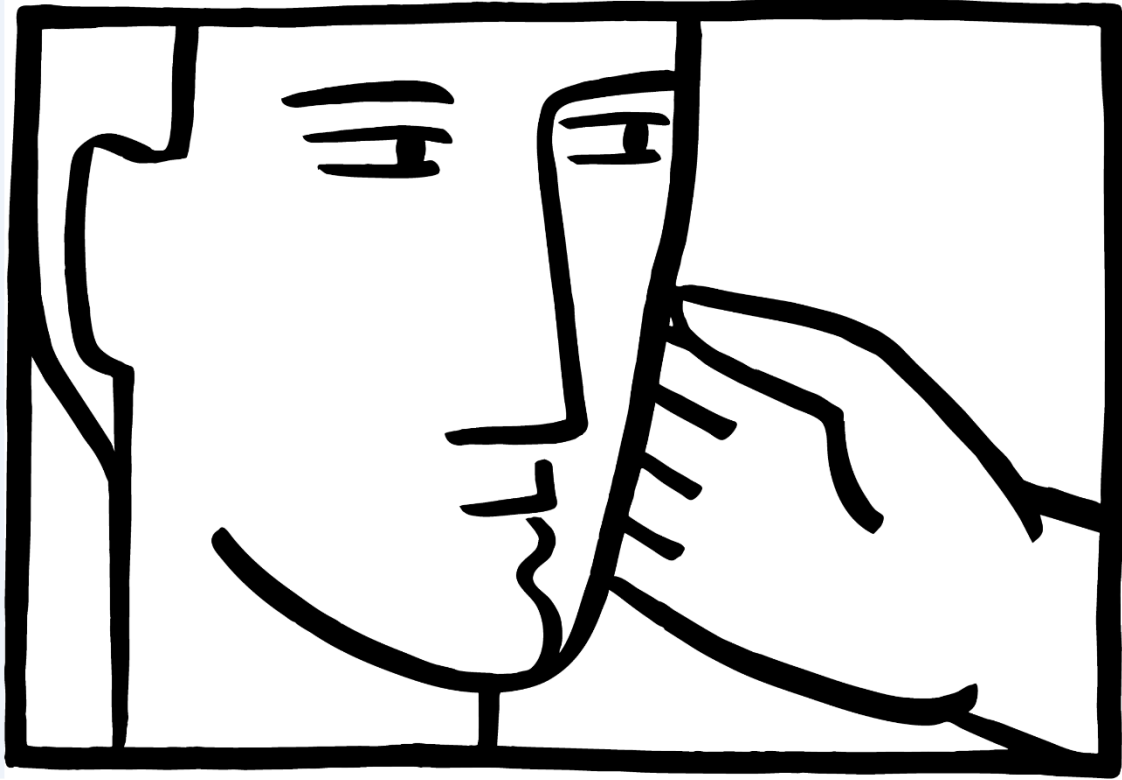


ST. JOHN'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4629 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Maryland 20853



Sunday, February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



A Reconciling in
Christ Congregation

GATHERING

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

*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,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life
Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors.
we resist your call to oppose injustice,
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your loving kindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In † Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! loves me still, though I'm ver - y weak and ill;
 4 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 from his shin - ing throne on high, comes to watch me where I lie.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

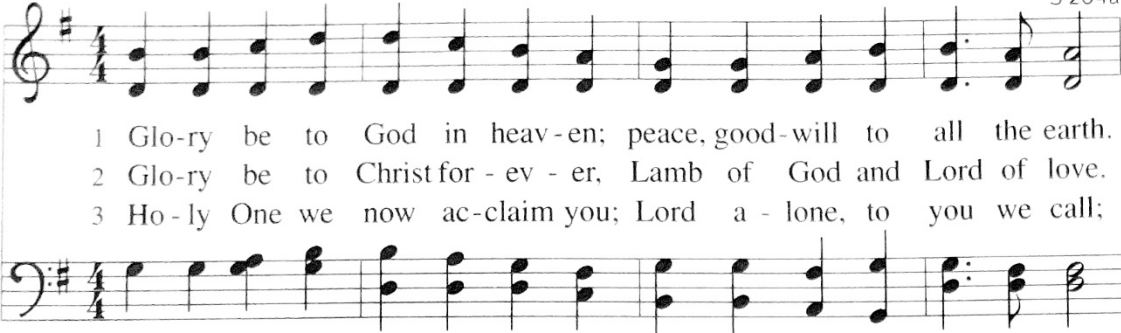
Greeting

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

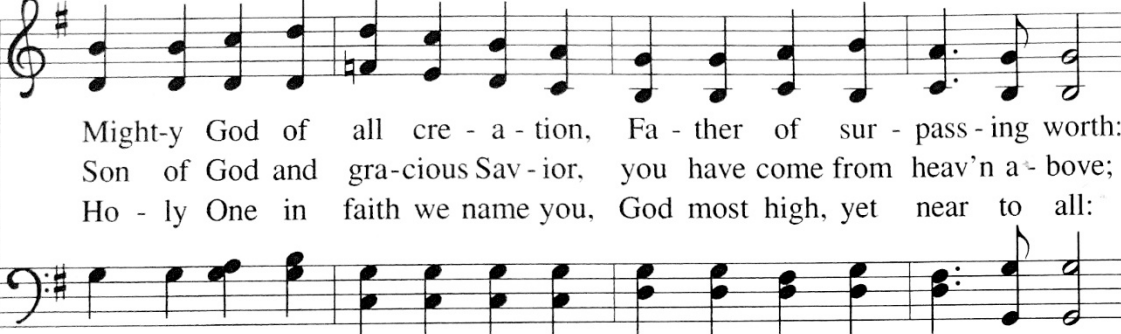
And also with you.

Glory to God

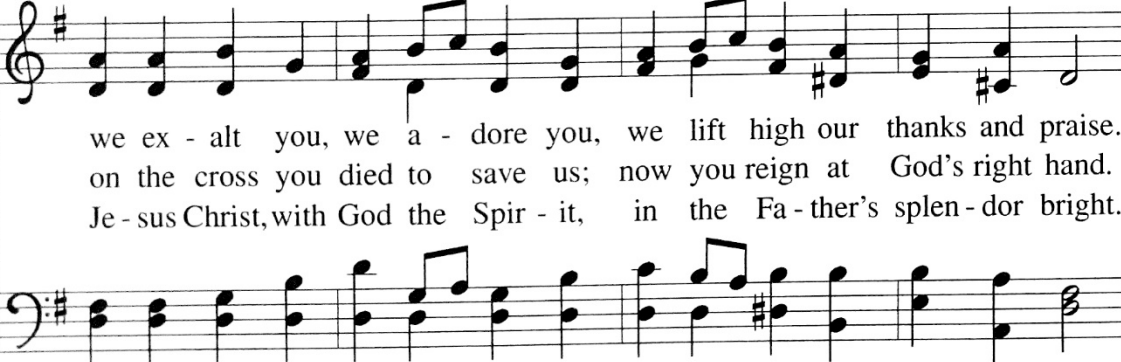
S 204a



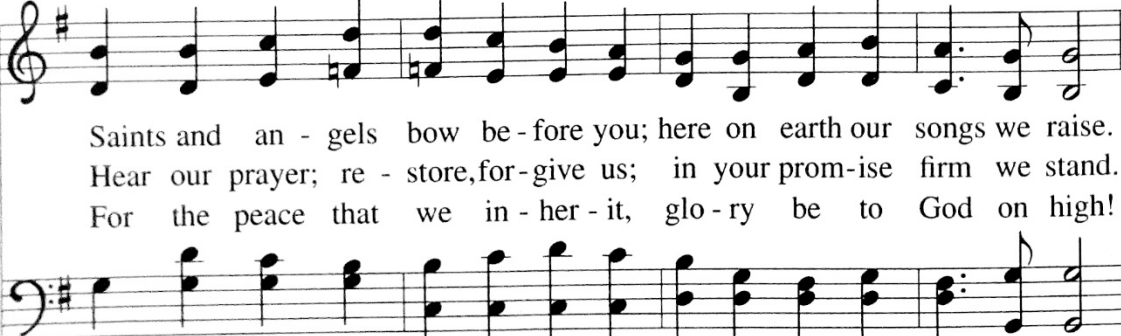
1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

† Prayer of the Day

Let us pray -

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace,
that where there is hatred,
we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon,
and where there is despair, hope.

Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand,
and to love in your name, for you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WORD

First Reading

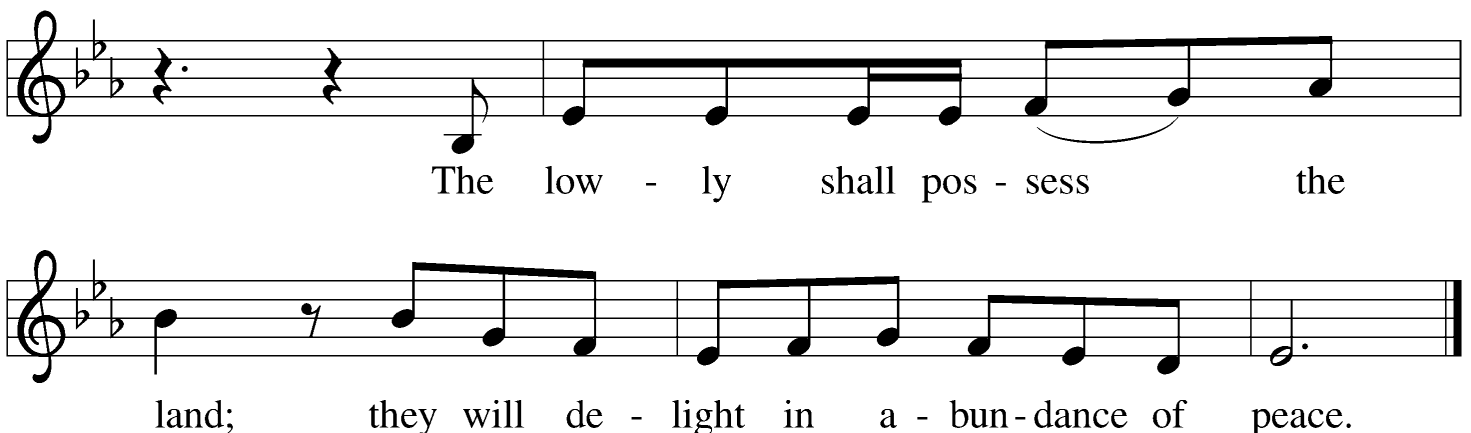
Genesis 45:3-11, 15

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Psalm 37 (Refrain 2)

Nancy Raabe



The low - ly shall pos - sess the
land; they will de - light in a - bun - dance of peace.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*
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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

S205a

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

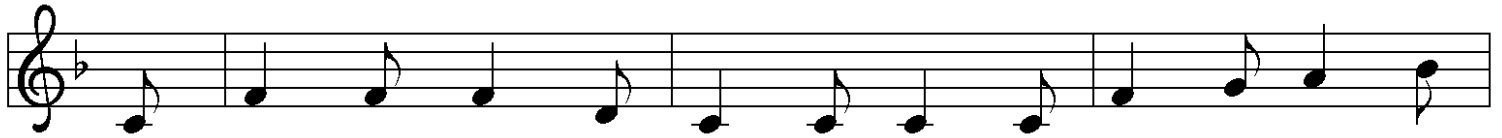
The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, o Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Kern

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us,
let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of grace
Hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God,
in the sure and certain hope
that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen. The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.**

Ways to Give

Text "give" to (833) 340-0119

Online at: <https://bit.ly/StJohnsDonate>

Mail:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4629 Aspen Hill Road Rockville, MD 20853

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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† Offering Prayer

Let us Pray—

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.

Amen.

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

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

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

The first system of the musical score for 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It features a vocal line in G major, 6/8 time, and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,'.

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The second system of the musical score. The lyrics are 'heav'n 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 -

The third system of the musical score. The lyrics are '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.

The fourth system of the musical score. The lyrics are 'san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace
shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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

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

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
We remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
All glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.
Amen.

† The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Lamb of God

S 208

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/2 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, and A5. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff features a melodic line with a dotted quarter note and an eighth note in the first measure of the second line. The bass staff continues with harmonic accompaniment.

Communion Musical Offering

† Prayer after Communion

Let us pray—

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen.

Sending Hymn | ACS 1062

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.