St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

711 & 805 W 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456 Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Arise, Shine, for your Light has come, and the Glory of the Lord rises upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

Epiphany Sunday January 7, 2024

"Welcome Visitors and Members!"

(Visitors, you may find helpful information on the back cover.) Focus: Get to know Jesus. He is the Savior of all people.



Text (sts. 1–3): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 4): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879 Text and tune: Public domain

Order of Worship: The Service Setting 2 (CW 21)

Throughout the service, the congregation speaks (or sings) the parts printed in bold.

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

Confession

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

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

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.

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

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

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



Tune: Marty Haugen

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Prayer of the Day

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you. ²Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples, but the LORD will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you. ³Nations will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Look up. Look all around and see! All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you. Your sons will come from far away, and people will carry your daughters on their side. ⁵Then you will look and be radiant. Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy. For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you. The wealth of the nations will come to you. ⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All those from Sheba will come. They will carry gold and incense, and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

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

Psalm 72





Endow the King with your justice, <u>O</u> God, the royal son with your <u>righ</u>teousness. He will defend the afflicted among the <u>people</u> and save the children of the <u>needy</u>.

He will endure as long <u>as</u> the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. He will be like rain falling on a <u>mown</u> field, like showers water<u>ing</u> the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow <u>down</u> to him and all nations will <u>serve</u> him. All nations will be <u>blessed</u> through him, and they will <u>call</u> him blessed.

May his name endure for<u>ev</u>er; may it continue as long <u>as</u> the sun. Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does mar<u>vel</u>ous deeds. May the whole earth be filled with his <u>glo</u>ry.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning, is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:2-12

²Surely you have heard of the administration of God's grace given to me for you, ³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God would now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

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



Matthew 2:2b

Alleluia! We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia!



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Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. ²They asked, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him."

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ! EPIPHANY

92 **Brightest and Best** 1 Bright and best of the stars of the morn - ing, est 2 Cold his cra dle the dew - drops are shin - ing; on 3 vo - tion Shall we not vield him in cost ly de -4 Vain lv we bring him the fin est of of - f'rings, 5 Bright of morn - ing, est and best the stars of the o dark Dawn on our _ ness and lend us your aid. his Low lies head with the beasts of the stall. Rar of fra di est gran - ces, tri bute vine, -Vain with ly gifts would his fa vor se - cure. Dawn on our dark _ ness and lend us your aid. Star of ri the East. the ho zon dorn - ing, а An gels a - dore him in slum ber clin - ing, re -Gems of the moun tain and pearls of the o - cean. Rich by far is the praise that the heart brings; er Star of the East, the ho ri zon dorn - ing, а 0 Guide in - fant Re deem laid. where our is er Mak and mon - arch and Sav ior of all. er Myrrh from the for est and gold from the mine? Dear God the of the er to are prayers poor. Guide where our laid. in - fant Re deem er is _

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

Tune: MORNING STAR (11 10 11 10) James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 2:1-12

A LOOK AT LIFE WHEN YOU KNOW JESUS AS YOUR KING

- I. You follow the Word to meet Him.
- II. You follow the Word in how you treat Him.
- III. You follow the Word on your way home.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

of all that is,

seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,

of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

12

Offering--*The members of St. John's have joined together* to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry, but please use this QR code to fill out a short form giving us a digital record of your attendance.



Visitors can also sign our guest register in the entryway by the drinking fountain.

Prayer of the Church

Preparation for Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



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Prayer

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

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

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

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

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

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**



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Distribution-St. John's practices "member communion." We ask, therefore, that only those who are members of St. John's or another WELS/ELS congregation partake of the sacrament.





Text: tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1899–1987, alt.; Martin Opitz, 1597–1639, abr.

Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517

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

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

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

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.



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This Week at St. John's: Jan 7, 2024

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Donna Anding & Rosie Murphy Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld Donating Bulletins: Ray & Sharon Wetzel in thankfulness for our Savior January Website: Henry & Julie Berry SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY Greeters: Joel & Darlene Zschernitz Ushers: Team 2-Verlyn Shaw's team Altar Guild: Pat Strangfeld ~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~ 9:00 AM Communion Service TODAY 10:15 AM Presentation by Mr. Allard 11:30 AM Sunday School Teachers Meeting 1:00 PM Pastors Circuit Meeting MONDAY 5:15 PM School Board Dartball vs. Greenwood TUESDAY 7:00 PM Council Meeting WEDNESDAY 8:20 AM Chapel 3:45 PM Confirmation Class 6:00 PM FS1 2:30 PM Adult Instruction Class THURSDAY 4:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Adult Instruction Class 6:30 PM Choir 8:30 AM Take Down Christmas Decorations SATURDAY NEXT SUNDAY 9:00 AM Communion Service 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Sunday: 84; New Year's Day: 70

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given Last Sunday: \$7,010.19 (Home); \$1,045.00 (Missions) Needed per week for Home: \$8,700.00



Communion Distribution Today: Instead of having communicants go up the steps to the rail today, we will have distribution in the front pew. It will be just like "regular" distribution, except for not being able to kneel. Everyone standing together in the front pew will be served the Lord's Supper together, alternating sides, just as we have done at the rail. This is in response to concerns that have been voiced about the steps.

We will discuss your thoughts on this new method of distribution at the annual meeting this month.

No Bible Class or Sunday School: There is no Bible Class or Sunday School until January 14.

Special Presentation Today: Mr. Allard will be giving a special presentation right after the worship service **today** regarding our finances and the effect on our church and school moving forward. Because this is such an important topic, we are asking that everyone stay for the presentation.

FSJ: Friends of St. John's will be meeting this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. One item of discussion will be the upcoming pancake breakfast. Watch for more details.

Basketball: We have our first basketball games of the season this coming Thursday, as we travel to St. Mark in Eau Claire. B Team plays at 4:00, and A Team plays at 5:00.

HELP NEEDED for Home Basketball Games: We are in need of volunteers to help make the basketball season run as smoothly as possible. For each home date we need people to help run the scoreboard, do the stat book, and also help in the concession stand for both the B team and A team games. Even if you have never done it before it is not too hard to learnanyone is welcome! Look for a Google Doc sign-up sheet next week that you can fill in online. A hard copy will also be found in school that you can fill in. The first home games are on Monday, January 22!

Thursday Bible Study: Join us in the school conference room Thursday at 4:00 as we continue our study of the book of Romans. *Choir:* Choir rehearsal will start up again this Thursday at <u>6:30</u>.

Take Down Decorations: We will be taking down the Christmas tree and other decorations this coming Saturday, starting at 8:30 a.m. Many volunteers will help the work go quickly!!

FIC: It is time to renew our subscription. If you would like to continue receiving the "Forward In Christ" magazine here at church or would like to try it for the first time, cost is \$12.00/year.

You will find a "Forward In Christ" sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway. Please sign up on the sheet; money should be turned in as soon as possible. Please place your payment in a plain envelope marked "FIC." You can put that in the offering basket or drop it off in the school office.

Member Updates: Kathleen Quast has been moved to Marshfield Health Services, 814 W 14th St., Marshfield, Room #202. Her phone number is 715-486-3965. Let's keep her in our prayers as she continues rehab.

For Your Information: Those of you who are required to take mandatory distributions from your retirement accounts may or may not already know about a possible tax savings to you. If you were planning to give an offering to church from your mandatory distribution, you may see a tax saving if this offering is made to the church directly. Please ask your tax advisor for further details.

Missions **2023***:* Total given for Missions in 2023 was \$35,835.68, meeting our pledge of \$35,000. Nicely done!

Annual Voters Meeting: Our annual voters meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28. Watch for more details.

WELS Weekly Prayer: WELS – We praise you, our gracious God, that 2023 was another year filled with your wonderful blessings for our synod's work of sharing Christ's love with others. We thank you for the dedication of a theological education center for the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam, for the successful launch of WELS Home Missions' 100 Missions in 10 Years effort, and for declaring fellowship with the Obadiah Lutheran Synod in Uganda and affirming fellowship with Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional. We ask your Holy Spirit to guide and prosper our work for you in this new year. Amen.

Women's Ministry webinar: Want to learn about using hospitality to reconnect with others at your church and also as an evangelism tool? "Reviving relationships through Biblical hospitality," a new webinar from WELS Women's Ministry, will inspire you to rethink your relationships and get you thinking about your own church culture with new eyes. Panelists will talk about the importance of biblical hospitality in your home, at church, and even in public. The webinar will be held Thurs., Jan. 18, 2024, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. (CST). Learn more and register at wels.net/women.

To assist you in worship:

- Personal listening devices are available for anyone to use.
 Please talk to the ushers for assistance.
- ✤ Large-print bulletins available upon request.
- ✤ Personal Prayers: Red Hymnal (pp. 10-11); Blue Hymnal (inside front cover)
- ✤ Preparation for Lord's Supper: Red Hymnal (p. 156); Blue Hymnal (pp. 295-296)
- ✤ Luther's Small Catechism: Blue Hymnal (pp. 286-293)

We love seeing young children in church as we want families to worship together. We also love to hear children making a "joyful noise to the Lord." If you need some privacy for feeding an infant or changing a diaper, please make use of our parents' room off the north side of the entryway where you can still listen to the service.

Visitors, if you would like to know more about our church or school, please introduce yourself to our pastor. He would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way he can.

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Worship Schedule

Sunday-9:00 a.m. (Year-Round) Tuesday-6:00 p.m. (After Easter through November)