

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
229 South Broad Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
570-398-1676

Sunday, January 15, 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany



**Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.**

### **Introduction to the Day**

*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

## **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **PRELUDE**

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,  
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,**

**forgive us,  
that we may be reconciled to one another  
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass  
and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: *Christ, Be Our Light 715***

**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.**

**Hymn of Praise: *Here I Am, Lord 574***

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever,  
that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow  
you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Isaiah.

**First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7**

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant’s ultimate assignment is to bring news of God’s victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.  
<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword,

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
<sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”  
<sup>4</sup>But I said, “I have labored in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,  
and my reward with my God.”

<sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—  
<sup>6</sup>he says,  
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
“Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse.

**PSALM:** Psalm 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently upon the LORD,  
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,**

**and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;  
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they who trust in the LORD!**

**They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

<sup>5</sup>Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us,  
none can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can  
count.

<sup>6</sup>**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;  
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not  
required.**

<sup>7</sup>And so I said, “Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

<sup>8</sup>**‘I love to do your will, O my God;  
your law is deep within me.’ ”**

<sup>9</sup>I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

<sup>10</sup>**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your  
faithfulness and your deliverance;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great  
assembly.**

<sup>11</sup>You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;  
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

L: A reading from First Corinthians

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

*Though God’s church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother  
Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ  
Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the  
name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has  
been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in

speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p. 142**

*Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

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

**Gospel:** John 1:29-42

*John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

<sup>29</sup>[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"<sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup>And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup>He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked

at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON “What Are we Looking For?”**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *This Little Light of Mine* 677**

**APOSTLES CREED ( p. 105 at the beginning of the hymnal)**

**Prayers of Intercession**

A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Bless the witness of missionaries (*synodical mission starts and missionaries supported by the congregation may be named*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world’s waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways (*especially*) and in responding to devastating floods. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need (*We pray especially for . . .*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You are glorified in the servants you have called. With Martin Luther King Jr., give us bold trust in you. Even when it feels like a sharp sword or polished arrow, give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**A:** Lord, strengthen our partnership with our sisters and brothers in Christ in our companion synod, the Ansbach-Würzburg Kirchenkreis. May we learn of ways we can connect with one another and share in the ministries of our savior, Jesus Christ, by letters, visits, worship, and song. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A:** In every place and time, you have sanctified your people. We praise you for the testimony of those who have died in the faith. Strengthen us as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

## **Responding in Love**

### **Our Offering of Music**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Here's My Life*

### **OFFERTORY**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**A:** Liberating God,

you break the bonds of injustice

and let the oppressed go free.

Receive these offerings in thanksgiving

for all your works of merciful power,

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144** *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

**Dialogue**

**Preface by the Pastor**

**Holy Holy Holy**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**Words of Institution**

We give you thanks, Father,  
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
whom you sent in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,  
through whom you created all things,  
and in whom you take delight.  
He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.  
He there took on our nature and our lot  
and was shown forth as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.  
He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people;  
he stretched out his hands in suffering  
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,  
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,  
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,  
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,  
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection,  
we take this bread and cup,  
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy  
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;  
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**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**

**SIT**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

**COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond Amen.*

**COMMUNION SONG** *Lamb of God You Take Away p. 146*

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION** *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

(repeat twice)

*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,*

*Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Holy One,  
we thank you for the healing  
that springs forth abundantly from this table.  
Renew our strength to do justice,  
love kindness,  
and journey humbly with you.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **BLESSING**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice  
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,  
today and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: *Jesus Calls Us: O'er Tumult* 696**

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Remember in prayer:** Rowan Aldridge, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Joann Hall, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, the Snyder family, Charles and Candace Welshans, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton – ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and we pray for peace in Ukraine and an end to war.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this week's helpers: Lector –Theresa Levins; Assisting Ministers –Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Bob Wehler; Teller –Brayden Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor— Cynthia Breon; Children's Church—Cathy Eisner;

Next week's helper: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers—Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Bob Wehler; Teller –Brayden Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon;  
Flowers --

The flowers on the alter are in honor of Brayden Wehler's birthday by his family.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored in January in honor of choir members and organists.

The Lutheran Church Women's Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597      Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH** meeting after church today to discuss luncheon for Pastor's 30<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary.

*My sincere and grateful thanks for the Christmas gifts received from the congregation, choir and other members of the church. Happy New Year! Becky*

**Annual Reports** -are PAST DUE!

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is Sunday, January 22, 2023 with a brunch being planned.

**Christian Education** is seeking volunteers to lead Children's Church once a month. If interested please see Cathy Eisner. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays are open.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RESUME NURSERY.** We are in need of adult and teen volunteers to supervise toddlers/babies in the nursery during church. Please contact Molly Hollick, or Ken Dougherty if you would be willing to help out or have any questions. Our hope is to get enough volunteers to have a monthly rotation cycle.

**Annual Offering Statements** are available in the tower of the Church. Please pick up yours and any relatives to save us postage.

Volunteers are needed to sponsor the weekly **flowers**. A sign-up sheet is on the wall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor elevator tower. It's neon green and set up for the whole year. Sign up for the Sunday you want!

**Your 2023 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Tower of the Church. Please pick up yours and any of your relatives. Only a small number of people use envelopes but it is an important stewardship tool. If there are no envelopes with your name on, please contact Laurel Gottschall for envelopes. It costs us \$3.60 to mail one box of \$1.30 envelopes. Please save us money and pick up your envelopes or give electronically. Forms are available from the office or you can give on-line via the Vanco app.

**SAVE THE DATE!** February 19 we are celebrating Pastor's Ordination Anniversary! 30 years! The Bishop will be here and a luncheon is being planned.

**GROW in the Snow Looks at Baptism:** All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend this synod youth retreat on March 17-18. The theme of this year's will be baptism. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and the number of youth attending. To register contact Pastor Aucker or Mrs. Eisner. A flyer and registration form are coming soon!

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, January 15, 2023

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany*

8:30 p.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

*Martin Luther King Weekend*

10:30 a.m. Women of the Church meeting

2:00 p.m. Catechism

Monday, January 16, 2023

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Christian Ed Meeting

7:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship. You are invited to attend.

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time at Shore Diner

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, January 22, 2023

8:30 p.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

10:30 Congregational Meeting and Brunch

ISAIAH SEEMS  
REALLY DOWN IN  
THE DUMPS. "I  
HAVE SPENT MY  
STRENGTH FOR  
NOTHING?"



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

HE WAS DOING  
HIS BEST WORK  
AND SEEING  
NOTHING IN  
RESULT!



THIS CAN TEMPT US TO  
DESPAIR AS WELL - WE DO  
WHAT WE CAN TO SHARE  
JESUS AND YET HAVE  
NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.



ARE YOU KIDDING?  
HAVE YOU SEEN OUR  
"LIKES"?



ISAIAH 49:1-7

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