

January 15, 2023
2nd Sunday after
Epiphany

Mt. Calvary, Upper Northfield
St. John's, Mahone Bay

Prepared By Pastor Brooklynn Lane



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Sunday, January 15, 2023

Service of the Word

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP –

Christ of the East,
Christ of the South,
Christ of the West,
Christ of the North:

We turn our hearts to you
hoping and praying for
peace and life
to dispel the shadows
of war and death.

We turn our faces to you
trusting and believing for
love and grace
to shine upon us and
to radiate to all.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray,

You are gracious and merciful, O God, slow to anger, rich in love. Receive our prayers as you have promised and uphold us by your Spirit, until all things, mended by your mercy, are made whole and well in you, through Jesus Christ, our healer and our hope.

Amen.

SILENCE

GATHERING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine - Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 671

Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvubqVV2oRk>

FIRST READING – Isaiah 49:1-7 (NRSV)

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,

the slave of rulers,
'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

PSALM - Psalm 40:1-11 (NRSV)

I waited patiently upon the Lord,

who stooped to me and heard my cry.

The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,

and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.

The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;

many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are they who trust in the Lord!

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;

you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.

And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

"I love to do your will, O my God;

your law is deep within me."

I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;

may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (NRSV)

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING – John 1:29-42 (NRSV)

The holy gospel according to John

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Be Our Light - Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 715
Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xaw7UFnow9Q>

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. * On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

Put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Bless the witness of missionaries. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world's waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways and in responding to devastating floods. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are glorified in the servants you have called. With Martin Luther King Jr., give us bold trust in you. Even when it feels like a sharp sword or polished arrow, give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In every place and time, you have sanctified your people. We praise you for the testimony of those who have died in the faith. Strengthen us as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray.
Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

SILENCE

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

CHARGE

Go out into the world in peace;
Have courage;
Hold onto what is good;
Return no evil for evil;
Strengthen the fainthearted;
Support the weak, and help the suffering;
Honour all people;
Love and serve the Lord,
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

SILENCE

BLESSING

God all mighty,
God most merciful
bless us, keep us, and give us peace.

SENDING HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light - Evangelical Lutheran Worship #866
Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnUkFpsZlw4>

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice, Give Thanks!
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Church Envelopes** for 2023 are now available for pick up at the back of the church.
- The January – February **Newsletter** is now available.
- **Council Meeting** Tuesday January 17th @ 7:45 pm.
- **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday February 5 @ 12 pm (Immediately following the church service)
- **Fellowship TODAY** following service.
- **Endowment meeting** Thursday, January 18 @ 6:30 p.m.
- **Winter Term Adult Education** Join us for a winter Education Series on Death and Dying. The series is five-week with guest speakers!
Week 2 – What is Hospice Care, Tuesday, January 17 @ 6:30 p.m.
- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins Monday, January 16. Come and worship, pray and enjoy a fellowship lunch following the services. Service schedule is:
Monday, January 16 @ 12:00 p.m. – United Baptist Church
Tuesday, January 17 @ 12:00 p.m. - Calvary Crossroads Church
Wednesday, January 18 @ 12:00 p.m. – St. James Anglican Church
Thursday, January 19 @ 12:00 p.m. – St. John's Lutheran Church
Friday, January 20 @ 12:00 p.m. – Trinity United Church

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