



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

8:15 a.m.~ spoken

10:30 a.m.~ sung liturgy

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

610-277-1086

Staff:

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker, Director of Music

Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family

Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator

Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director

Katie Myers, Webmaster

Laura Smeltzer, Bookkeeper

Laura Soda, Church Office Assistant

pastorstjohnbluebell@gmail.com

lawrencebaker22@gmail.com

rayhopkins1802@gmail.com

annlb609@gmail.com

carrie@stjohnsns.com

stjohnbluebell@gmail.com

stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com

stjohn1802@gmail.com

Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 257 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2026.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Parents with young children: Please know that your children are welcome and cherished in worship! Wiggles and all! If you find a need to step out with them during worship, we have arranged a special Prayer Ground in the Great Room down the sanctuary stairs. At 10:30, the service is streamed onto a screen above that area so you can continue to worship.

This service is live-streamed on the church's YouTube page.

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003832.

One License authorized user, number A-725585

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©2026, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Order for Worship

Welcome

Prelude~ "Those Who Are Wise"

Chancel Choir

Those who are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament;
And those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Text: Daniel: 12:3; Music: Carl Schalk

The assembly may rise.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,
C: **you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn~ "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a bass line on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

Greeting

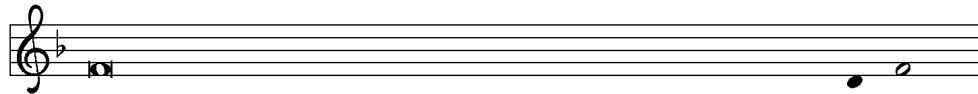
- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

(8:15) spoken responsively; (10:30) sung



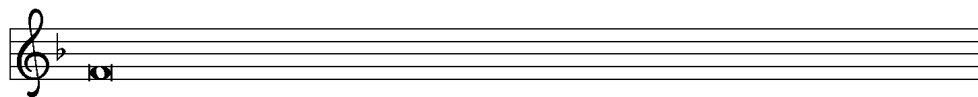
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



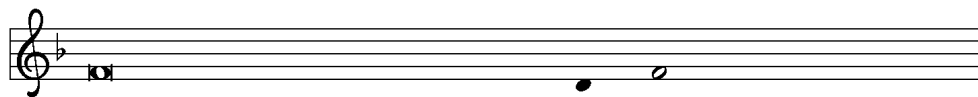
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



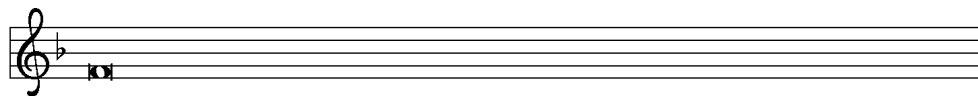
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



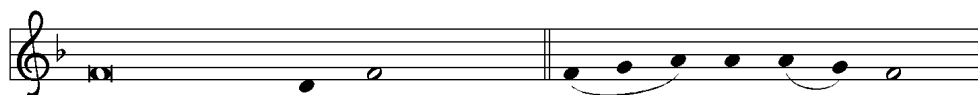
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



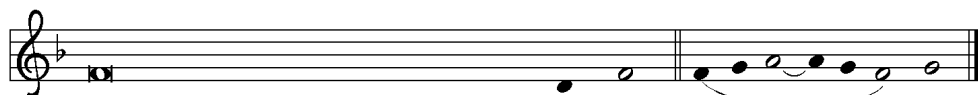
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

(8:15) Gloria

P: Glory to God in the Highest!

C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

(10:30) Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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.



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.



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. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

A: The first reading is from Isaiah.

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.
You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

[If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.]

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(8:15) Psalm 112:1-9 [10] *(Spoken responsively)*

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the Lord
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

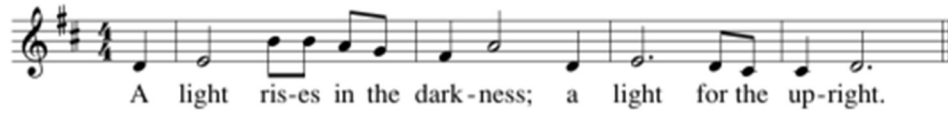
⁶ **For they will nev- | er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the Lord.

⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;
 they will hold up their | head with honor.
 [¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;
 the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.]**

(10:30) Psalm 112 (Cantor, then ALL)



Verses

1. They are lights in the darkness for the upright;
 they are generous, merciful and just.
 Good people take pity and lend, they conduct their affairs with honor.
2. The just will never waver, they will be remembered for ever.
 They have no fear of evil news; with firm hearts they trust in the Lord.
3. With steadfast hearts they will not fear. Openhanded, they give to the poor;
 their justice stands firm for ever. Their heads will be raised in glory.

Text: Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9. © 1963, 1993, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL.
 Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

A: The second reading is from First Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
 nor the human heart conceived,
 what God has prepared for those who love him”—

God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

[And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.]

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly may rise.

Gospel Acclamation



Choir: Jesus says, I am the light^l of the world;* whoever follows me will have the^l light of life. (John 8:12)

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: [Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks 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. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly may be seated.

Following a time of silence for reflection, the assembly may rise.

Hymn of the Day~ "Christ, Be Our Light"



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Apostles' Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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

A: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

A: Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to lands full of strife and violence. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving. We pray especially for: Ron, Calvin, Roger, Maria, Carolyn, Rosemary, Angelo, Tony, Cheryl, Liz, Andy, Greg, Sivan, Joan, Corey, Kevin, Ruth, Rob, Matt, Bongchun, Bill, Jimmy, Lance, Stacey, Sean, Eleanor, Marie, Greg, Nan, Joshua, and Robert. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leader, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Pastor: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*The assembly **may be seated after sharing peace.** If you have not already done so, we ask that members and visitors please take a moment to fill out the communication slips located in each pew and place them in the offering plate.*

Meal

Anthem~ "Walk in the Light"

Chancel Choir

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.*

Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the newborn King." Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hail the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Jesus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the Light of the world.

Text: George D. Edlerkin (refrain), Charles Wesley (stanzas)

Music: Traditional, arr. Andre Thomas

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*We are grateful for your support of St. John. Here are the ways to share tithes and offerings:
-You may make use of the offering plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary, or scan this QR code to use Square.*



Scan to give an offering.

-Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Laura Smeltzer, our bookkeeper, to arrange this. Her email address is stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com.

For communion: We practice a "standing station" distribution of communion. An usher will indicate to you when it is time to come up. They will have empty cups for you to take if you are to have wine, and proceed down the center aisle. First, receive the wafer from pastor, putting your hands out. Then, if you are receiving wine, hold up your empty cup to the pouring chalice to receive the wine. Grape juice is in the tray beside the cup in pre-filled cups. Younger children or anyone not receiving are welcome to come up for a blessing from the pastor. You will return to your pew from the side aisle. Christ is the host of this meal, his real presence in bread and wine, and **all are welcome at the table.**

The assembly may rise.

Offertory Prayer

P: God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

(8:15) spoken responsively; (10:30) sung

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

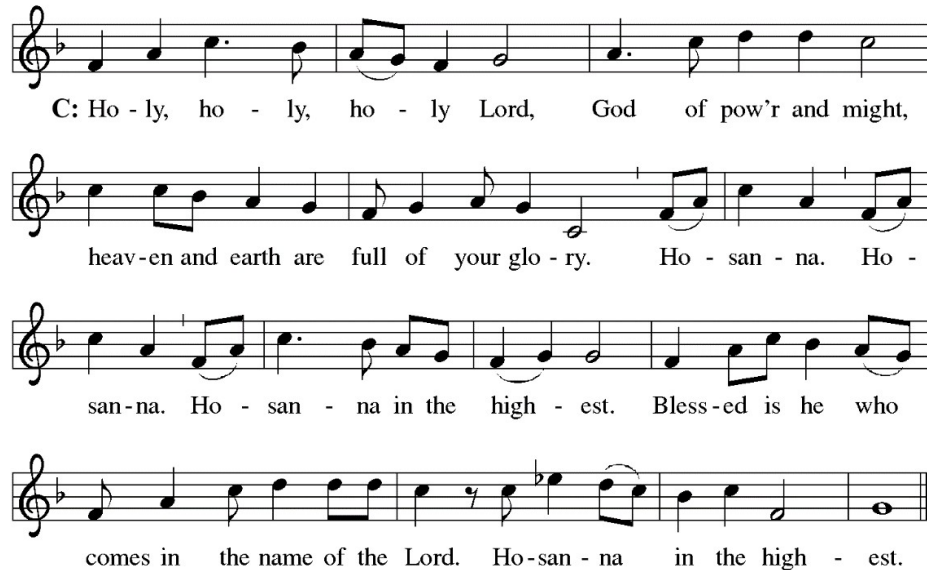
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy

(8:15) spoken; (10:30) sung



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to boldly pray:

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Communion Canticle ~ Agnus Dei

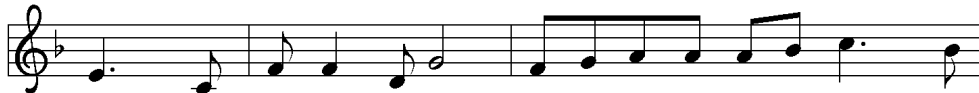
(8:15) spoken; (10:30) sung



C: Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

The assembly may be seated. The meal is shared.

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

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

Post Communion Blessing

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

P: Radiant God,
 we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
 In the sacrament of his body and blood
 you have drawn us to your heart.
 Send us from this table with delight,
 that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
 and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

P: May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn~ “Rise, Shine, You People!”



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Postlude~ “Rise, Shine”

John Ferguson

Assisting with Worship

Pastor	Pastor Rachel Manke
Director of Music	Lawrence Baker
8:15 Usher	
10:30 Usher	
8:15 Lector	Tia Schwab
10:30 Lector	Arianna Greyson
8:15 Communion Assistant	
10:30 Communion Assistant	Andrea Greyson
8:15 Acolyte	Michael DiDomenico
10:30 Acolyte	
Video Technicians	Phil Wood, Adam Kiefski, Xavier Mitchell, & Megan Kiefski
Counters	Dave Ochocki and Patti Whitcomb

*Our full prayer list is printed on a separate piece of paper which is available near the bulletins. Names will remain on our list for **a month and then be removed**. If you want to be sure that someone remains there, contact the church office.*

This Week at St. John...

Sunday, Feb 8

8:15 Worship
9:15 Adult Class
10:30 Worship

Monday, Feb 9

10:00 Quilters

Tuesday, Feb 10

5:45 Cub Scouts

Wednesday, Feb 11

1:30 Visual Arts Class

Thursday, Feb 12

12:15 Pastor's Bible Study
10:00 Visual Arts Class
6:30 Bell Choir
7:30 Chancel Choir

Friday, Feb 13

10:00 Visual Arts Class
6:30 Boy Scouts Troop 98 [FH, MPR, YC]

Sunday, Feb 15

Scout Sunday!
8:15 Worship
9:15 Adult Class/Sunday School
10:30 Worship
7:30 The Arts at St. John's Concert



Scan this QR code to see the church calendar on our website.

Happening at St. John

Scout Sunday - Once again we welcome our resident scouts as they join us on **Sunday, February 15** and celebrate "Scout Sunday" with us in worship and by making us pancakes between services! What excellent timing with Ash Wednesday being days later. (Remember the tradition of having pancakes the day before?) Join us!

The Arts at St. John's Upcoming Concert: Transfiguration Vespers ~ *Glory Fills the Night* – Sunday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m. We gather in the evening before our Lenten journey begins. Join us for an expanded setting of Evening Prayer as part of *The Arts at St. John's* as we sing and ponder the mountaintop experience with the disciples in scripture and song. The service concludes with a moving Farewell to Alleluia. Invite a friend and share this evening experience together.

Ash Wednesday - Our usual Ash Wednesday evening service this year will be a on **February 18th at noon and 7 pm** (*note the earlier evening time*). This year we are hosting our neighbors of the S.P.A.M. Ministers group to get the Lent series started. Our liturgy will be our usual and we will host the traditional soup supper at 6 pm before the service. Can you help with the soup supper? Make soup? Organize bowls and such? There is a sign-up sheet in the Great Room.

Lenten Services - We will once again join our neighbors of the S.P.A.M. Ministers group and their congregations for weekly Wednesday Lent services at each other's churches. The theme for preachers this year is "Encounters with Jesus". **Lenten services at 7pm at the following locations and dates:**

- 2/18 – St. John Lutheran in Blue Bell
- 2/25 – Trinity UCC in Skippack
- 3/4 – Methacton Mennonite in Fairview
- 3/11 – Wentz's UCC in Skippack
- 3/18 – Bethel Hill UMC in Lansdale
- 3/25 – Trinity Episcopal in Blue Bell

Save the Date: Chili Cookoff Fundraiser - Mark your calendars for a youth fundraiser on **March 7th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** A panel of judges will select one winner, and attendees will vote to determine a Crowd Favorite. Information on the event and details about who the cooks are will be provided later this week on the event on Facebook, and keep an eye out for event posters going up this week. We have 4 chefs confirmed but still room for any aspiring chefs, but hope to see as many people as possible on March 7 to help us raise funds for the youth programs at St. John. Cash prizes for Judges' Choice and Crowd Favorite.

Altar Flowers - Remember that YOU can sponsor our weekly flowers for Sunday worship. They are not actually in the budget, so your sponsorship is helpful. Celebrate an occasion, remember a saint of yours, etc. \$30 is the cost. The sign-up sheet is at the base of the stairs in the Great Room.

Pastor's Thursday Bible Study - Our Thursday Bible Study continues this week at 12:15 pm. Bring a bag lunch! Regular attendees take turns bringing a special treat to eat. We are studying the book of ACTS. Join us.

News and Info

Snow Policy - We thought we might communicate a plan for cancellation and communication should there be weekend snow again. The plan is that by 7:00 am on Sunday we will send out an email and post on Facebook if we are CANCELLING services (one or both - and include any changes to morning classes). If you don't get an email or see a posting on our Facebook page you might assume that we are on. As best as we are able we will livestream anything that goes on in person.

Annual Ministry Meeting - Please note that our annual February ministry meeting will be held on **February 22nd**. We will have ONE SERVICE that day at 9:30 am and following will be our usual brunch and meeting. Voting members especially, plan to attend to hear where we've been and where we are headed as a congregation and ministry. **Committee reports were due to the church office by Feb. 5th**. Please email stjohn1802@gmail.com if you still need to submit your report.

Giving Envelopes - Just a few envelopes remain for pick-up! Please reach out to Laura Smeltzer, bookkeeper, at stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com if you have not picked up yours.
Thank You - Thank you from the staff for remembering us at Christmas with your generosity!

Sanctuary Heat Update - Good news on our ongoing heating issues in the sanctuary and Troster Room - we are on the schedule for repairs in the coming weeks!

2026 Summer Youth Trip — Gettysburg (July 12–17) - This summer we're returning to Gettysburg for a week at the seminary! In 2026, we'll be partnering with the seminary and participating in **Theological Education of Youth (TEY)**—a program that blends service, fun, and opportunities for youth to dig deeper into their faith. All youth in the confirmation program through completed 12th grade are invited. For details, please contact Ray.

Bulletin Announcements & Weekly Email - *To request the inclusion of an announcement in the bulletin, please contact the church office by Monday of that week. To request inclusion in the weekly email, contact Katie Myers by Monday of that week.*



Scan this QR code to receive our weekly email newsletter!