



SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 7, 2021 † 9:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances.

We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.



St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — Two settings of NETTLETON

Michael Burkhardt, David Cherwien

Welcome and Announcements

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P *A reading from Second Corinthians:*

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old
has passed away; see, everything has become new!

We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters
of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers,
the Cannon and the Mississippi, dew and rain, ice and snow.

C **In these saving waters, you shine the light of your promise on us.**

P You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you.
Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us.
In Christ's death and resurrection you joined your life to ours forever.

C **In these saving waters, you shine the light of your promise on us.**

P You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.
In baptism we are born again to become your people,
one with the body of Christ throughout the world.

C **In these saving waters, you shine the light of your promise on us.**

P Through these waters refresh us; renew us in your promise so that we may
serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

***Gathering Hymn — “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” (#843) NETTLETON**



Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn-ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two-edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, © 1987 Hope Publishing Company; Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*

***Greeting**

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

***Prayer of the Day**

- P** Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.
Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news
may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

L The word of the Lord.

© Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 147:1-11, 20C

Antiphon: Abraham Maraire, Zimbabwe

Antiphon: Hallelujah!



¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

**²The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.

**⁴The LORD counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names. *Antiphon***

⁵Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts | up the lowly,**
but casts the wicked | to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,

⁸**who covers the heav- | ens with clouds**
and prepares rain for the earth,
making grass to grow up- | on the mountains.

⁹God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,**
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} | *Hallelujah! Antiphon*

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Mark 1:29-39

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

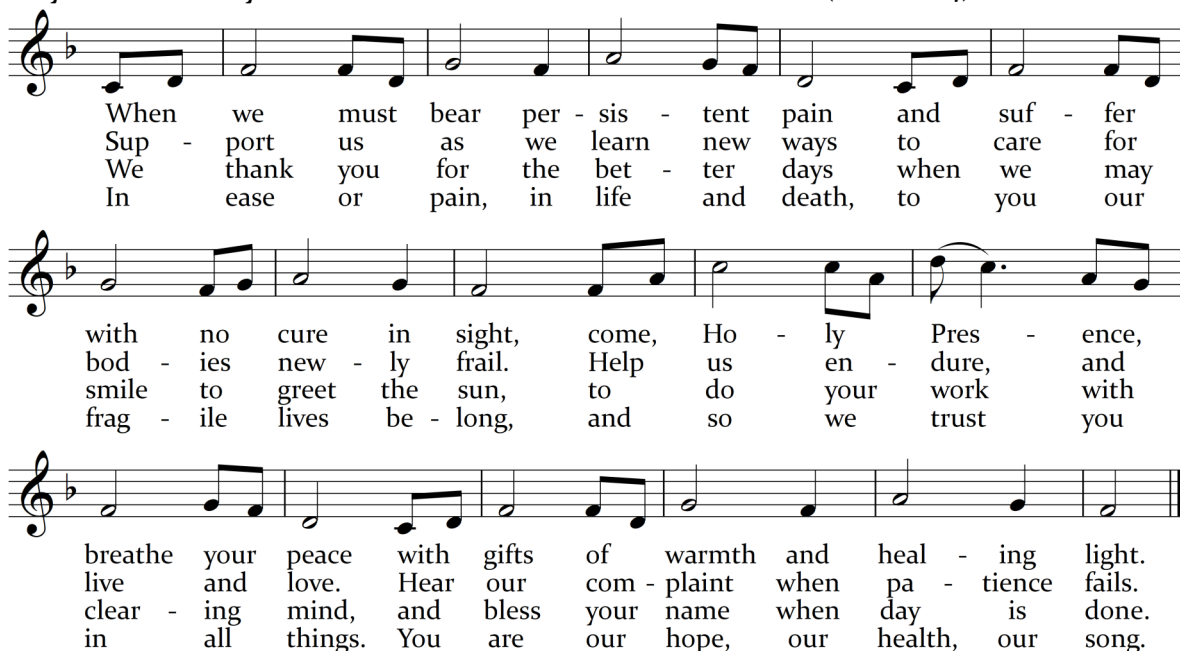
G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “When We Must Bear Persistent Pain” (ACS #1014) PROSPECT



When we must bear per - sis - tent pain and suf - fer
 Sup - port us as we learn new ways to care for
 We thank you for the bet - ter days when we may
 In ease or pain, in life and death, to you our
 with no cure in sight, come, Ho - ly Pres - ence,
 bod - ies new - ly frail. Help us en - dure, and
 smile to greet the sun, to do your work with
 frag - ile lives be - long, and so we trust you
 breathe your peace with gifts of warmth and heal - ing light.
 live and love. Hear our com - plaint when pa - tience fails.
 clear - ing mind, and bless your name when day is done.
 in all things. You are our hope, our health, our song.

Text: Ruth Duck, © 2005 GIA Publications; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*

*Apostles' 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**

After each petition:

- Ⓐ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☛ **hear our prayer.**

***Peace**

- Ⓐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☛ **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“Variations on NETTLETON”

Undine Smith Moore

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

- Ⓐ Holy God, Light of the universe,
Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,
we hear your Word in the Scriptures,
proclaiming to us your wisdom
and inviting us to follow your call.

Your Word came among us in Jesus,
our brother, who preached your righteousness,
healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted.

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word,
that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

- ☛ **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

 Amen.

***Sending Hymn — “Arise, Your Light Has Come!” (#314)**

FESTAL SONG



A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -
A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born, bind
A - rise your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, © 1992 GIA Publications; Music: William H. Walter

***Dismissal**

ℒ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

🔊 Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Maestoso” from *Sonata No. 3*

Felix Mendelssohn



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S TODAY:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Presiding | Pastor Pam Fickenscher |
| Preaching | Pastor Jonathan Davis |
| Assisting Ministers | Rob Quanbeck and Dawn Tommerdahl |
| Organist | Nathan Proctor |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art from *Icon 1*, with additional “quilting” by Judy Swanson

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Chuck Jacobson by Marilyn Jacobson. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Next available dates: April 25 and May 2, 9, 16 & 30. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Mardi Gras Drive-Thru

Sunday, February 14, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Let's celebrate the start of the Lenten season with a Mardi Gras Drive-Thru at St. John's! From your car, check out the stations along the way (listed below). The event starts at the corner of Poplar and Third Streets with a Welcome Greeting. Stops along the way:

- **BINGO Hunt/Mardi Gras Bells and Beads**—Begin at the Welcome station and pick up a Drive-Thru BINGO card, Mardi Gras bells, and beads.
- **Children's Activity Packet for Lent**
- **Children's Mardi Gras Mask Craft**
- **Hide "Alleluia" Craft for All**
- **Heart-Shaped Sugar Cookies**
- **Valentine Treat Bags**
- **Pancake Toss Game**
- **Easter Card Project**—Send Easter cards to St. John's members. Stop by and receive an addressed envelope, card, and instructions from the Adult Ministry & Education Board.
- **CAC Food and Essential Items Donation Drive**—Drop off items for the CAC/St. John's Blessing Box. Check out what items are needed most at: <https://communityactioncenter.org/files/CAC-5-Most-Wanted-Flyer.pdf>.
- **Northfield Promise Children's Book Drive**—Donate new and/or gently used books for Northfield children, ages birth—8th grade. February is "I Love to Read" month. Northfield Promise wants to build the supply of books for distributing to children during spring and summer breaks, as well as support teachers by supplying their classrooms with new and diverse titles. Content Bookstore has created a link with a wish list for easy sharing and online ordering.
- **Bread for the World**—Offering of Letters to support Bread for the World's mission to end world hunger.
- **St. John's Quilters**—Donate sheets/fabric to make quilts/bandages for LWR. Ready to sew kits for making a quilt top will be available to take home too.
- **Blessing and Sending with St. John's Pastors**—Pick up a daily devotion book for the season of Lent.

Announcements (continued)

Update from the Safe Operating Task Force

The Safe Operating Task Force, in light of improved infection rates, is allowing for small group meetings of up to 10 people in St. John's beginning February 1, with physical distancing rules observed. All groups meeting in the building must schedule with the church office by calling 507-645-4429 or contacting Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

The Adult Ministry & Education Board is pleased to offer members and friends of St. John's the opportunity to participate in the annual Lenten book read.

This year's book is *A Cross in the Heart of God: Reflections on the Death of Jesus* by Samuel Wells. The Canterbury Press Lent book for 2021 focuses on the significance of the story at the very center of Christianity: the crucifixion. Samuel Wells writes as a theologian and pastor to explore the cross in the purposes of God and how this act brings about salvation.

- Please email stjohnsadultministry@gmail.com to let us know if you or others in your household are interested in participating in one of the book groups. Or, you can go to CCB and complete the Lenten Book Read Interest form on the St. John's website: <https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/51/responses/new>.
- Ordering the Book: We encourage you to order your copy of the book through Content Bookstore in Northfield. Please order as soon as possible, as it will take approximately one week for the book to be ready for pick up once ordered. You will also need to pay for the book at the time of your order. The cost of the paperback is \$20.99. It is available for Kindle devices for \$15.99.
- Meeting Times: We anticipate that there will be two discussion groups. A third group may be added if responses warrant. Each group will meet four times between February 21—March 14. The book group facilitators will follow up with you about preferred meeting day and time. As a reminder, Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 28.

Thank You for supporting the Blessing Box at St. John's!

The Blessing Box is located on the north side of St. John's and contains hygiene and food products as a "stop and go" location for anyone needing a helping hand. It's been a busy site this and the need is great at this time! All donations have been greatly appreciated. Items that go quickly are: toilet paper, hand soap/sanitizer, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant and feminine products, as well as take and eat food items. Feel free to donate items directly to the Blessing Box. Questions? Email Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolates and Thistle Farms Hand Soaps

Contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to place your order for contactless delivery.

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

John Alsaker, Eric Nicholson, Dorothy Ostlie, Gordon Smith, Howard Thorsheim

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marlene Engstrom, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson, Becky Ness,
Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Joan Carlson, Richard Olson, Virley Brown

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;
Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania;
Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (February 14):

Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12 † Psalm 50:1-6 † 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 † Mark 9:2-9

This Week At-a-Glance

*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts
on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).**

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--|
| Monday, Feb. 8 | 12:00 p.m. | Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom |
| Tuesday, Feb. 9 | 10:00 a.m. | Staff Meeting via Zoom |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Church Board Meetings via Zoom |
| Wednesday, Feb. 10 | 10:00 a.m. | Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Confirmation for Grades 6-9 via Zoom |
| Thursday, Feb. 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom |
| Friday, Feb. 12 | | No Scheduled Activities |
| Saturday, Feb. 13 | | No Scheduled Activities |
| Sunday, Feb. 14 | 9:00 a.m. | Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Virtual Sunday School via Zoom |
| | | Virtual Youth Group via Zoom |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Coffee Hour via Zoom |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Mardi Gras Drive-Thru |

Worship with Us on Sundays via Livestream

Worship at 9:00 a.m. is livestreamed via our website.
We hope you'll join us via livestream or radio on KYMN.

Video of the service will still be available on the website later in the week.



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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Northfield, MN 55057

507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry

Tim Byers, Facility Manager

Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager

Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator

Christy Hall-Holt, Welcome Ministry Coordinator

Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse

Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir

Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants

Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.