

† Epiphany II †

“The Light Is Upon Us”



“He Carried Our Suffering”

Matthew 8:1—9:34

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | January 15, 2023

Invocation

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism, Repentance, and Communion.** ✠ Through your Son Jesus, who is your Word embodied in flesh, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ✠ Through your Holy Spirit, who dwells among us and within us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.**

Processional Song ✠ *LSB 932 “Jesus Sat With His Disciples”*

- ♫ *Jesus sat with his disciples on a mountain and he said, “Blessed are the poor and hungry, heaven’s kingdom gives them bread. Blessed are the meek and humble, all of the earth they will own. Yes, the merciful are blessed, mercy to them will be shown.”* ♫
- ♫ *“Blessed are God’s sons and daughters, making peace where there is strife. Blessed are the persecuted, who faithfully lose their life. Their reward comes from the Father, as his love comes from above—so be glad to share my suff’ring and rejoice to know my love.”* ♫
- ♫ *Love your enemies who hurt you, turn your other cheek in trust. Speak well of those who abuse you, pray for those who hate you most. Your Father has shown you mercy, so forgiveness you must learn. What you give and do to others, you will receive in return.* ♫
- ♫ *Do not worry about your life, do not be anxious today. Do not worry about safety, or tomorrow the next day. Your Father has you in his hands, everything is in his care. He will be with you through all life, he treasures your every hair.* ♫

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.**

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Surrendering to the Creator

Jesus says, “You must be born again through water and the Spirit ✠ **to enter the Creator’s Rule.**” ✠ Father, Son, & Holy Spirit ✠ **I surrender to you all of my mind, all of my heart, and all of my body and soul.**

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

Jesus says, “If you love your self, family, or nation more than me, ✠ **you cannot be my disciple.** ✠ If you hold onto your life, you will destroy it, ✠ **but if you let go of your life, you will save it.**” ✠ Father, into your hands ✠ **I commit my spirit.** ✠ Father, not my will, ✠ **but your will be done.** ♫ *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 money and fam'ly, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how to love all creation now. ♪ (LSB 783)

Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is coming 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. ♪ (LSB 412)*

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray. Heavenly Father, help us to carry each other's burdens in the way you have carried ours. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Listening to the Creator

Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. Learn from me and practice my teachings and you will find rest for your souls. Those who listen will live." ♪ *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. ♪ (LSB 770)*

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Sebastian

Father, we give you thanks for the great cloud of saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Sebastian who joined the Roman army to be an insider who could help those being martyred for their Christian faith. When he was found out he refused to recant his faith and persisted in converting others to Jesus. He was tied to a tree and shot with arrows, but miraculously survived. When he returned to the Emperor in 288 AD to show him that he was still alive, the Emperor killed him. Help us learn from his faith and example, **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 9*



♪ *I will give thanks to the Lord with | all my heart,
* For you will rebuke and destroy | the nations,
The rebellious will come to an end | in ruins,
* and you will uproot the cities and will destroy | their memory.
The Lord will be a stronghold for | the oppressed
* and for those who trust in him instead of armies | and rulers.
For the wicked are destroyed by | their own works,
* but the needy will not be forgotten | by the Lord. ♪*

Law & Prophets ✠ Isaiah 5:20-30

The Prophets reading comes from Isaiah 5. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.** We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

Epistle ✠ 1 Corinthians 7:17-31

The Epistle reading comes from 1 Corinthians 7. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

† Holy Gospel † Matthew 8:14-27

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

The holy Gospel comes from Matthew 8. ✠ **Blessed are those who listen to Jesus.**
If you have ears to hear, then listen! ✠ **Lord Jesus, help us to practice your Word.**

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Jesus says, “I know everything you do. Pay attention and remove the log from your own eye. I have called you out of Civilization. Repent, for the Creator’s Rule is at hand!”

(silence for reflection)

For placing our self, family, and nation above you, ✠ **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 peace with land, animals, and each other, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**

For not respecting 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.*** ♪ (LSB 449)

Jesus says, “I discipline those I love. Come out of Civilization, my people, so you will not share in its sins and plagues. Not one stone will be left standing, it will all be torn down.” Will you turn away from Civilization’s Way of arrogance, fear, and violence and reaffirm your Baptism into Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love? ✠ **Yes, I renounce Civilization’s Way and pledge to follow Jesus.** ✠ Jesus says, “Put your sword away. If you live by the sword, you will die by the sword. But if you forgive others, your heavenly Father will forgive you.” 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.** ✠ Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk. Go and sin no more.” ✠ **Amen.**

Song of the Day ✠ **"O Teacher, Don't You Care?"** (tune: LSB 798)

- ♫ **"O Teacher, don't you care?" the Lord's disciples cried. "The waves are beating everywhere — We'll surely die!" They called to him in dread, for mighty storms could kill. Then Jesus spoke into the fury, "Peace! Be still!"** ♪
- ♫ **Lord, still the storm winds blow, and still we cry in fear: We too are sinking, don't you know? Lord, are you here? We seek to live your way, yet sorrows beat us down. We feel alone and wonder: Where can peace be found?** ♪
- ♫ **Your church, your little boat, is struggling in the seas. We question if we'll stay afloat in times like these. The world is raging round; there's trouble everywhere. When we are facing mighty storms, Lord, hear our prayer.** ♪
- ♫ **What strength and love you've shown! So calm your church's fear. Remind us that we're not alone, for you are here. And though the waves are strong and winds blow where they will, Your peaceful presence in our lives is greater still.** ♪

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.** ♪ (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)

Jesus says, "Learn from the birds. They do not store up for tomorrow and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Do not fear or worry about tomorrow. Not a hair from your head will be destroyed. Seek only your Father's Rule and he will give you everything you need." *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, set us apart from Civilization in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Take charge of our lives and all those in authority. Use everything that happens to bring your good judgment and healing upon all creation. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord,* ♫ **Lord have mercy.** ♪

Give us this day our daily bread. ✠ Father, provide for us, protect us, and heal our brokenness. Especially this day we remember Charlene Sargent, Jan & Paul Zugelder, Carolyn Davis, Chuck Ford's & Kathy Tharp's birthdays, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *In peace, 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 anxieties and traumas as well as our addictions to Civilization's Way, so we may walk in Jesus's Way. Empower us to love and forgive everyone, even our enemies, in the same way you have loved and forgiven us. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord,* ♫ **Lord have mercy.** ♪

Do not abandon us in temptation, but rescue us from evil. ✠ Father, humble us and remind us that we have no strength apart from you. Stay with us in times of difficulty and save us from our selfishness. Comfort us in the certain hope that your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord,* ♫ **Lord have mercy.** ♪

For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever. ☩ Father, help us to let go and surrender everything into your loving hands, trusting that you are working all things to the good of those who love you. ☩ **Amen.**

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord's Peace

Jesus says, “Make peace with each other ☩ **before you come to the Lord's altar.** By this all people will know that you are my disciples: ☩ **if you love each other.**”

Offering

Jesus says, “Do not store up things on earth. To be my disciple you must give up everything you own. Freely you have received from the Lord, freely you must give.” We offer all we have to the Lord, while also offering gifts to support this communion.

Musical Offering

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!* ♫ (LSB 816) Jesus says, “If you pledge your allegiance to me before men, then I will pledge my allegiance to you before my heavenly Father.”

I pledge allegiance to one God, the all-powerful Father, who is the Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I pledge allegiance to one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is God's only Son. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He loved and he suffered. Under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. His rule will not end.

I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the baptism for forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life in the age to come. 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! ♫ *Let all creation be humble and rejoice in awe and fear. We give thanks to our Lord Jesus who brings heaven to us here. He is giving himself to us and his presence has come near.* ♫ (tune: LSB 621)

† 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. Jesus said, ✠ **“Follow my example. Love each other, even your enemies, 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.* ♫ (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 to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the 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!* ♫ (LSB 357)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Jesus says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood is united with me and will be raised from the dead.” Christ Jesus, as we feed on you ✠ **we are made members of your Body.** ✠ We no longer live for ourselves ✠ **but you, Lord Christ, live within us.** ✠ As you have laid down your body and blood for us, ✠ **help us to do the same for each other in your memory.** ✠ Help us share our whole lives with the church ✠ **and care for all your creation, including our own bodies.** ✠ Jesus says, “What do you want me to do for you?” ✠ **Lord, open my eyes so that I can see!** ✠ Jesus says, “Your eyes have been opened, ✠ **take up your cross everyday and follow me.” 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

Jesus says, “Blessed are you in your poverty and suffering, for you are in the Creator’s Rule. Blessed are you in your humility, for you will inherit the earth. Blessed are you when you are merciful and peaceful, for you will find mercy and peace.” ✠ **Amen.**

Recessional Song ✠ **“One Day As Jesus Traveled” (tune: LSB 478)**

♫ *One day as Jesus traveled to places wild, untold, He met a man unraveled by evil’s awful hold. The demons that possessed him saw Christ and screamed in fear;*

They knew, in their resisting, their days were numbered here. ♪
♪ That man knew only suffering, a life of grief and pain; He could not yet imagine that he'd be whole again. The demons cried to Jesus, "Just send us to those swine!" When evil faces goodness, it seeks a new design. ♪
♪ When goodness meets great evil, when faith encounters sin, The field is never level, for God's great love will win. Yet legions cry in anger while clinging to their days; They seek to trouble longer, to harm in other ways. ♪
♪ When churches seek to practice the faith with which we're blessed By seeking love and justice and helping the oppressed, So often there is tension that tears the heart and soul, A struggle, a resisting of all that makes us whole. ♪
♪ The demons cried to Jesus, "Just send us to those swine!" Yet soon those pigs stampeded right down a steep incline. For things that bring destruction will one day fall away; And God is surely bringing a new and joyful day. ♪

- * Faith & Film: “Calvary” Jan 16, 23 @ DG
- * Faith & Film: “Les Miserables” Feb 6, 13, 20 @ DG
- * Faith & Film: “Snowpiercer” Feb 27, Mar 6 @ DG
- * Scripture Study: “The Shepherd of Hermas,” Wednesdays, 6 pm

Weekly Calendar | January 15 - 22, 2023

Sun, Jan 15	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “He Carried Our Suffering” Matthew 8:1—9:34
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study
Mon, Jan 16	6:00 pm	Faith & Film: “Calvary”
Wed, Jan 18	4:30 pm	Jesus Time
	6:00 pm	Scripture Study: “The Shepherd of Hermas”
Thurs, Jan 19	6:00 pm	Choir
Sat, Jan 21	7-9 am	Breakfast & Devotion
Sun, Jan 22	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “Like Sheep Among Wolves” Matthew 9:35—10:42
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text of the Day Study

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