

January 11-12, 2025



# EPIPHANY

## moments

Baptism is the Cure for an Identity Crisis



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)

First Sunday in Epiphany

**W**elcome! 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:** Savior Jesus, thank you for your blessing in another week. Hear our prayer today and answer our every need in grace and mercy. Bless us as we worship your. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** "Who is Jesus?" For thirty years people knew him as Mary and Joseph's son, the carpenter from Nazareth. When Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke and revealed Jesus' true identity. The dearly loved Son of God, chosen to be the Savior of the world. "Who are you?" We are more than a name, an occupation, a family position, a race, or a gender. For the answer to the question of who we are, the Christian looks to our baptism. There, just like he did with Jesus, our Father declares us to be his dearly loved child.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing himself as the divine Son of God come to earth in humility to save sinners. In this season we are reminded that there is more to Jesus than what we see on the surface. A review of Jesus' life provides an abundance of epiphany moments where God reveals our Savior to us, and reveals our place in his plan as well.

**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/Organ: Madison Boerner

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# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



## Hymn: Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert CW 379 sts. 1-2



1 Christ, your foot - prints through the des - ert led to Jor - dan's  
2 Christ, you heard the stir - ring sum - mons as by Jor - dan's



flow - ing stream; there you heard the her - ald cry - ing  
bank you stood; bathed, though sin - less, with your peo - ple



Is - rael's old, pro - phet - ic dream: "He is com - ing! He is  
in the riv - er's cleans - ing flood. High a - bove, the heav - ens



com - ing! He will cleanse the earth with flame! Sin - ners,  
o - pened; came the Spir - it as a dove; spoke a



plunge be - neath the wa - ters! Wash a - way your guilt and shame!"  
voice be - yond all hear - ing: "See my Son, the One I love!"

*Please stand.*

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.** (Psalm 32)

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Almighty and merciful Father,  
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.  
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.  
We have done those things that we should not have done,  
And we have not done those things that we should have done.  
Have mercy on us Lord!  
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,  
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn: Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert** CW 379 sts. 3-4

3 Son of God, the road from Jor - dan led at last to  
4 God, in Bap - tism you have made us one with Christ, our  
Cal - v'ry's hill. There up - on the cross for - sak - en,  
ris - en Lord, freed us, claimed us, cleansed, for - giv - en  
you ful - filled the Fa - ther's will. Lamb of God, we see you  
thro' the wa - ter and the Word. Help us hear your ur - gent  
dy - ing, sin - less, yet for sin - ners slain. But where  
sum - mons, call - ing us to serve you now. Send us  
death rose up to tri - umph, you be - gan your glo - rious reign!  
forth, your sons and daugh - ters, with the cross up - on our brow.

## 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**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

*David was the youngest of eight brothers and a shepherd. Yet, at his anointing, the Lord declared his true identity—future king of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

<sup>2</sup>But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”<sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

<sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

<sup>5</sup>Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

<sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”<sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah

pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.”<sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

<sup>12</sup>So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”

<sup>13</sup>So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

*Baptism appears to be ordinary and simple but St. Paul explains baptism is so much more—a second birth that gives you the identity of God’s child and heir.*

<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

*At his baptism Jesus was identified by his Father as the Anointed One.*

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup>When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And 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. 1–5



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  
 3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood and John bap -  
 4 Then from God’s throne with thun - d’rous sound came God’s own  
 5 The Fa - ther’s word, the Spir - it’s flight a - noint - ed



heav’n - ly hosts a - dored, the God from God, the  
 God in flesh dis - guised— to stand be - neath the  
 tized the Lamb of God, the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 voice with words pro - found: “This is my Son,” was  
 Christ in glo - rious sight as God’s own choice, from



Light from Light, the Lord of glo - ry, pow’r, and might.  
 Fa - ther’s will and all his prom - is - es ful - fill.  
 heav’n - ly dove, de - scend - ed on him from a - bove.  
 his de - cree, “the one I love, who pleas - es me.”  
 Ad - am’s fall to save the world and free us all.

## Sermon

Based on Titus 3:4-7

*“God’s people are set apart”*

*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.

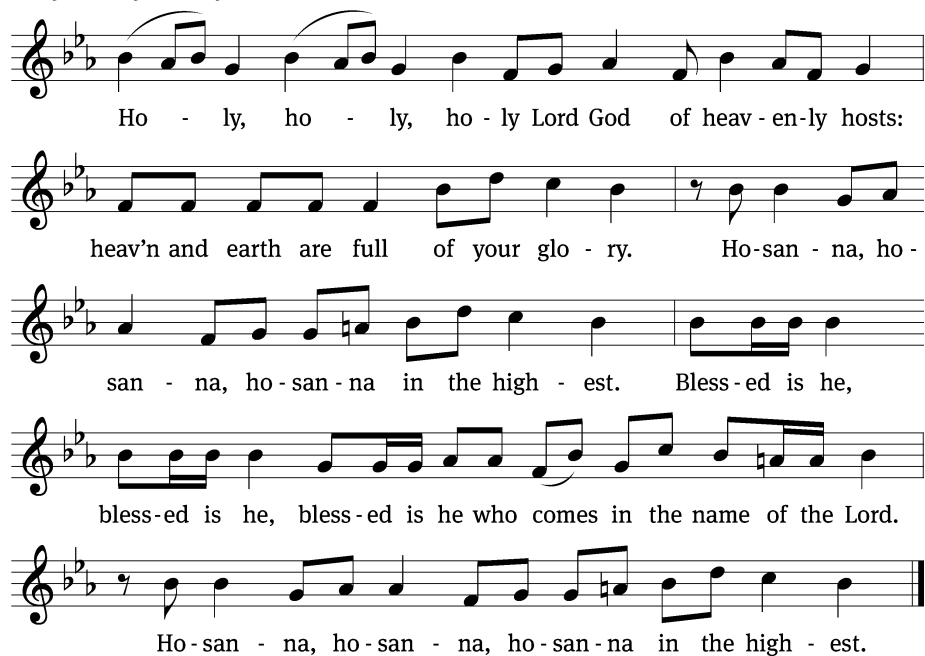
C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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, 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.*

*Find the distribution hymn on the next page.*

# Distribution Hymn: God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

CW 679



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized  
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized  
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized  
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized  
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing to this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it, gave my  
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus'  
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion, I am  
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness to in -  
 com - fort sure! O - pen-eyed my grave is star - ing: e - ven



full re - demp-tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures man - y?  
 cleans-ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con-science seize me  
 not so soon en-ticed. Now that to the font I've trav - eled,  
 her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and ash - es  
 there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its rais - ing,



I have one worth more than an - y that brought me sal -  
 since my bap - tism did re - lease me in a dear for -  
 all your might has come un - rav - eled, and, a - gainst your  
 faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the  
 still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free, last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
 giv - ing flood, sprink-ling me with Je - sus' blood?  
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!  
 strength di - vine to make life im - mor - tal mine.  
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

*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

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: All Who Believe and Are Baptized

CW 692



1 All who be-lieve and are bap-tized shall see the Lord's sal -

2 With one ac-cord, O God, we pray: grant us your Ho - ly



va - tion; bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, they are a

Spir - it; help us in our in - firm - i - ty through Je - sus'



new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand a -

blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day that



mong the glo-rious, heav'n-ly band of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.

by this sac - ra - ment we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship  
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## Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

## For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Croixaliers Sunday

**MEMBER POTLUCK**

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY FEB. 2 | 11:30 AM

## **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.**

