



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Stewardship Sunday
February 16, 2025
8 a.m. Worship



TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ... go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/> Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.

NOTE: Announcements and Prayers can now be found online by clicking on the “Church” tab and then going to “Church”

Preparation for Worship and Welcome

Hymn

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

LSB 901

Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee;
Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken;
Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

Invocation and Exhortation

P In the name of the Father and of the T 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.**

Confession and Absolution

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 119:1–2, 4–5; antiphon: Ps. 119:7

I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.

**Blessèd are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!**

Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,

**You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

**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 praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.

Kyrie



☒ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its

leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1-20

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Holy Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

**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.**

Hymn

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LSB 411

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus. (*Refrain*)

Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. (*Refrain*)

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. (*Refrain*)

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Preface

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 It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and

death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly 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 Institution

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymns

“Your Table I Approach”

LSB 628

Your table I approach;
 Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
 Let not an unrepentant heart
 Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins
 And mourn their wretched bands;
 A contrite heart is sure to find
 Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood,
 Once slain and shed for me,
 Are taken at Your table, Lord,
 In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place,
 This wondrous mystery;
 God can accomplish vastly more
 Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessèd Lord,
 That earth and hell combined
 May not about this sacrament
 Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”

LSB 729

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev’ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

“What Is This Bread”

LSB 629

What is this bread?
Christ’s body risen from the dead:
This bread we break,
This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine?
 The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
 The cup of grace
 Brings His embrace
 Of life and love until I sing!
 O taste and see—the Lord is King.

So who am I,
 That I should live and He should die
 Under the rod?
 My God, my God,
 Why have You not forsaken me?
 O taste and see—the Lord is free.

Yet is God here?
 Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
 In mouth and soul
 He makes us whole—
 Christ, truly present in this meal.
 O taste and see—the Lord is real.

Is this for me?
 I am forgiven and set free!
 I do believe
 That I receive
 His very body and His blood.
 O taste and see—the Lord is good.

Nunc Dimittis

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 spir - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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 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 and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.

C **Amen.**

Announcements (see pg. 14)

Blessing and Dismissal

P May you hand over your worries to Jesus and receive His perfect peace.
May you lay down your judgments and hold close His fresh, new mercies.

C **Bless the Lord, oh my soul!**

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

LSB 923

Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

We praise You for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heav'n appear.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Text: Public domain

General Announcements

1. Buffalo Wild Wings School Fundraiser

- a. The school is hosting a fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings on **Sunday, February 23 (all day)**.
- b. Please present a flyer to your server so we can earn 20%.
Proceeds will be used to help pay for an end of the year Circus Day for the students!

2. Euchre Tournament

- a. **Sunday, February 23 at 2pm** in the Lounge.
- b. Please sign up on the sheet in Alcove D (next to the big trophy) or on signup genius (link available on the website).
- c. Players will rotate partners throughout the afternoon of fun - no charge to play.
- d. Bring a snack to share and your own drinks.

3. Lounge & Alcove Floor Cleaning

- a. **Monday, February 17** a contractor will be stripping and waxing the floors in the Lounge and around the Sanctuary.
- b. Please plan accordingly, and thank you for your patience!

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

*Altar flowers are given in memory of
Sharon Utech and Richard Stark.*

*Pulpit flowers are given in honor of
Lowell & Ann Tolly's 17th wedding anniversary*

Ministry Staff

(989) 835-5861

sjlmidland.org

facebook.com/sjlmidland

Church Secretary: Jeff Sopcak
(ext. 1203)

Senior Pastor: Daniel Kempin
(ext. 1201)

Associate Pastor: Joshua Parsons
(ext. 1202)

Dir. of Family Life: Anna Kruger
(ext. 1204)

School Secretary: Sarah Graham
(ext. 1301)

School Principal: Brad Massey
(ext. 1300)

Business Manager: Kris Zastrow
(ext. 1206)

Dir. of Worship Music: Karen Kempin
(ext. 1205)