

January 13-14, 2024



It Begins with Baptism

First Sunday after Epiphany



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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www.salemlutheran.org

First Sunday after Epiphany

*From Jordan's Shores to Mountain Glory—
It begins with Baptism*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Almighty Father, you hear our every prayer and know our every need. Bless us as we praise you today for all your goodness and hear the prayers we offer in our Savior's name. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: At his baptism in the Jordan River Jesus was publicly anointed with the Holy Spirit and designated by God the Father as his chosen Messiah. Jesus' baptism was the beginning of his public ministry, revealing him as God's chosen servant, the one who had come to bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Jesus is the one willing to stand in our place as our substitute and Savior. Jesus' baptism reveals to us who he really is. Our own baptism does the same! Our baptism was the beginning of a new and better life—eternal life!—a gift graciously given to us by our truest friend. Jesus' ministry and our eternity with him. It begins with baptism.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." At the age of thirty, the fuller truth about Jesus began to be revealed: his person, his power, and his purpose. All these epiphanies—these revelations about Jesus—changed the lives of everyone around him. In this season of Epiphany, as we follow Jesus from Jordan's shores to mountain's glory, may they change us too.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Jessica Klatt

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Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



Gathering Rite on Holy Baptism

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

1 Bap-tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and
Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
a - mong your saints, your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
dead to sin, your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

M: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the spirit.

C: **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** (*John 3:5-6*)

M: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.
(*Psalms 51:5*)

C: **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** (*1 Corinthians 6:11*)

2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me to be hence-forth your
child and heir. My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me

the fruit of all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it,
com - fort me when threat-'ning clouds a - round I see.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

3 My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; your prom - ise sure - ly
will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er
if words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I
come de - filed; for - give, lift up, re - store your child.

M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). 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.

C: **Amen.**

4 All that I am and love most dear-ly— re-ceive it all, O
 Lord, from me. Let me con-fess my faith sin-cere-ly;
 help me your faith-ful child to be! Let noth-ing that I
 am or own serve an-y will but yours a-lone.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-6

Through the pen of the prophet Isaiah, the Messiah himself speaks, telling us of the work he would do when he was anointed at his baptism.

¹Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the LORD called me;

from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.

²He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

³He said to me, "You are my servant,

Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God."

⁵And now the LORD says—

he who formed me in the womb to be his servant

to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself,

for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength—

⁶he says:

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept.

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,

that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Great Are the Works of the LORD

Psalm 2D

The congregation sings the refrains and speaks the verses and "glory be..."

Refrain

Great are the works of the LORD. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

lu-ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his Anointed. *Refrain*

The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

"I have installed my King on Zion, my holy mountain." *Refrain*

I will proclaim the LORD's decree:

He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

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. Refrain*

Second Reading

Romans 6:1-11

St. Paul connects our baptism to Christ, and he discusses the results of that connection in our lives.

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

Jesus' public ministry begins with the anointing he received in his baptism.

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn: To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

CW 377 sts. 1-2, 4, 6



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, the Christ, whom
2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— the Son of
4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound came God's own
6 Now rise, faint hearts: be res - o - lute! This man is



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, the God from God, the
God in flesh dis - guised— to stand be - neath the
voice with words pro - found: "This is my Son," was
Christ, our sub - sti - tute! He was bap - tized in



Light from Light, the Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
Fa - ther's will and all his prom - is - es ful - fill.
his de - cree, "the one I love, who pleas - es me."
Jor - dan's stream, pro - claimed Re - deem - er, Lord su - preme.

Sermon

Based on Mark 1:4-11

"Through the Word & Water of Baptism"

- 1) *God reveals his son, Jesus*
- 2) *God creates his children, us!*

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

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 truly 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.**

Be seated.

Offering



 **Connect Card**

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



 **Give Online**

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

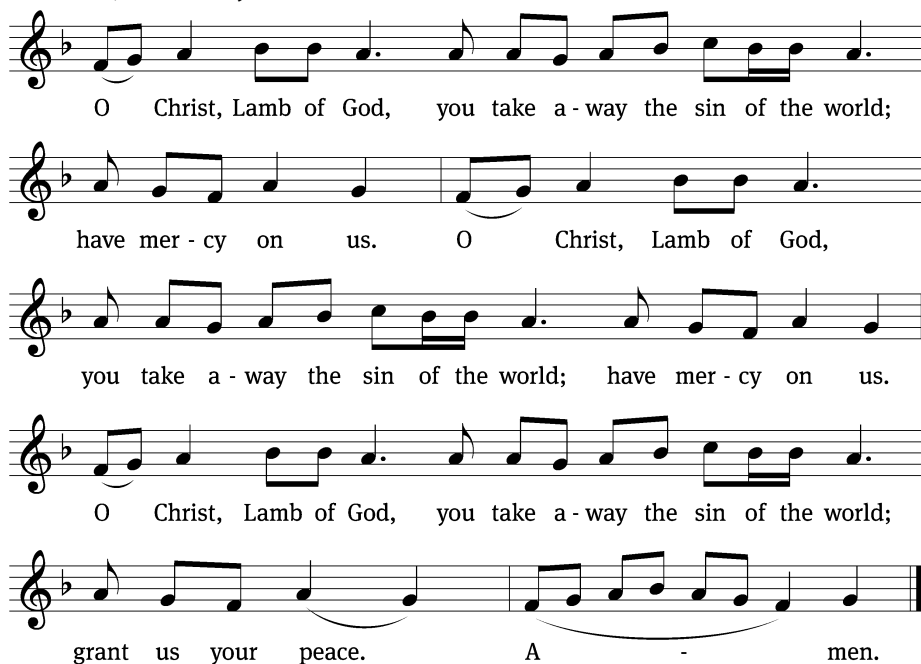
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + 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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

HYMN: Jesus Comes Today with Healing

CW 668 sts. 1-3, 5



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, knock - ing at my
2 Christ him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
5 Let me praise God's bound - less fa - vor, whose own feast of



door, ap - peal - ing, of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing in this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly, blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
love I sa - vor, bid - den by his gra - cious call.



He him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, and I hear his
gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, and the cup, the
ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, who to bit - ter
Wed - ding gar - ments he pro - vides me, with a robe of



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
pre - cious to - ken of his sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
white he hides me, fits me for the roy - al hall.

Please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalms 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.

We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

M: 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.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

CW 927 sts. 1-2



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for the gos - pel's



joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound! Ev - er faith - ful,



O re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Pancakes!

Sunday morning we pause our regular Bible studies to enjoy our family of faith. We will not hold Bible study or Sunday JAM so that members of all ages can enjoy a pancake breakfast in the fellowship hall downstairs between services.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: We See the Kindness in His Calling

Bible Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-1-, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17, John 1:43-51

Hymns: 633, 375, 711, 716

Our Current Worship Series

From Jordan's Shores to Mountain's Glory

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” For most of his adult life, Jesus was known simply the son of Mary and Joseph. Around the age of thirty, the fuller truth about Jesus began to be revealed: his person, his power, and his purpose. It started with Jesus standing in the Jordan River with John the Baptist. The biggest epiphany took place at a mountain, where select followers saw Jesus shining brighter than the sun. All these epiphanies—these revelations about Jesus—changed the lives of everyone around him. In this season of Epiphany, as we follow Jesus from Jordan's shores to mountain's glory, may they change us too.

January 14th— *It Begins with Baptism*

January 21st — *The Kindness in His Calling*

January 28th — *Committed to a Lofty Charge*

February 4th — *Absolute Authority*

February 11th — *The Devil's Work Undone*

February 18th — *A Glimpse of His True Glory*



PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Also printed in the hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers. Cards can be placed in the offering basket or left on the table near the sanctuary entrance.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

