

# Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26 and 27, 2025



Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure



198 Westridge Avenue, Burlington, Wisconsin  
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Pastor Kirk Lahmann | Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

## **Welcome to Worship**

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

## **Prepare for Worship**

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord’s Supper, read through the “Christian Questions” on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

## **Seasonal Theme for Epiphany – Epiphany Moments**

Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently, and better. Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.

## **Today’s Focus for Worship – Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure**

When you are trying to share some important information with someone, but they refuse to listen or perhaps totally reject what you are saying, it feels like you have failed. This is especially true when someone rejects the gospel! This week’s epiphany is that rejection is not proof of failure. When someone rejects God’s Word (including us), that rejection is proof that God’s Word powerfully cuts straight to the heart of mankind’s biggest problem—sin. Yet, what causes Jesus’ words to hurt is what gives them power to heal. That reality encourages us to receive God’s Word with joy and to proclaim it boldly to others.

## **Serving at Worship**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Preacher: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Accompanist: Stephen Radsek

## **Acknowledgments**

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# The Service

## *Setting Two*



### Opening Hymn

Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him | 619  
*10:30 and Monday: Please stand to sing the final stanza.*

### Holy Baptism (8:00)

Grayson Allan Kopecky  
*Christian Worship: Hymnal, p. 151*

### Invocation

*Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### Confession and Absolution

*1 John 1:8-9*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy** *Kyrie*

*Matthew 15:22; 17:15; Mark 10:47*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



8:00: The service continues here after the baptism. Please remain standing.

## Glory Be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. 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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



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.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. 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. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**



## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; 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

Isaiah 61:1-6

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup>and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

<sup>4</sup>They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. <sup>5</sup>Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. <sup>6</sup>And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

I Will Praise the LORD All My Life | 146-A

## Second Reading

Acts 4:23-31

<sup>23</sup>On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. <sup>25</sup>You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’

<sup>27</sup>Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup>They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. <sup>29</sup>Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. <sup>30</sup>Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

<sup>31</sup>After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:18



*Refrain*



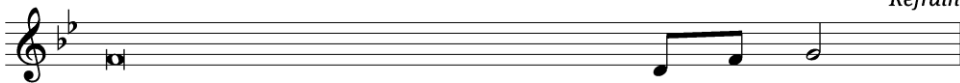
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Tone*



The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

*Refrain*



because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.



<sup>16</sup>He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup>Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup>He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

<sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

<sup>24</sup>“Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup>I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup>Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup>And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

<sup>28</sup>All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day**

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness | 517

**Sermon**

Isaiah 61:1-6

Everything Is Better With Jesus

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed** *Credo*

*Matthew 16:15; Luke 12:8; 2 Corinthians 4:13*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**Prayer of the Church**

*Psalm 146:2*

Father of glory, you are the Lord of light. Banish the darkness of sin, guilt and fear from our lives and let your light shine forth. We will praise you, O Lord, all our lives.

**We will sing praise to you as long as we live.**

Your Son, Jesus, has done and spoken all things well. Open our ears and minds that we take his Word to heart and apply it to ourselves. Create us anew in your image. We will praise you, O Lord, all our lives.

**We will sing praise to you as long as we live.**

Enable your servants to speak your Word with great boldness. Bring your Word of judgment and of forgiveness in Christ to those who have not heard it. Change hearts and create faith through the name of your holy Servant Jesus. We will praise you, O Lord, all our lives.

**We will sing praise to you as long as we live.**

We give you thanks for the gift of life. Move our hearts to mercy for the helpless, the unborn, the sick and the aged. Let your peace guard our hearts and minds, and let your love move us to defend those who cannot defend themselves. We will praise you, O Lord, all our lives.

**We will sing praise to you as long as we live.**

Give your guidance and blessing to those who teach your Word, pastors and teachers in Christian schools and Sunday schools. Give them skill to proclaim your Word plainly, and to draw people to yourself. We will praise you, O Lord, all our lives.

**We will sing praise to you as long as we live.**

You uphold the cause of the oppressed, give food to the hungry and sustain the helpless. Hear our prayers for those in need, or who struggle with health. Stretch out your hand to heal. Lift up those who are bowed down. We will praise you, O Lord, all our lives.

**We will sing praise to you as long as we live.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Merciful Lord, Comforter and Teacher of your faithful people, increase in your Church the desires you have given. Strengthen the hearts of those who hope in you, and show them the depth of your promises. Lead all your adopted children to see with the eyes of faith, and help them wait patiently for the light that is now hidden; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

*Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.*

# The Sacrament



Stand

## Preface

*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136:1*

The Lord be with you.



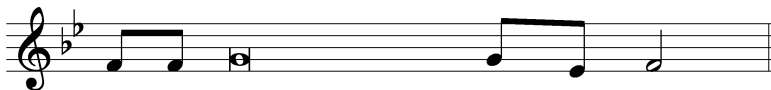
**And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts.



**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

# Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Matthew 26:26*

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

## Words of Institution *Verba*

*Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

# Jesus, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

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

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

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

*Be seated*

## Holy Communion Distribution

*St. John's Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of St. John's, or members of a church in fellowship with St. John's, come forward for Communion. Our pastoral staff would be happy to set up a time to discuss this, and any teaching of Scripture, with you.*

## Distribution Hymns

Arise and Shine in Splendor | 375  
I Come, O Savior, to Your Table | 670

*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Blessing** *Aaronic Benediction*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing | 932