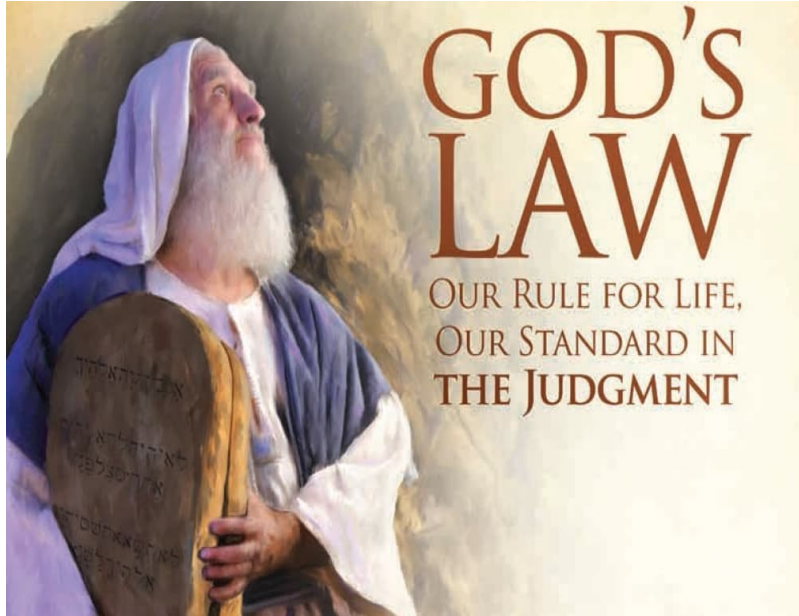




## St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod  
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9:00 - Traditional



*January 12, 2025*

# *Welcome*

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

May God bless your worship with us today,  
*Paul Kruse, Pastor*

E-mail: [paul@stjohnhl.com](mailto:paul@stjohnhl.com)

Mobile: 989-992-6030

*Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live,  
Learn, Share, and Serve'*

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of Christian faith in our community, to all generations, wherever they may be'*

## **First Sunday after Epiphany**

**Divine Service One** (pp 151ff)

### **Prelude**

### **A Time of Preparation**

### **Welcome and Sharing of the Peace**

### **Opening Song**

**"Stand Up for Jesus"** LSB 660

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross.  
Lift high His royal banner; It must not suffer loss.  
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead  
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished,  
And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey;  
Stand forth in mighty conflict In this His glorious day.  
Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger  
And strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone.  
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.  
Where duty calls or danger,  
Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long;  
This day the din of battle, The next the victor's song.  
The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see  
And with the King of Glory  
Shall reign eternally.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818–88, alt. Text: Public domain

### **Invocation**

LSB 151

**L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

- ℣ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- ✠ **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- ℣ Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination*

- ℣ Most merciful God,
- ✠ **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- ℣ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✠ **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

- ℣ Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
- ✠ **my chosen, in whom my soul delights.**
- ℣ I will tell of the decree:
- ✠ **The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.**
- ℣ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
- ✠ **and the ends of the earth your possession.**
- ℣ You shall break them with a rod of iron
- ✠ **and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**
- ℣ Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
- ✠ **be warned, O rulers of the earth.**
- ℣ Serve the Lord with fear,
- ✠ **and rejoice with trembling,**
- ℣ for his wrath is quickly kindled.

- C** Blessed are all who take refuge in him.
- C** **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.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy** *(Sung)*

*LSB 152*

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise** *(Sung)*

*LSB 154*

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
- C** **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Let us pray together...
- C** **Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

<sup>1</sup> And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

<sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. <sup>6</sup> And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

<sup>8</sup> They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia *Sung*

LSB 156

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

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:17-20

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and

earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

## Apostles' Creed

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

## Children's Message

### Message Song "Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" *LSB 707*

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways

To keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace

To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word

And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord,

But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,

A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget Thy way,

Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.  
Make me to walk in Thy commands—  
'Tis a delightful road—  
Nor let my head or heart or hands  
Offend against my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Text: Public domain

## Message

## “For Your Own Good”

## Offering

*Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.*



## Offering Song - Sung

LSB 159

- ☐ What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- ☐ 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.**

## Blessing

LSB 166

- ☐** 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.



**☐** A - - men.

## Closing Song

## “Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” *LSB 655*

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,  
Send peace and unity on earth;  
Support us in our final strife  
And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

### Acknowledgments

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