

January 15, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Present to Us

The Lamb of God? Of what lamb did John speak? Might it have been the paschal lamb, offered at Passover to remember God's saving act in the exodus from Egypt? This was the lamb whose blood Hebrew slaves had streaked onto their doorposts to mark their houses as safe from the angel of death.

At this moment of recognition, John knew Jesus as one who was set apart. John knew Jesus was the one for whom he had prepared the way. John baptized with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. John gave witness to his faith. He shone the light on Jesus--he helped others see. His call was to reveal Jesus to Israel.

Because of John's choice of images, we could imagine Jesus as a sacrificial victim. Indeed many Christians throughout history have been moved by this image. But we could also see Jesus, the Lamb of God, as God's presence among us. Jesus is provided by God, and he is the one who marks us as safe from the angel of death.

Of course, we know that faith does not exempt us from physical death. We will all die. But in Jesus, we see that we are borne into death, not alone, but held by God's unfailing love for us. Baptized by the Spirit, we believe that the Spirit descends on us and "remains" on us, as John testified the Spirit did for Jesus. The Spirit *abides* with us, to use another translation of the same term. The Spirit walks with us into any death we face, whether it be daily pains and disappointments or our ultimate passage from this life.

Can we share John's excitement about this Jesus? Can we also become ones who reveal him to those around us, shining a light on the wonder of God's presence in him?

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister
Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

January 15, 2023 - 10:30 am

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Second Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am | Early Worship |
| 9:15 am | Sunday School / 1st Year Catechism |
| 9:15 am | Adult Bible Study |
| 10:30 am | Late Worship |
| 11:30 am | 2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday |

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the Youth Room area in the basement of the Educational Building.

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST MUSICIANS

Douglas and Megan Amos

Douglas Amos is a freelance trumpet player based in Toledo, Ohio and is second trumpet in the Erie Philharmonic. In 2022 Douglas also won positions in the Jackson Symphony and Lima Symphony. Additionally, Douglas plays with orchestras across the Midwest, including the Toledo Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and Detroit Symphony. Douglas performs in many chamber ensembles and plays in the Amos Duo with his wife and French horn player, Megan Amos. They have been featured many times on the radio and performed frequent duo recitals.

Douglas received his Bachelors in Trumpet Performance from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and his Masters in Trumpet Performance from the New England Conservatory. He also has attended many prestigious music festivals including the National Repertory Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival, and the Lake George Music Festival.

Megan Amos has been the principal horn player of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra since 2019. In the months prior to joining the TSO, Megan was grand prize winner of the Susan Slaughter Solo Brass Competition at the 2019 International Women's Brass Conference. Megan also has appeared as soloist with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and the Aspen Music Festival. Megan did a solo tour in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia as part of the Educational Bridge Project. She frequently performs with orchestras in the area including the Fort Wayne Philharmonic where she was principal horn player from 2018-2019, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Originally from York, Maine, she studied at the New England Conservatory from 2013-2017.

Her mentors include Jamie Sommerville, hornist of the Boston Symphony, Jim Pandolfi, former trumpeter of the Metropolitan Opera, and David Wakefield, former hornist of the Aspen Music Festival. Megan proudly performs on the third horn made by the legendary Ukrainian American horn maker, Jerry Lechniuk.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| dish soap | shampoo, child | disposable razors |
| paper towel | laundry soap | toothbrush, adult |
| toilet paper | fabric softener sheets | toothpaste, adult |
| tissues | body lotion | sanitary pads |
| deodorant | body soap | band aids |
| shampoo, adult | | |

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members.

If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month. If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------------|
| Preludes | Douglas Amos, Trumpet / Megan Amos, French Horn | |
| | "Concerto for Two Horns" | Vivaldi |
| | "Meditation (from Thais)" | Massenet |
| | "Sonata for Trumpet and Piano" | Kennan |
| | "Londonderry Air" | Traditional |
| Ring of the Bell | (Please stand) | |
| Opening Hymn | "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" | No. 553 |

Introduction

P: In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

Special Music

"The Last Rose of Summer"

Traditional

Announcements

PSALM: Psalm 40:1-11

I delight to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

**² He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

**³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.**

**⁴ Happy are those who make the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.**

**⁵ You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your
thoughts toward us; none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.**

**⁶ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

**⁷ Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.**

**⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."**

**⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.**

**¹⁰ I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.**

**¹¹ Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul's letters are addressed to Corinth, a church with many problems. Still, he emphasizes the faithfulness and grace of God, whose strength will see them through.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To 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:

Postlude

"Prince of Denmark's March"

Clarke

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

ACOLYTES

Mckenna Cummerow, Kimberly Donley

READER

Tom Hartford

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

P: People who reach out to nurture and love,
C: **people who live by water and word –**

P: God adopts us and names us and claims us.
C: **God renews us, uplifts and restores us.**

P: Generations from Abraham to David to Joseph,
C: **to Jesus, son of Mary, Son of God;**

P: Our generations too, and all those to come:
C: **We are joined in the family of God.**

P: O God for whom we long, we thank you for the gift of family and friends. Strengthen the ties that bind us together, that we may sing the song of Mary:

C: **“My soul magnifies you, and holy is your name. You shower mercy from generation to generation.”**

P: We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, your gift to all the world.

C: **Amen.**

(The elders will direct families by pew to come forward to the altar to receive a blessing. After everyone has returned to their seats, the service continues as the congregation stands.)

P: Let us pray. Triune God, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless family life everywhere and fill all homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Strengthen the commitment of husbands and wives to one another, that they may mirror your covenant faithfulness; pour out your Spirit on parents, that through them children may experience your unconditional love; and empower all family members to live in your grace and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn “Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven” No. 864

Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind--⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you--⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 1.

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.

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

³³I 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.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When 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?" ³⁹He 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. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He 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).

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Pastor Rayl

No. 631

(Please stand)

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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music "Sonata for Trumpet and Piano"

Kennan

Offering Prayer

P: 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,

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: God in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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.

Litany for Blessing Our Families

P: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

C: My soul longs for the courts of the Lord, my heart sings for joy to the living God.

P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest where she may keep her young.

C: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

P: No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

C: O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

P: Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and friends,

C: aunts, uncles, sons, and daughters,