

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

309-949-2516

January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The order of worship is based upon Divine Service Setting Three, Lutheran Service Book p. 184.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7; antiphon: v. 10

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

whose sin is covered.

Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, on back of bulletin

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

Praise the Lord, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 8:1-13, on back of bulletin

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse of the Day

Mark 1:22a

- P** Alleluia. They were astonished at his teaching,
C for he taught them as one who had authority. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:21-28, on back of bulletin

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

After the reading

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 565 Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ



- 1 Thy works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad-ness to this heart;
2 Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my bruised soul;
3 Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the crushing load
4 Thy death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ransom due;
5 Thy right-teous-ness, O Christ, Alone can cover me;



- They tell me all is done, They bid my fear depart.
Thy stripes, not mine, contain The balm that makes me whole.
Of sins that none could bear But the incarnate God.
Ten thousand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.
No right-teous-ness avails Save that which is of Thee.



Refrain
To whom save Thee, Who canst alone For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** O Holy Trinity, You are God of gods and Lord of lords. Truly, there is no God but You alone. From You are all things. Reveal the saving knowledge of Christ's truth to us and all the world, that we may love You and one another. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** O Lord, our God, whose voice was heard at Sinai and whose authority was made manifest in Christ, the Prophet greater than Moses, send faithful preachers into Your harvest who will be diligent to listen to Your Word and speak it faithfully in Your name. Preserve us from false prophets who would lead us away from Your truth, and give us ears to hear gladly the saving words of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.
- P** Heavenly Father, guard our families and build them up in love. Support parents in their task of instructing their children, strengthen those whose faith is weak, and make us bold to forego convenience and security to attest the truths of our most holy faith with heart and action. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, give health and success to our president and governor, our legislators and judges, and all who serve for our governance and protection. Make them high in purpose, wise in counsel and steadfast in duty. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, Your Son cast out unclean spirits for He is the Great Physician of body and soul. Thank You for stabilizing Donald and please continue to give him healing as You know to be best. Have mercy on those who are sick, distressed, in danger or facing any need, especially Lonnie, Linda, Joseph, Pam, Paula, Jim, Don, John, Lois, Betty, Justin, Delores, Arlyn, Derek, Harley, Lillian, Lynne, Clinton's Family, Crystal, Carol, Fred, Jodi, Glenn, Mike, Virginia, Jim, John, Marilyn, Casey, Jim, Laurie, Drew, Kathleen, Glenda, Kelly, Carolyn, Carolyn, and Karen. Sustain them with patience, trusting in Your merciful care, and graciously relieve them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Dear Lord, look with favor on all today who eat and drink Jesus' body and blood that they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and renewal of life, and so receive a foretaste of the heavenly feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn on next page.



Hymn to Depart: 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
 2 Come, heav'n - ly Bride - groom, Light di - vine, And deep with - in
 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in Your Son You loved us when



own truth and light, A - glow with grace and mer - cy!
 our hearts now shine; There light a flame un - dy - ing!
 from God a - bove A ray of pur - est plea - sure.
 not yet be - gun Was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's son, Our Lord and mas -
 In Your one bod - y let us be As liv - ing branch -
 Your Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood Re - fresh our souls
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love To live in Him



ter, You have won Our hearts to serve You on - ly!
 es of a tree, Your life our lives sup - ply - ing.
 with heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
 here and a - bove: This is Your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, All vic - to - rious,
 Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us
 Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing



Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 And dis - tress us, Yet with heav'n - ly joy You bless us.
 For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
 Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!

Hymn continues on next page.

- 5 O let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 Our voices gladly blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Great is He, the King of Glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 The Lord we love is first and last,
 The end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 Transport us to that happy place
 Beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 For the day of Your returning!

At this time the live streaming of the service will end. If anyone does not feel comfortable receiving the Lord's Supper at this time they are welcome to depart. The worship concludes with the Service of the Sacrament.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C **It is meet and right so to do.**
- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with

angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Institution

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.
C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

C **Lord, now let Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C **and His mercy endures forever.**

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Today we receive the gift of Holy Communion. Communion is an expression of faith and agreement. If you're our guest this morning, we don't want to place you in a position of agreement with our beliefs before you've had opportunity to study them. Therefore, if you're not a member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to speak with our pastor about this special opportunity, and request that you not partake of the Communion today. Thank you.

Acknowledgements

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Hymn 395: Tune: Public domain

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The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 31, 2021

Sermon Text: Mark 1:21-28 (Gospel)

Other Texts: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (Old Testament Reading); 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (Epistle)

“Jesus’ Amazing Teaching with Authority”

The Father’s grace, mercy, and peace, fully manifested in His Son Christ Jesus, be yours through the Holy Spirit’s gift of faith.

It is early 31 AD. After John the Baptist was imprisoned, Jesus began His Great Galilean Ministry which, tragically, began with His rejection in His hometown of Nazareth. However, the Christ was undaunted, and so, as we heard in last week’s Gospelⁱ, He called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to not only follow Him in faith, but to leave their current vocation (fishermen) and to follow Him physically, for He will soon call them, along with others, to be fishers of men, His apostles. Now with them, Jesus enters Capernaum, Peter’s hometownⁱⁱ, and likely that of Andrew, James, and John as well, making it His base of operations. (Side note: while he was not yet called, Capernaum is also the home to Matthew (Levi) and perhaps James the Less too).

Jesus and His disciples attended the synagogue on the Sabbath, in faithful obedience to the Third Commandment, so that they could hear God’s Word in reading and in teaching, as well as joining in prayer. However, since entering His public ministry at His baptism, Jesus, as a rabbi (teacher), would now read the lessons and give the sermon. And while the specifics of this sermon are not recorded, we know two things about it. First, it would have built upon the basics which St. Mark recorded previously, summarizing Jesus’ preaching, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”ⁱⁱⁱ Second, we know that whatever the specifics of this sermon may have been, as always, His teaching astonished them, for He taught as one who had authority.

What was this authority? First, we realize that Jesus’ authoritative teaching is contrasted with the teaching of the scribes. To some extent, this is a condemnation of the scribes, for they would simply quote earlier scribes as their authority as they droned on and on about periphery details of the ceremonial law, getting caught up in minutia, majoring in minors, too regularly missing what was really important, the fullness of the Law and, more the grace of God which was so beautifully revealed in the books of Scripture. Yet, there is more to be said.

It is true that Jesus did not quote earlier rabbis, but it wasn’t as if He just avoided them *per se*. No, He taught from Scripture, but not as an interpreter, but as its *source*, as the Lord who first gave it; “You have heard it said, but *I* say to you.”^{iv} Truly, as the incarnate Son of God, He taught with unique grace, with perfect doctrinal discernment matched by great zeal which no merely human preacher, not even the greatest, could compare. So also, as the Holy Spirit works on the hearts and minds of the hearers of the spoken Word, no hindrance to the Spirit’s work was present due to the preacher, for Christ’s teaching was perfect in every way. And so in Jesus of Nazareth the Lord’s promise of old through Moses is fulfilled, the raising of a prophet from amongst the people of Israel, the last and greatest Prophet, the Messiah.^v

And so it is in Jesus that the Psalm is fulfilled, “Grace is poured upon your lips.”^{vi} Again, it is of Jesus that Isaiah prophesied, “He made my mouth like a sharp sword,”^{vii} referring to His proclaiming the fully fury of the holy Law, as well as, “The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary,”^{viii} denoting His speaking all the comforts of the Gospel which flows from His saving work.

As briefly mentioned, Jesus proclaimed the coming of the kingdom of God. But this proclamation was something else as well, *a declaration of war*. For since the Fall into sin this world became the bastion of the kingdom of darkness over which the devil rules as its prince, yes, even its god.^{ix} But with the coming of Christ, the kingdom of the true God has come in the person of the King Himself, the Son of God. The King who has come to destroy the works of the devil and, ultimately, the devil himself.^x So while humans were astonished by Jesus’ teaching, quite a different response came from hell’s hosts, *fear*. “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”^{xi}

Our Lord permitted, even required as part of His saving work, that Satan tempt Him after His baptism. And there Jesus faced off against the devil as the second Adam, a true man with nothing more than the armor of God. And there He triumphed *as one of us for us*, fulfilling for us what Adam and we fail to do. But in today’s event, He reveals what the coming of God’s kingdom is the driving back unto the final defeat of Satan’s tyranny. God has come in the person of a man, so the devil does what he is capable of, aping God, offering a mere imitation of the incarnation by sending his demons to possess people, using and abusing in both body and soul those whom God had made in His image to satisfy their wickedness and spite God. But faced with the “real thing” in Jesus, the demons can only tremble, “Have you come to destroy us?”

The fact that the demons always know who Jesus is shows that they are connected to the spiritual realm, able to perceive that which is beyond our normal senses. At the same time, it reminds us that faith is more than mere knowledge about Jesus, for the demons know who Christ is, know that God is one, and knowing such can only tremble in fear!^{xii} Thus faith in the sense that Scripture uses it, that is, saving faith, includes knowledge, yes, but also *trust in the one who is known*, that is Jesus of Nazareth. Faith believes, *knows and trusts*, in what the demon perceives and fears: that the man Jesus is the Holy One of God, the promised Messiah and Savior, the King in whom God’s kingdom has come, who does war with the devil in order to free us from sin’s chains and hell’s eternal fire. A battle that was won by His life, death, and resurrection.

We see both how the demon tries to resist the Lord, yet cannot because of Christ’s omnipotence. We see how it tries to hurt the person whom it come out of, yet cannot because of Christ’s grace. And so we see Satan’s work undone through Christ’s Word which is filled with His power and Spirit. The Word which will, on the Last Day, eternally condemn the demons to the fires of hell that burn spirits as well. No wonder the demons shudder in fear!

Yet, *at least the demons* shudder. For how many who claim to be Christians hear the doctrine of Jesus and in some sense admit that Jesus “is God,” is “the Savior,” even is “the Judge,” yet, their life reflects as much resistance as, yet far less fear than, *the demon* in this text! For when Christ’s Word comes to them through His called ministers, calling them to repentance, to turn from their sinful ways, like the demon, they say, “What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth?” That

is, “Who do you think you are to tell me that I must confess that I am wrong and so adjust my life, change what I am doing?” And so they readily confess the sins *of others*, using such as an excuse for their continuing in their own filth, doing such under the influence of demonic temptation, not realizing that the demon who tempts them is terrified of the day of Judgement. The day which such “Christians” falsely think is only for demons and others.

Oh God grant that we shudder in holy fear of Christ’s Judgment, recognizing the truth of the Law’s condemnation of our sins and so readily crucify our sinful nature and all the filth that spouts from it! Doing such out of holy fear which is wrapped together with love for God and absolute trust in Christ’s forgiveness of our sins of which we repent. Doing such in the power of the Holy Spirit who, as God, fills us so that the demonic spirits cannot, so that we may be and so live as God’s children and not as Satan’s playthings to be brutalized now and destroyed forever.

The people were amazed at Jesus’ authority in His teaching, an authority which shined even brighter through His miracles, especially His power over the unclean spirits. So astonishing was all this that they declared it to be a “new teaching.” In some ways this is sad, for the teaching of the defeat of the demons and salvation by God’s grace through faith in the Messiah goes back *to the Garden of Eden*, thus the fact that it seems *new* is at least somewhat of a condemnation of the scribes who had covered it up under their empty doctrines and false teaching of works righteousness.

Yet, there is no doubt that it is also new in some ways. For what was once merely prophesied, that the Prophet who speaks the fullness of God’s Word would come, did at last come in Jesus, the incarnate Word of God. The Word that speaks deliverance over Satan, exorcising the demons, for it is He who wins the victory over Satan for mankind upon the cross, paying for our sins and thereby removing the shackles with which Satan had bound us.

Dear Christians, this authority that Christ exercised is not a past tense, but is a very present one. For Christ gave His apostles His authority and so, through them, His Church. The Church’s ministers do not speak under their own worthless authority, but bear the very authority of Christ Himself. The Word we preach, while certainly not as astonishing as when spoken by Christ Himself, conveys His authority, having the full power of His Holy Spirit who works through it. It still speaks His judgment upon us and our sins, and all who ignore it will be forever condemned by that Word. But it also speaks His Word of forgiveness, the Word of Absolution having the authority of Christ over the demons, for where sins are forgiven, the devil is driven. And where the devil is driven, *new life* is given. New life in freedom from sin’s rule and Satan’s power, new life that lasts forever in glory. For sin, death, and the devil all cry out in fear, “Have you come to destroy us?” And Jesus’ answer is quite simple, “Yes, for the sake of my people!”

May this teaching remain new to us always, amazing us as it fills us with the strength of spirit to resist the defeated devil’s temptations, as well as the hope of the final triumph of heaven. Amen!

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- ⁱ Mark 1:14-20 was last week's Gospel.
- ⁱⁱ It is generally agreed that Peter's house in Capernaum has been found by archaeologists.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Mark 1:15. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.
- ^{iv} E.g. see Matthew 5:21-22.
- ^v See Deuteronomy 18:15, part of the Old Testament Reading.
- ^{vi} Psalm 45:2.
- ^{vii} Isaiah 49:2.
- ^{viii} Isaiah 50:4.
- ^{ix} John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4.
- ^x 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14.
- ^{xi} Mark 1:24.
- ^{xii} Cf. James 2:19.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Rev. Timothy Nerud

309-949-2516 (Office)
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Pastor

+In God's Grace—In God's Service+

Elder: Aaron Raschke
Videographer: Joel Werling
Ushers: Don Hock, Andrew Hock, Josh Hock
Organist: John Neumann

Today's Readings: Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

WE PRAY: Since Satan always recognizes You and quakes before You, Jesus Christ, keep us who are his natural prey faithful to You, and so dwell in us continually that when Satan comes tempting us to despair, Your presence in us bests him and keeps us safe; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen.

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday) 9 am—12 pm
(Thursday) 9 am—12 pm & 1 pm—4 pm
(Wednesday & Friday) please call ahead.

LIVE STREAMED SERVICES are available on St. John's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and posted on Monday on the church website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org found under the 'Sermon' tab and

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—9 Adult Bible Class—12 Worship—35

OFFERING

Offering last week \$4,738.34
Weekly Budget needed \$3,967.56

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today 8:45 am SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
10:00 am Divine Worship/Communion
11:00 am Quarterly Voter's Assembly
Wednesday 5:00 pm Confirmation
Thursday 6:00 pm Elders' meeting
7:00 pm Men's Bible Study
Next Sunday 8:45 am SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
10:00 am Divine Worship/Communion

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and seek him in his temple. Psalm 27:4

MARK 1:22 – "And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes." Authority is a word we are sometimes afraid of and don't like to hear. But that's just our sinful flesh talking. Jesus' authority is something we need. We need him to show us what to believe and how to live, for Jesus' authority is always connected to his love.

PLEASE CHECK the attendance sheet for you and your family members, marking each one attending the worship service and taking communion when being served. Thank you for your help.

QUARTERLY VOTER'S ASSEMBLY is **TODAY**. This meeting will begin promptly after the worship service. Your voice is needed. Please plan to attend.

NEW FLOWER CHART has been put up. Please help with donating flowers for a Sunday. The cost is \$20. You will find yellow envelopes on the flower chart to be used for your donation. Please list the special event and date you wish to give flowers. Also, sign the flower chart next to the appropriate Sunday. The flowers will be ordered and picked up for you.

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS are in your church mailboxes or mailed to those not currently attending. Questions on these statements can be directed to Terri in the office.

CAMP CILICA—It is time to think about summer camping. Information of summer camps is on the bulletin board between the mailboxes. Early Bird Discount registration is going on now until March 31. **DON'T MISS OUT!**

PRAYER MINISTRY

Give thanks as you pray.

MISSION—*Pray for discernment, that we might heed God's call to serve in His name, whether around the world or right here at home.*

ST. JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs. David Schmedt—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Dave and Denise and ask your blessing on them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Drew Schillinger	Jim Rahn	Carolyn Wildermuth
Arlyn Helke	Lois Esterlein	Lynne Johnson
Derek Helke	Lillian Hock	Jim Dahl
Carolyn Werner	Betty Firch	John Erdman
Paula Chapa	Fred Magerkurth	Linda Aper

Andrew Hill, Sarah, John, Daniel (2019/2020 Seminary Student)

Don Eggers (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)

Mike Miller (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Jon & Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former St John Laborer For Christ)

Pam Bennett (friend of Dan/Roselyn Maeltzer)

Karen Wright (wife of Pastor Gary Wright)

Virginia Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)

Casey Powers (husband of Lisa (Bear) Powers)

Kelly Wechsler (cousin of Bob Wechsler)

Kathleen VanDeRostyne (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Joseph Baamonde (Friend of Paula Mooney)

Clinton Kane Family (son of Sandy Kane)

Jim Neumann (father-in-law of Brad Gehn's son)

Harley Hepner (cousin of Sarah Hock)

Delores Gonion (mother of Michele Barry)

Glenn McAdam (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Justin Fowler (son of Kathy & Kurt Gehn)

Lonnie Anderson (employee of Brad Gehn)

Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)

Carol Leaneagh (sister of Jan Dahl)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy & Richard Davila (daughter & son-in-law of Dale & Linda Aper)

Luke & Nicole Thompson (son & daughter-in-law of John & Kindra Thompson)

Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford)

Tyler Hynes (nephew of Mark Ague)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Flynn)

Zachary & Tiffany Gardner (nephew & wife of Bob & Lois Esterlein)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

On the March for Life: "We've shown up to celebrate and safeguard each one from the unborn to the elderly and everywhere in between ... We're leaning in to bring joy to the desperate and hope to the endangered. We're reaching out to take community and opportunity even amid adversity. We're marching forth to give courage and compassion. We've united today not simply to leave a sordid past behind but to leap ahead into a splendid future." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. Matthew 7:28-29



And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, . . . Matthew 28:18