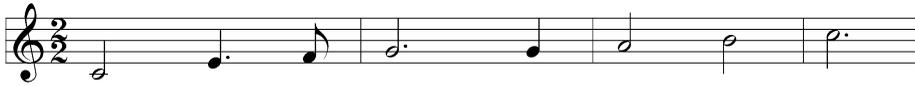
Lord, have mercy.

Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

Amen.

Glory Be to God

Gloria in Excelsis



1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;



Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
You take all hu - man sin a - way.
The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.



We praise you for your peace and grace,
For all, O Fath - er, you have done
Have mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer;
We by your Spir - it sing a - gain:



Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.
From God's right hand, your mer - cy share.
"All glo - ry be to God!" A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, in mercy receive the prayers of your people. Grant them the wisdom to know the things that please you and the grace and power always to accomplish them; 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

2 Samuel 11:1–17, 26, 27

King David's example illustrates the danger of unrepentant sin—the antithesis of a holy life.

¹In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

²One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

⁶So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. ⁷When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. ⁸Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

¹⁰David was told, "Uriah did not go home." So he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?"

¹¹Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

¹²Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

¹⁶So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. ¹⁷When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

²⁶When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 119

Refrain

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes.

Tone

Blessed are those whose ways are / blameless,
who walk according to the law / of the LORD.

Blessed are those who keep his / statutes
and seek him with / all their heart.

You have laid down / precepts
that are to be ful- / ly obeyed. *Refrain*

Oh, that my ways were / steadfast
in obeying / your decrees!
Then I would not be / put to shame
when I consider all / your commands.
I will praise you with an / upright heart
as I learn your / righteous laws.

**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***

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Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:1–12

Christians sincerely desire to live for Christ and seek to control our bodies in ways that are holy.

¹As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

⁹Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, ¹¹and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹²so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 5:2

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us
as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 5:21–37

Jesus calls us to be holy in all our relationships—especially our relationship with our God.

²¹“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²²But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

²⁵“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ ³⁴But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem (8:00 a.m.)

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grades

Jesus, I Want to Follow You

by Mary Dorn Lippert

Jesus, I want to follow you, walk in your righteous way.
But I am weak and selfish too; please help me to obey.

Savior, you know my sinful heart, those secret thoughts inside.
Keep them from growing at the start; give them no place to hide.

May ev'ry single word I speak never offend or shame,
but be a comfort to the weak and glorify your name.

Help me to do the things I should, be as I ought to be,
giving to others only good as you have given me.

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Hymn of the Day

Take My Life and Let It Be

Christian Worship 695

Sermon

2 Samuel 11:1-17,26, 27

Getting to the Heart of the Matter

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all people, that we might have confidence in our right standing before you because of the perfect righteousness that comes only from Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For this congregation, that the mercy we have received might show itself through service to our neighbors in a reflection of the love we know in our Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all Christians, that we might be granted a genuine and repentant faith that turns from our sins and trusts in Christ for forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For this country, that those whom you have placed into positions of public trust might serve honorably and be given our honor and respect, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the sick and suffering, that you might grant them relief from pain and healing for their afflictions according to your will, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

For these things and for whatever else you know that we need, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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

I Run to Christ
Christian Worship 833

Please stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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

Renew Me, O Eternal Light
Christian Worship 689

Announcements

WELS Connection

MLC Recruitment

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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+Aaronic Blessing: The blessing spoken by the pastor at the close of the service is known as the *Aaronic blessing*. These words were first given to Aaron and his sons (the priests) by the LORD and were used to bless the people of Israel (Numbers 6:22-27). Just as we began the service in the name of the triune God, so we also end the service in his name. The blessing is God’s assurance that he will go with us as we leave the church and return to the world to serve him. We speak “amen” to affirm the blessing—“so be it, it is true!”

Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Joel Schwartz

Presiding Minister

Seminary Student Matthew Rugen (Saturday)

Pastor Eric Schroeder (Sunday)

Musicians

Megan Bauer, piano (Saturday)

Lisa Eggebrecht, organ (Sunday)

Worship Notes

- The flowers are placed by the Gregory family in celebration of Elsa and Nora's 18th birthdays and by Kurt, Julie, John, and Ryan Handeland in memory of Nathan Michael, who would have been 15, in gratitude to the Savior for the eternal life he now enjoys.

In Our Prayers

- Six-year-old Sawyer Sweet, who is scheduled for a second intracranial surgery on Friday, February 17.
- Mary Groth, who is recovering at home from successful kidney stone removal surgery.
- Sue McTavish, who underwent further testing on Friday to determine the extent of her upcoming surgery.

Parents' Preview for February 19

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.

Farewell to Alleluia



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of tri-umph, sound of joy that
2 Al - le - lu - ia we are sing - ing, voic - ing hymns in
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while
4 May our hymns be filled with long - ing—hear us, Ho - ly



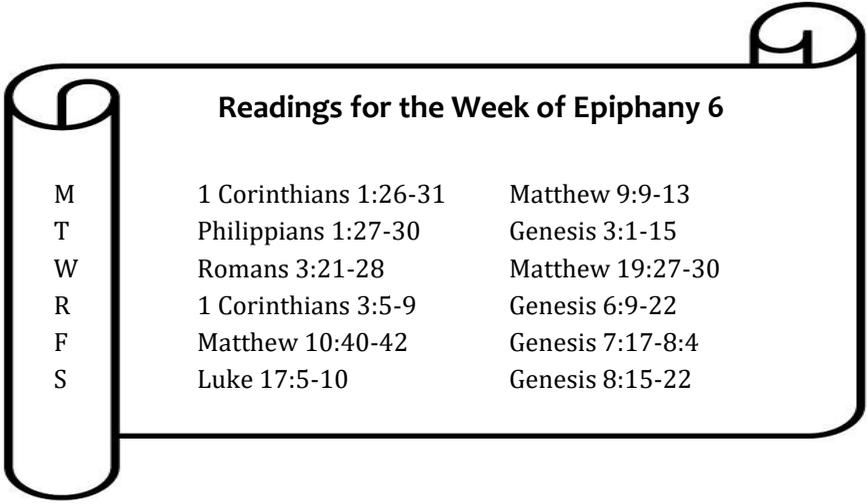
can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them
pure ac - cord, With Christ's ho - ly Church u - nit - ed,
here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions
Trin - i - ty— As we look to your blest Eas - ter,



ev - er dear to choirs on high; Saints a - dorned in
jus - ti - fied, re - deemed, re - stored, And with all his
make us for a while fore - go. For the sol - emn
here, and then e - ter - nal - ly, When we shall once



robes of glo - ry join the great an - gel - ic cry.
faith - ful peo - ple raise our songs to praise the Lord.
time is com - ing when our tears for sin must flow.
more be sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly!



Readings for the Week of Epiphany 6

M	1 Corinthians 1:26-31	Matthew 9:9-13
T	Philippians 1:27-30	Genesis 3:1-15
W	Romans 3:21-28	Matthew 19:27-30
R	1 Corinthians 3:5-9	Genesis 6:9-22
F	Matthew 10:40-42	Genesis 7:17-8:4
S	Luke 17:5-10	Genesis 8:15-22

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

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.

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
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Pastor Eric Schroeder
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org

Pastor Joel Schwartz
joel.schwartz@sjtosa.org

Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
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School Principal

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