

**† Epiphany III †**  
**“The Light Is Upon Us”**

**“Don’t Judge Appearances”**  
**John 7—8**

# ✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”  
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | January 24, 2021

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## † Baptism — The Way of Faith †

### Remembering Our Baptism Journey

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism.** ✠ Through your Son, whose example we follow, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and control.** ✠ Through your Spirit, who dwells among us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.** ✠ We pray that you will complete this work of Baptism within us, ✠ **as we daily surrender to you and listen to your every word.**

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is present among us)

*♪ The people that in darkness sat, a glorious light will see. The light has shined on them who are, held in death's slavery. Held in death's slavery. ♪ For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is giv'n. And on his shoulder ever rests, all pow'r in earth and heav'n. All pow'r in earth and heav'n. ♪ (tune: LSB 412)*

### Surrendering to the Creator

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ✠ **we surrender our minds, bodies, and whole lives to you.**

(we make the sign of the cross, touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

We let go of control ✠ **and submit ourselves into your loving hands.** ✠ We leave behind our people-pleasing ✠ **and seek only your approval.** ✠ We walk away from our reliance on self, family, and nation ✠ **and trust you for everything we need.** *♪ Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♪ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♪ Take my things and my money, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how, to love all creation now. ♪ (tune: LSB 783)*

### Epiphany Litany

Our world that is living in darkness ✠ **has now seen a great light.**

This light has come to the nations ✠ **who all live in the shadow of death.**

Jesus has come to awaken us ✠ **to the presence of his Kingdom.**

### Song ✠ “Lord Jesus Dwells Among Us” (Tune: LSB 941)

*♪ Lord Jesus dwells among us, to free and to unchain, to bear our human suffering, to share our human pain. To pour out God's own justice, to spread it through the earth, to liberate the captives, to give the poor their worth. To lift up the oppressed, to feed all the hungry, to welcome in the stranger, to shelter the weary. ♪ He came to welcome sinners, to meet us in our need, the gospel of God's kingdom*

*declare in word and deed. To bring down human powers, the lost to seek and find, to heal the weak and lowly, to give eyes to the blind. The voice of their Creator, the whole creation heard, to those with ears to listen, he spoke the living word. ♪*  
 ♪ *The way of life is sacrifice, to help and love the weak, to give our bread to the poor, to turn the other cheek. No worry for tomorrow, we wait on God alone, we are the slaves of all and step down from every throne. He trusted in his Father, till his very last breath, he gave his broken body, his blood even to death. ♪*  
 ♪ *His cross is for our freedom, the vict'ry over sins, and by his resurrection, our risen life begins. No tyrant can control us, we carry our own cross, God is making a garden, to heal our every loss. We look in faith to Jesus, to follow where he trod, he pours his Spirit on us, to make us sons of God. ♪*

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, help us to look beyond superficial appearances to the truth within. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

(sit)

### Listening to the Creator

We gather at the feet of our Lord Jesus, listening to his word and allowing it to change and shape our minds, decisions, and lives. ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind.* ♪ (tune: LSB 770)

### Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Marcella of Rome

Father, we give you thanks for your Spirit-filled saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Marcella who, after her husband died, converted to Christianity, gave away her wealth to the poor, and then opened up her home as a refuge for those in need. She was killed in 410 AD when soldiers raided her home looking for wealth but found none. Help us learn from her faith and example, **Amen.**

### Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 64*



♪ *Lord, protect me from the threat of the | enemy.*  
 \* *Hide me from the plots of | the wicked.*  
*Surely the human mind | is clever,*  
 \* *but God will shoot down | all its plans.*  
*He will turn their own plans | against them*  
 \* *and he will ruin | all their plots.*  
*The faithful will rejoice in the | Lord's wisdom*  
 \* *and take refuge in | him alone. ♪*

### Law & Prophets ✠ Jeremiah 8:4-12

The Prophets reading comes from Jeremiah 8. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

Epistle ✠ 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

The epistle reading comes from 2 Corinthians 10. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**

This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(stand)

† Holy Gospel † John 8:31-59

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ ***Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light. Praise the one who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the one who preached the Gospel, healing every dread disease, calming storms, and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.*** ♪ (tune: LSB 849)

The holy Gospel comes from John 8. ✠ **Jesus, we listen, ready to follow you.**

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. ✠ **We will trust and obey.**

(sit)

Message

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## † Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Let us reflect on how the word of Jesus is speaking into our lives this day.

(silence for reflection)

For serving the false gods of self, family, and nation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
✠ For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
For not living in restful harmony with land, animals, and each other, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
For not listening to and caring for our fathers and mothers in Christ, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
For trying to possess and control your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠  
Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ ***Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.*** ♪ (tune: LSB 449)

Will you turn away from the Way of Civilization and reaffirm the Creator's claim upon you through your Baptism into the Way of Jesus? ✠ **Yes, I renounce the Way of Civilization and pledge my full allegiance to Jesus.** ✠  
Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against

anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ✠ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ✠ Our heavenly Father heals all those who return to his loving arms. You are forgiven and set free from all slavery to live life in the Way of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! ✠ **Amen.**

(stand)

Song ✠ **LSB 684 “Come Unto Me, Ye Weary”**

♪ *“Come follow me you weary, and I will give you rest.” Oh blessed voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed! It tells of resurrection, of freedom, grace, and peace, of joy that has no ending, of love that will not cease.* ♪

♪ *“Come follow me you blind ones, and I will give you light.” Oh healing voice of Jesus, which comes to clear the night! Our hearts were filled with darkness, and we had lost our way. But you have given new eyes, so we don’t go astray.* ♪

♪ *“Come follow me you dying, and I will give you life.” Oh raising voice of Jesus, which comes to help our strife! The enemy is eager, the journey hard and long. But you have made us mighty, and stronger than the strong.* ♪

♪ *“And whosoever follows, I will not cast him out.” Oh patient love of Jesus, which drives away our doubt! And though we be unworthy, of love so great and free, he calls out to us daily, with his word, “Follow me!”* ♪

Waiting on the Creator

♪ *Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do.* ♪ *Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen.* ♪ (tune: LSB 637)

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

**Our Father in heaven, make your name holy, bring your Rule, make your will be done—on earth as in heaven.** ✠ Father, heal your creation that we have harmed and destroyed by reuniting heaven and earth through Jesus and your Spirit. Bring your loving discipline, judgment, and peace upon us, all those in authority, and all creation. Open the hearts of all, so we may trust and obey the word of Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

**Give us this day our daily bread.** ✠ Father, be our provider and protector. Take care of us and heal our brokenness. Especially, we remember Charlene Sargent, Jack Wagner, Jan Zugelder, Georgia & Jamey Story, Maggie Belcher, Jay Hastings, COVID-19 victims, the Disciple Garden, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

**Forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us.** ✠ Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our

addictions to Civilization's Way so we may walk in Jesus's Way. Empower us to forgive the debts and sins of all who repent, even our enemies, in the same way you have forgiven us. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

**Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.** ✕ Father, grow our trust in you and keep us from being tested when we are not yet ready. Free us from fear, self-indulgence, competition, ownership, and violence. Comfort us in the hope that your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

**For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever.** ✕ Father, we thank you for all that you give—life, daily provision, and salvation from death and slavery. Empower us to celebrate your love through a life of patient courage, self-discipline, humility, generosity, and kindness. Help us to let go of being in charge so we might entrust our lives fully into your hands, trusting that you work all things to the good of those who love you. ✕ **Amen.**

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## † Communion — The Way of Love †

### Sharing the Lord's Peace

We prepare to be united as one Body and communion at the Lord's table by sharing with each other the peace and love our Father has freely given to us.

(sit)

### Offering

Everything belongs to our Father and is to be used to love each other in the same way Jesus has loved us. Therefore, we offer our entire lives as a living sacrifice to him while also offering gifts to support this communion.

### Musical Offering

(stand)

### Pledge of Allegiance

*♪ We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us! ♪ (tune: LSB 816)*

Lord Jesus, we pledge our obedience and every part of our lives to you...

**I pledge allegiance to God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I pledge allegiance to Jesus the Christ, who is God's only Son and my Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day he rose from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. He is coming to judge the living and the dead.**

**I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

and life with God, now and always. Amen.

## Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Lift up your hearts! ✠ **We lift them to the Lord!** ✠ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ✠ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ✠ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ✠ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ✠ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation!

♪ *Joyful, joyful we adore you, Creator of all that lives! Earth and heaven praise and thank you, for your love and all you give! Fields and forests, fruit trees and birds, thunderstorms and starry skies, seas and mountains, and grazing herds, praising you who never dies!* ♪ (tune: LSB 803)

## † Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. He said, "Follow my example. Love each other in the same way I have loved you." During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory." After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, "This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory." ♪ *When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus. So as we share this feast may we, remember your love for us. Help us now to follow your Way, and to walk in your goodness. Always make us one in you.* ♪ (tune: LSB 384)

## Invitation to the Table

We gather around Jesus's table, trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion. As we receive the Lord's gifts, we commit ourselves to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the same Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us. We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion of heaven and earth. ♪ *Oh come, Lord Jesus, come and dine, and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov'r all the earth. Come now! Come now! Our Lord Jesus, and bring your healing love to us!* ♪ (tune: LSB 357)

(sit)

## Sharing the Bread & Wine

(stand)

## Sent to "Do the Same in My Memory"

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the bread of life ✠ **your body, given for us.** ✠ You judge us and heal us with your love and mercy ✠ **your blood, shed for**

us. ✠ Now help us to do the same in your memory ✠ as we care for our own bodies, share our whole lives with the church, and serve all your creation. ✠ Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit so we may always reflect your love. ✠ Amen.  
*♪ Hail to the Lord's anointed, he is God's very son! Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free, to take away transgression and rule in equity. ♪ He comes with rescue speedy, to those who suffer wrong, to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong: to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls condemned and dying, were precious in his sight. ♪ (tune: LSB 398)*

### Blessing

May the Father bless you and hold you in his hands. May the Son empower you to love all his creation in the way he has loved you. May the Holy Spirit fill your body and give you a peace that is free of all anxiety. ✠ Amen.

### Song ✠ *LSB 677 "For All the Saints"*

*♪ For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who you by faith before the world confessed. Your name oh Jesus, be forever bless'd. Alleluia, Alleluia! ♪*  
*♪ You were their rock, their fortress, and their might. You Lord, their captain in the loving fight. You in the darkness were their one true light. Alleluia, Alleluia! ♪*  
*♪ Oh may we now be faithful, true, and bold, and walk as the saints who followed of old, and live with them now in your loving hold! Alleluia, Alleluia! ♪*  
*♪ Oh bless'd communion, fellowship of yours! We across all time you work to restore. For all are one in you, for all are yours. Alleluia, Alleluia! ♪*  
*♪ And when the pain is fierce, the waiting long. Send then to us your loving hopeful song. Then hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, Alleluia! ♪*  
*♪ Always to faithful foll'wers comes your rest. Sweet is the calm of paradise the bless'd. We wait on you to save us from the test. Alleluia, Alleluia! ♪*  
*♪ Still then there breaks a far more glorious day. Your faithful saints do rise again from clay. Our Savior Jesus leads us on his Way. Alleluia, Alleluia! ♪*

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Scripture Study - Wednesdays at 6:00 pm we are going through Hebrews through Feb 10 (no meeting Jan 20).
- Table Talk - Join us on Mondays at 6:00 pm for our table talk discussions. On Feb 1 we will start "The Patient Ferment of the Early Church" as Kevin and Luke will tag team lead us in a discussion about the character and



practices of the early church and how we can shape our own direction and life as a church in similar ways.

## Weekly Calendar | January 24 - 31, 2021

<b>Sun</b> <b>Jan 24</b>	8:30-9:10 am	Individual Confession & Forgiveness
	9:30 am	The Divine Liturgy “Don’t Judge Appearances”   John 7—8
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship
	11:15 am	Text of the Day Study
<b>Mon</b> <b>Jan 25</b>	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Luke’s Office Hours
	6:00 pm	Table Talk
<b>Tues</b> <b>Jan 26</b>	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Luke’s Office Hours
<b>Wed</b> <b>Jan 27</b>	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Luke’s Office Hours
	6:00 pm	Scripture Study: Hebrews
<b>Thurs</b> <b>Jan 28</b>		
<b>Fri</b> <b>Jan 29</b>		Pastor Luke’s Sabbath
<b>Sat</b> <b>Jan 30</b>		
<b>Sun</b> <b>Jan 31</b>	8:30-9:10 am	Individual Confession & Forgiveness
	9:30 am	The Divine Liturgy “The Blind”   John 9—10
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship
	11:15 am	Text of the Day Study

### Thought of the Week

“We should be obedient to God rather than those who have arrogantly made themselves leaders. We will bring great danger upon ourselves if we surrender ourselves to the purposes of men.” (1 Clement)

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