

Wise Men Still

Seek Him

Epiphany of our Lord

January 4-7, 2024

HYMN 374:1-2, 5

“The Star Proclaims the King Is Here”

STAND

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

And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

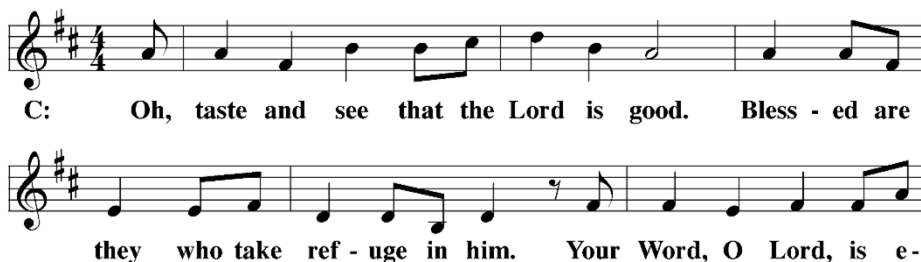
Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

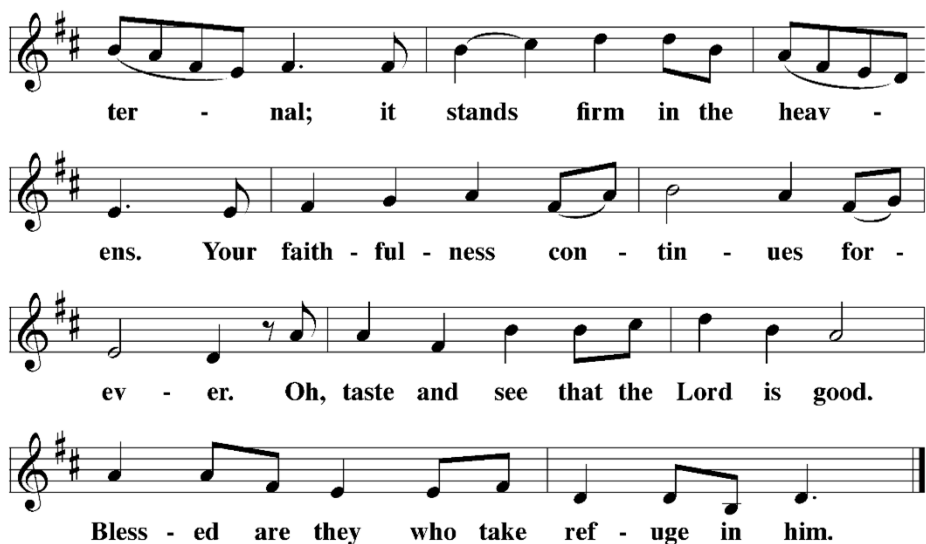
Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
 ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
 ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 24:15-17a EHV

¹⁵ Balaam took up his oracle and said:
 The declaration of Balaam son of Beor,
 the declaration of the man whose eye is open,
¹⁶ the declaration of the one who hears the words of God,
 who receives knowledge from the Most High,

who sees the vision of the Almighty,
who is falling down, but his eyes are wide open:

¹⁷ I see him, but not now.

I behold him, but not near.

A star will come out of Jacob.

A scepter will rise up out of Israel.

PSALM OF THE DAY 72B



1 A King on high is reign - ing whom end - less a - ges bless,
2 As rains that gent - ly nour - ish and bring the seed to birth,
3 The poor are in his keep - ing, he hears their bit - ter cry,
4 His name en - dures for ev - er who formed the fer - tile land;



from sea to sea sus - tain - ing his rule of right - eous - ness.
his right - eous - ness shall flour - ish, his peace pos - sess the earth;
his watch - ful - ness un - sleep - ing to an - swer ev - 'ry sigh;
the fruits of our en - deav - or shall pros - per in his hand.



Be - neath his strong de - fend - ing his peo - ple stand se - cure,
her scep - tered kings ac - claim him, be - fore his feet they fall,
the lone - ly and ne - glect - ed, the out - cast and in need,
With prayer and song and sto - ry his prais - es sound a - gain,



whose jus - tice knows no end - ing while sun and moon en - dure.
the na - tions kneel to name him the sov - reign Lord of all.
for - sak - en and re - ject - ed, to him are dear in - deed.
in all the earth his glo - ry; so be it, Lord! A - men!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith Tune: Henry T. Smart

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SECOND LESSON

Romans 11:13-15, 28-32 EHV

¹³ I am speaking to you Gentiles. For as long as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I am going to speak highly of my ministry. ¹⁴ Perhaps I may make my own people jealous, and so save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, what does their acceptance mean other than the dead coming to life?...

²⁸ In regard to the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But, in regard to election, they are especially dear for the sake of the patriarchs, ²⁹ because God's gracious gifts and call are not regretted. ³⁰ For just as you were once disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy due to their disobedience, ³¹ so also now they have become disobedient, so that by the mercy shown to you they may be shown mercy too. ³² For God imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may show mercy to all.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 2:2 NIV

Alleluia. Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

STAND

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“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 our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

SERMON

Matthew 2:1-12

Good News of Great Joy: For All People

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From
there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

STAND

OFFERING HYMN 344 v3

“What Child Is This”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.
You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



BE SEATED

HYMN

“The First Noel” (verses 1-2, 5-6)

**1. The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. (Chorus)**

**2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night. (Chorus)**

**(Chorus)
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.**

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. (Chorus)

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind has bought. (Chorus)

Acknowledgements

Pastor: Nicholas Mount

Liturgist: David Brandt

Organists: Dale Grulke / Ruth Affeld

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Announcements

Voter's Meeting

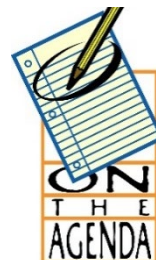
The next Voter's Meeting will be held on January 14th at 6:30 in Juneau. We invite every member to come be a part in guiding the ministry at St. John's!

Un-decorating Church:

The Salem-Lowell campus will be undecorating on Sunday 1/7 at 10:30 AM and Juneau will be undecorating on Saturday 1/13 at 9 AM. Any help to accomplish this would be greatly appreciated!

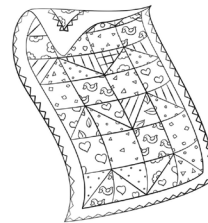
2024 Offering Envelopes:

Offering envelopes for 2024 are available in the narthex of the Juneau and Lowell Campuses. Horicon offering envelopes are located at the Juneau campus. Please pick them up as soon as possible!



Quilting/Sewing Workday/Night

Ladies Aid is organizing two opportunities to make knotted fleece blankets, lap robes and bags for walkers. Anyone is welcome to participate and use their skills to help make these items. We will donate them as needed. Some will go to members, others to organizations that help people in need.



The 1st opportunity is Tuesday, January 16 in the church basement (Juneau) at 6:30 p.m. We will cut and tie knots in fleece to make a 2-layer blanket. No sewing skills required. If you have scissors for fabric please bring them along. All the fleece fabric will be provided.

The 2nd opportunity is Thursday, January 25, in the church basement (Juneau) from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. Come for an hour or two, or the whole time as your schedule allows. We will be sewing bags for walkers and small quilt tops to make lap robes. Bring your sewing machine if you choose and sewing supplies, scissors, thread... You can bring fabric if you wish. We have donated fabric and batting that will be used for both projects.

Do you know someone who could use a bag for their walker? Please let us know!

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Cindy Raube, 920-36-9352.

School Basketball:

Help is needed at our school's home basketball games! Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers to help with concessions and the scoreboard are also needed. If you could assist in any of these ways, there is a sign-up at school or contact: 920-386-4644 / school@st.johnsjuneau.org. January home games are on the 15th, 19th, and 27th.



2024 Calendars available!

St. John's was given 2024 calendars for our members/friends to utilize this next year. Please pick up a calendar or more in the narthex and share them with your loved ones!

Special Gift Envelopes:

The opportunity for you to direct a special gift toward two upcoming projects is still available! The two projects are funding for celebration the Juneau campus' 150th anniversary and the construction of a playground for our Pre-K students. If you are interested in dedicating a gift to either of the projects, giving envelopes can be found in the narthex with more information. You may also give anytime through the St. John's app!

New 20's and 30's Group!

Fun, Fellowship, Faith

WHAT?

The new St. John's 20's and 30's group is focused on creating fellowship opportunities for young adults! Gatherings are informal and include a fun-filled activity suggested by the group such as bowling, bonfires, and more. This is a Christian atmosphere, but it is not a bible class. The environment is welcoming for members and non-members alike, so feel free to bring your friends! Young adults, and their kids, are invited to attend and help build the foundation of this new group!

WHY?

The 20's and 30's are a unique time in life. Often many life changes take place during this period: marriage, kids, new jobs, a first apartment, buying a house, old friends moving far away, getting the pet you can finally have because you're not "under my roof" anymore, and what is health insurance anyway? With all the new responsibilities and challenges that come with being a young adult, having a supportive group to relax and have fun with is extra important!

NEXT EVENT!

Join us for Axe Throwing!

We will be meeting at the West Bend Axe and Escape Room at 3:00 PM on January 20th. The cost is \$27 per person for 75 minutes at the lane. Bring snacks to share; they can be brought into the facility. No RSVP is required, but it is appreciated so we have an idea of how many are coming. Bringing friends is encouraged!

QUESTIONS/RSVP:

Lexi Voigt: 920.319.2496 / butters2098@gmail.com
Danielle Schilling: 920.988.8941 / deschilling98@gmail.com

New SERIES THEME

From the River to the Mountain “Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” Today, if someone says, “I had an epiphany,” he means he had some extremely important, life-changing revelation. Within the Church Year, that is the purpose of the season of Epiphany—to reveal important truths about Jesus Christ, truths that will indeed change your life. For most of his adult life, Jesus was known simply as Mary’s son. He followed his adoptive father, Joseph, into the carpentry business. People in his hometown of Nazareth probably thought of Jesus as a very nice man—hardworking, honest, a role model for others. (That is still how many think of Jesus today.)

But around the age of thirty, the fuller truth about Jesus began to be revealed: his person, his power, his purpose. It started with Jesus standing in a 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—all these revelations about Jesus—changed the lives of everyone around him. In this season of Epiphany, as we follow Jesus from the river to the mountain, may they change us too.

Join us next week for a new series: From the River to the Mountain.

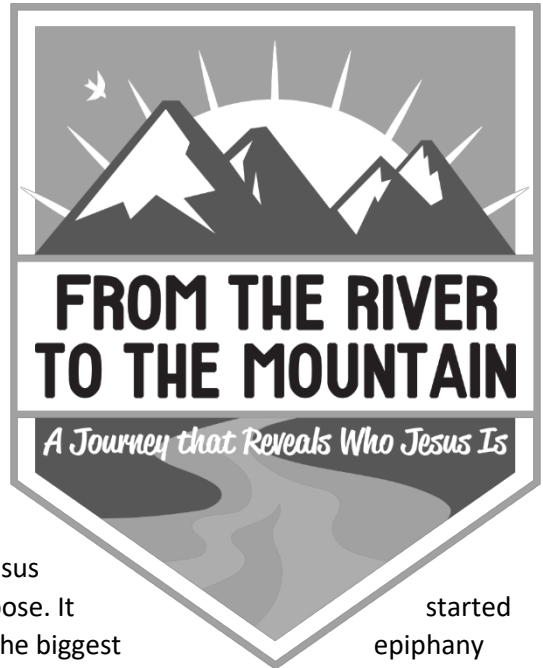
January 14th: It Begins with Baptism

January 21st: Committed to a Lofty Charge

January 28th: Absolute Authority

February 4th: The Devil's Work Undone

February 11th: A Glimpse of His True Glory



This Week at St. John's

Sunday (1/7)

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM- J

Worship 9:30 AM- SL

Bible Class 8:15 (SL) & 9:30 AM (J)

Sunday School 8:30 (SL) & 9:15 AM (J)

Undecorate Church 10:30 AM- SL

Open Forum 6:30 PM- SL

Monday (1/8)

Readings Bible Class 6:30 PM- J

Tuesday (1/9)

Time Between the

Testaments 6:30 PM- J

Wednesday (1/10)

Confirmation 5:00 PM- J

Elders 6:00 PM – J

Trustees 6:00 PM – J

Adult Choir 7:00 PM - J

Thursday (1/11)

Worship 6:30 PM- J

Saturday (1/13)

Un-Decorate Juneau 9:00 AM

Worship 5:00 PM- H

Sunday (1/14)

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM- J

Worship 9:30 AM- SL

Bible Class 8:15 (SL) & 9:30 AM (J)

Sunday School 8:30 (SL) & 9:15 AM (J)

Voter's Meeting 6:00 PM - J

Statistics

Offerings given to our Lord

	<u>12/22-12/25</u>
General	\$ 31,415.00
Debt	\$ 550.00
Improvement	\$ 50.00
Lakeside	\$ 59.90
Missions	\$ 8,590.90
Total	\$ 40,702.80
Attendance	
Weekend of Dec. 25 th	1,404 (317,31,180,430,142,76, 228)

At our Voter's Meeting, our congregation approved a weekly budget with an average total of \$20,246 (includes General, Lakeside and Missions) needed every week.

Since the beginning of 2022, our congregation has gone from zero debt to drawing a total of \$147,215.44. from the line of credit. Please continue to support St. John's through your time, talents, treasures, and prayers. Thank you!

Welcome to St. John's

WELCOME

We are so glad you joined us to worship our Lord Jesus today! St. John's is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are happy to answer your questions about our service, our beliefs, or communicant membership at any of our campuses. Please join us again soon!

PERSONAL PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you. Amen.

Pastors & Assistant

David Brandt 608-343-2206
Nicholas Mount 920-344-1524
Joel Luetke 920-285-1351
Duke Backhaus 414-559-6107

Principal

Richard Cody 920-386-4644

Staff Minister

Ryan Kummerow 608-345-1900

Worship Services

Thursday

6:30 PM Juneau

Saturday

5:00 PM Horicon

Sunday

8:00 AM Juneau

9:30 AM Lowell

10:30 AM Juneau

Bible Classes

Sunday

Juneau Campus

9:30 AM

Salem-Lowell Campus

8:15 AM

Monday

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

Tuesday (2nd, 4th, 5th)

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

Juneau Campus

920-386-3313

400 S. Main St.

Juneau, Wisconsin

Horicon Campus

920-386-3313

716 Clinton St.

Horicon, Wisconsin

Salem-Lowell Campus

920-386-3313

105 Juneau Rd.

Lowell, Wisconsin

School Office

920-386-4644

402 S. Main St.

Juneau, Wisconsin

www.stjohnsdodgecounty.com

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