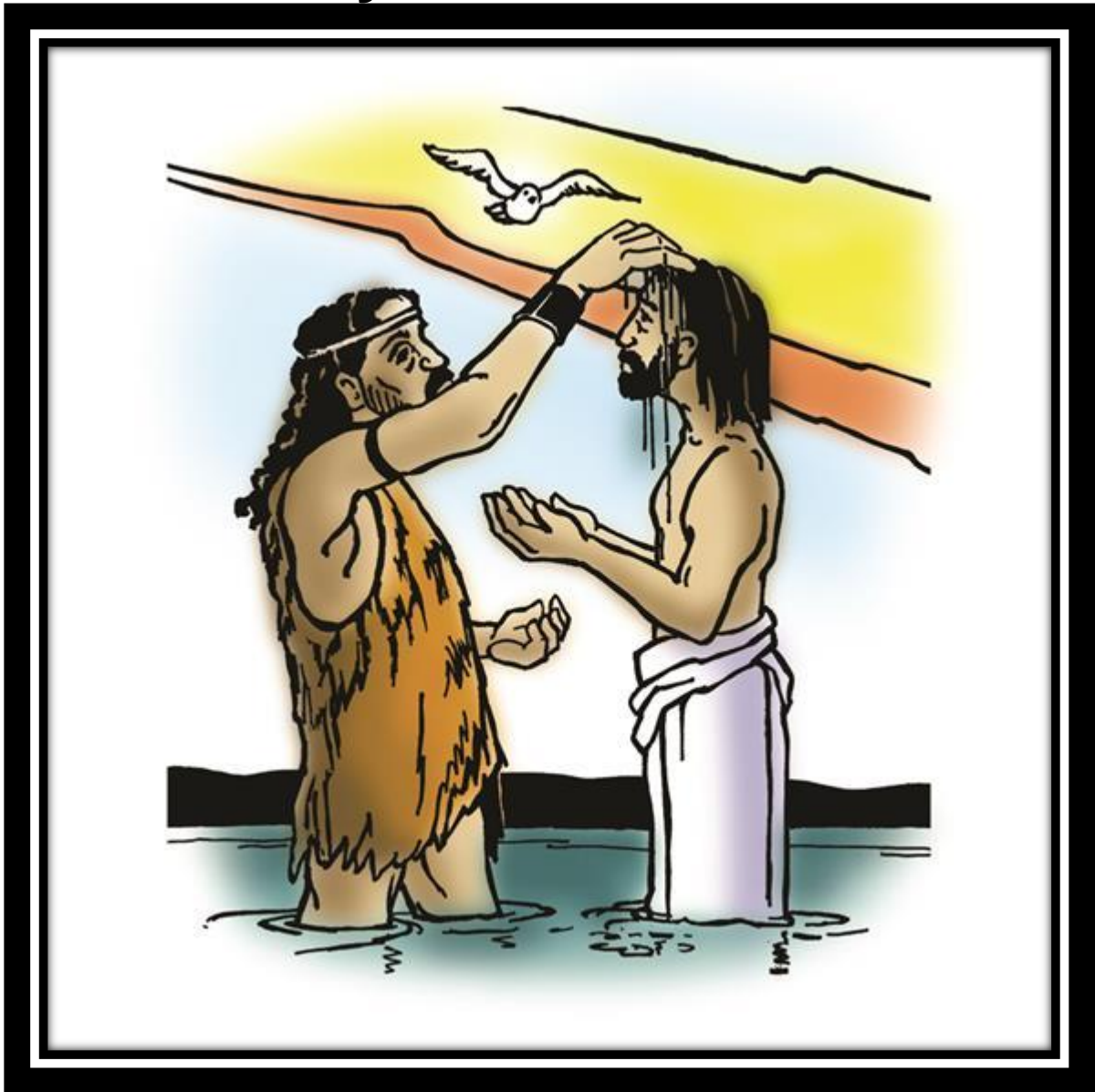


Holy Communion



**The Epiphany and The Baptism of Our Lord
January 7, 2024**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Bath, PA**

**Flowers presented In Loving Memory of Departed
Loved Ones by the P. Family**

Prelude: *“March of the Kings”*

arr. J. S. Dixon

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

*C: **Amen.**

*P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

*P: Everlasting God,

*C: **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to confront sin. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

*P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all.

*C: **Amen.**

*Hymn WOV #646 *“We Three Kings of Orient Are”*

*The Greeting

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

*C: **And also with you.**

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse 1

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

(Refrain)

Verse 2

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessings and glory are his.

(Refrain)

Verse 3

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

(Refrain)

Verse 4

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

(Refrain)

***Prayer of the Day**

*P: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness,

*C: **Your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

***Gospel Verse**

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***"Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia"***

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew and St. Mark.

*C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” ⁹In those days Jesus →

came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon/Sermon

*Hymn WOV #697 *"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"*

*Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. 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

*The Peace

*P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

*C: **And also with you.**

The Peace will be shared between the Pastor and Congregation (only).

Offering

The Offering may be dropped off at the beginning or end of the worship service. We will thank God for our blessings, including the ability to give an offering for the work of God's kingdom.

Music at the Offering

(8:00 am) *"Three King Medley"*

arr. Melody Bober

(10:15 am) *"Star of Wonder"*

arr. Page Shafferman

***Offertory Prayer**

*P: God our provider,

***C: by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

*P: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

*V: Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. Lord in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. Lord in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: Give strength to your leaders, O God you who are present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering. Accompany those undergoing dialysis, those in need of kidney transplants, those recovering from kidney transplants, and all with kidney insufficiency. Lord in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*V: Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. Lord in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

*V: Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. Lord in your mercy,

***C: Hear our prayer.**

*P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

***C: Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer**

*P: Lord, teach us to pray.

***C: 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.**

***The Thanksgiving**

*P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus**

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

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***The Words of Institution**

*P: 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.

*P: 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.

***Agnus Dei**

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***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.***

***Invitation to Communion**

*P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

The bread and wine/grape juice will be distributed in the front of the church. If you would like to partake in your pew, please ask pastor to get you a pre-packaged communion set or ask an usher.

***Post-Communion Blessing**

*P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you onto everlasting life. Amen.

***Post Communion Canticle**

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***Thank the Lord and sing his praise;
tell everyone what he has done.***

***Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with
shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

***Prayer after Communion**

*P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

*C: **Amen.**

***Benediction**

*P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you now and forever.

*C: **Amen.**

***Hymn LBW #82 “As with Gladness Men of Old”**

***Dismissal**

*P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

*C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *“Song for a New Year”*

arr. Gilbert Martin

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Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild - Judy F., Gloria M.

8:00 AM - Ushers - Tegi O., Wanda F.

Lector: Cheryl A. / Acolyte: Payton K.

Communion Assistant: Kathy W., John F.

10:15 AM - Ushers - Jim G., Joe A.

Lector: Jim G. / Acolyte: Josh S.

Communion Assistant: Betty N., Bonnie V.

Our annual congregational meeting: will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024, after the 9:00 AM Worship Service. On this Sunday, only one service will be held; there will not be an 8 AM or 10:15 AM Worship Service and there will be no Sunday school session. Please plan to join us on this very important day. The proposed 2024 budget was mailed; if you need a copy, please call the church office. In the event of inclement weather, the congregational meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024. The same schedule will apply: one service at 9 AM with no Sunday school session.

See you there!

(8)

Contacts

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Church Email: stjohnbath@gmail.com

Pastor Walsh: 610-837-1061 / 484-282-0699 (emergency)

Pastor's Email: pastorterrywalsh@outlook.com

Follow us on Facebook:

St. John's church page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Johns-Lutheran-Church-120814211266763/>

Pastor Walsh's page, for information on faith in the wider world:
<https://www.facebook.com/terrence.walsh.96>

Follow us on our website: www.stjohnsbathpa.org



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us! We are in the midst of the Epiphany Season, which runs from the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6th until "Shrove Tuesday" or "Fat Tuesday." In 2024, Shrove Tuesday will be on February 13th. The Epiphany season teaches us about Jesus revealing himself to the world. The word "epiphany" means a manifestation or a showing forth. In the Epiphany season we remember the coming of the Wise Men to see the baby Jesus, the baptism of Jesus at the Jordan River, and the earliest days of Jesus' ministry. Together we will worship our Lord as the disciples are called by Jesus and as the world hears Jesus' calling each of us to lives of love, forgiveness and service. You may be new to St. John's, new to the Bath area, new to Lutheran worship, or may have never before set foot in a church. Regardless how often you have sat in church we are glad to have you join us. We invite you to listen to the service, enjoy the music, and say prayers for yourself and all who are need. Have questions? Can't find the right page? Please see Pastor Terry or ask any of the ushers. You are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome in this place.

Upcoming Commemorations

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 - Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Today's Announcements - Sunday, January 7, 2024

The Epiphany and The Baptism of Our Lord

This Week at St. John's

1/7/2024 - Sun.	Worship/Communion	8:00 AM
	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship/Communion	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship/Comm. (Library)	11:45 AM
1/8/2024 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
	Girl Scouts	6:00 PM
1/11/2024 -Thurs.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
1/14/2024 - Sun.	Worship	8:00 AM
	Sunday School/Confirmation	9:00 AM
	45 Min Bible Study	9:15 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Masked Worship/Comm. (Library)	11:45 AM

Prayers Requested For: Matthew A., Jim A., Eileen A., Phyllis & Joe A., Amy B., Allen B., Marsha B., Josie B., Shane B., Barb B., Cory B., Jamie B., Dawn & Bill B., Jason C., Patty & Larry D., Laverne F., Kathy F., Lilly F., Arya G., Cami Grace G., Janis G., Shawn H., Lil H., Troy H., Chuck H., Scott & Heather H., Seana I., the family of Claire K., Gerry K., Mary K., Steve K., Diane L., Lee L., Jeff L., Ruth M., The M. Family, April Rose M., Joe N., Danielle N., Samantha O., Arlene O., Brent R., Earl & Steve S., Ethel S., Louise S., Barb S., Beth S., Rosalia S., Gloria S., John S., Dolly T., James T., Stacey T., Carol W., Viola W., Lisa W., Brenda W., LaNor W., Cecile W., Galen W., Susan W., Richard Y., Yvonne Y., Pauline Y., Francis Z.

If you would like to add or remove a person from the prayer list, contact the Church Office (610-837-1061).

New Online Giving Option: We want to start by expressing gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community. We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation. You can give now at this website link: **<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZAB8>** Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission. Thank you again for all that you do.



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mobile device