

January 8, 2023

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Baptism of Our Lord
January 8, 2023**



**PRELUDE
WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

56 The First Noel

1 The first Noel the an - gel did say Was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star Shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star Three .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north-west, O'er . .

cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; And to the . .
 Wise . Men came . . from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; And there it . .

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, And . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, And to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay Right . o - ver the

Refrain

night . that was . . so deep.
 tin - ued both day . . and night. No - el, No - el, No -
 star . . wher - ev - er it went.
 place . where Je - sus lay.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

***CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

***GREETING**

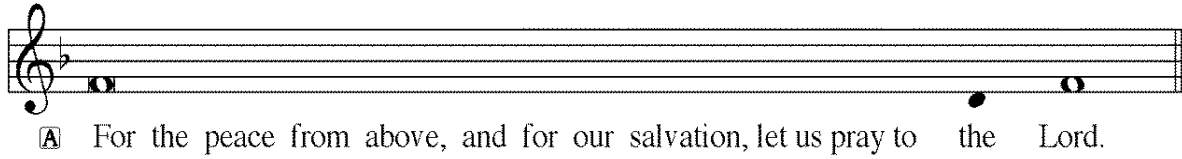
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

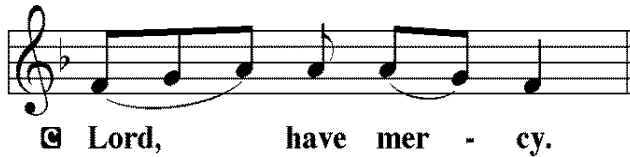
***KYRIE**



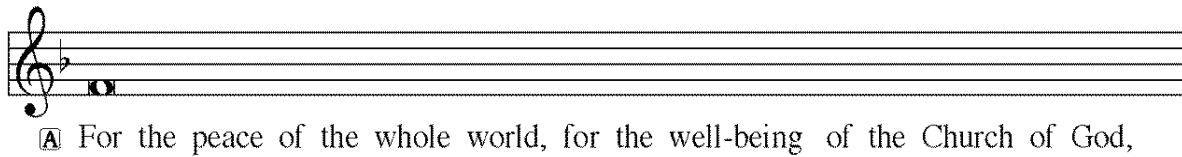
[A] In peace, let us pray to the Lord. [C] Lord, have mer - cy.



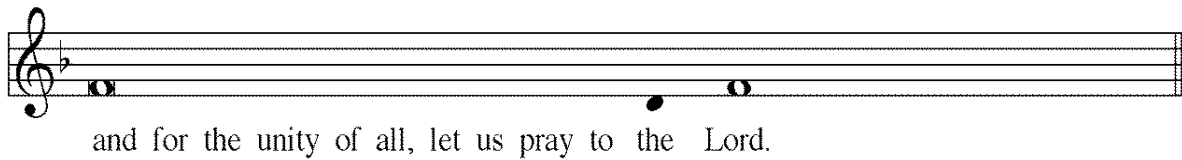
[A] For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



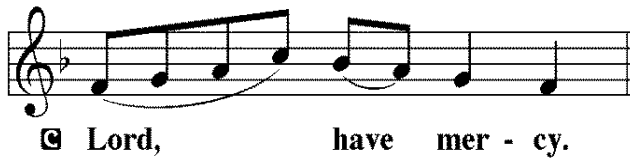
[C] Lord, have mer - cy.



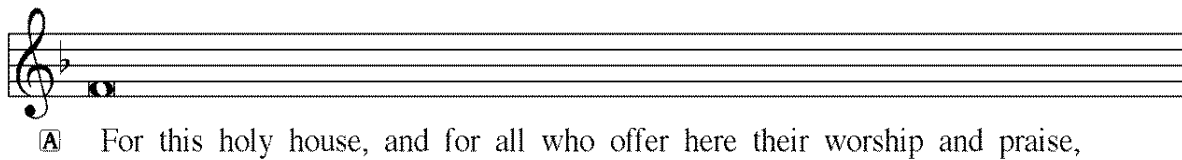
[A] For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



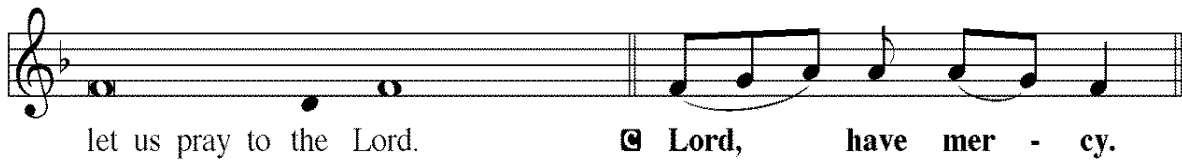
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



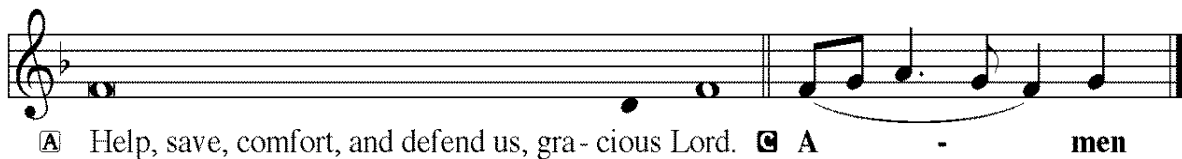
[C] Lord, have mer - cy.



[A] For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. [C] Lord, have mer - cy.



[A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. [C] A - men

***HYMN of PRAISE**



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



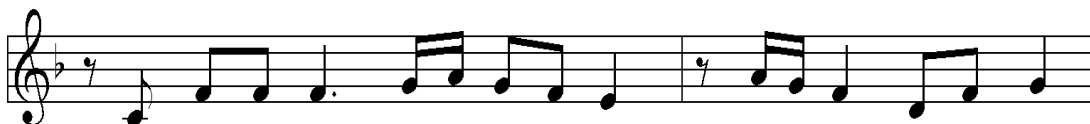
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men

***PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**

Ⓟ The Lord be with you. Ⓞ And al - so with you.

P Let us pray...

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be our daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS

First Lesson ~ A reading from Isaiah 42:1-9

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Psalm 29 ~ *with response*

*Second Lesson ~ A reading from Acts 10:34-43

after the reading

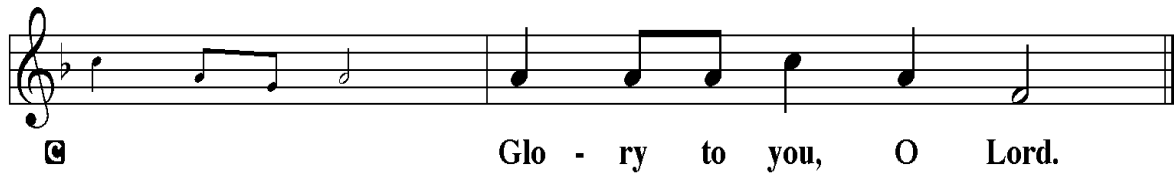
R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

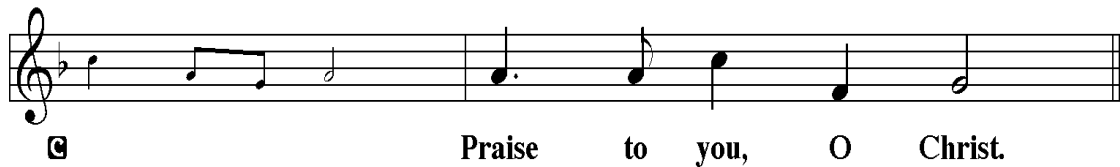
Ⓞ Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter



After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord



MESSAGE

Installation of New Council ~ (New Council come forward)

(After Council is installed the rest of the congregation is invited to come forward to remember our baptism - or you may stay in your seat and the pastor will bring baptismal water to you.)

Remembering our Baptism

HYMN ~ *Down in the River to Pray*

As I went down in the river to pray Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way!

O sisters let's go down Let's go down, come on down O sisters let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe & crown? Good Lord show me the way

O brothers let's go down Let's go down, come on down Come on brothers, let's go
down Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way

O fathers let's go down Let's go down, come on down O fathers let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way

O mothers let's go down Come on down, don't you wanna go down?
Come on mothers, let's go down Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way

O sinners, let's go down Let's go down, come on down O sinners, let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way

***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.

OFFERING ~ You may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end of the front and back pews.

***OFFERTORY**



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

***PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ See Celebrate**

P Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

Beautiful Savior

518

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee, Tru - ly I'd
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
pur - er, He makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

R Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Music: Bill Cullingford

Today

Altar Care: Brenda Boring; **Flower Delivery:** Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: John Chester; **Greeters:** Bob and Susan Keller

Sound: Joe Kanagy

Next Sunday, January 15

Altar Care: Brenda Boring; **Flower Delivery:** Brenda Boring

Greeter: Ed Bilich; **Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich

Sound: Jay Byler

Church Office: 935-2032; **Email us at** secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Our Mission Statement

We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another in our homes, church, community and the world.

Our Vision Statement

To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.

The Altar flowers in St. John's are given to the Glory of God by Jami Zook in honor of Mike Boring's 60th birthday.

Please remember in prayer ~ Jim Buchanan, John Boring, Desa Keiser, Kathy Eckley, Fred Rodgers, Elliana Byler, Kyung Sun Yim, Bob Treaster, Don F. Smith, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Joyce Stuck (Greenwood Village), Betty Harmon (Celebration Villa) and Don Wolfe (VVH). Families of Richard Byler and Carol Yoder.

FROM the PASTOR

Carol Yoder passed away at Valley View Sunday, Jan 1. A family graveside service was held Thursday, Jan 5 with Pastor Ela officiating. Condolences may be sent to her daughter Bonnie King, 298 Church Lane, Reedsville 17084.

January 8, 2023

As a recent lectionary scripture reading reminds us, we all praise and value the name of Jesus. Unfortunately, unknowns seem to value our names too in the name of scam! May our communications with God never be as clogged as the digital highway.

Please be warned that at least two people received a text at New Years purportedly from the pastor (Rev. Ela J. Robertson) saying something like "*I want you to do something for me. I am in a meeting now please text back*".) It was from a number we do not recognize with a 223 area code. Since then three people have reported receiving a similar email, something like: "*I have a task for you, urgent*" - again not from the pastor's email address but one that looks similar to it.

If you have received these texts or emails please note down the sending number or email address and the date and time. Someone pointed out that the time stamp on one of these emails was several hours ahead of our time - leading us to believe it is coming from overseas. Please email or call the pastor that you did or did not receive this scam so that we can know how wide spread this is. You may want to delete the message from your computer. Apparently there is a recent article in AARP describing how wide spread the scamming business is. Be aware. Let us pray we will all be free from this and know the difference between deceit and truth.

"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." JOHN 8:32

We will be taking down the Nativity and Christmas decorations after church today. Please stay to help if you can - Many Hands Make Light Work!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2022 contribution statements have been placed in member mailboxes. Any still remaining after Sunday, January 20 will be mailed out.

The January/February newsletter is being sent out this week. It will be available in mailboxes for those members who do not receive it by email.

PLEASE NOTE ~ We have discovered that the company who supplies our offering envelopes mistakenly ran the first 20 boxes of our 2023 order with the information for another church, Nazarene Lutheran in Wilcox Pa to be exact. If your box is in the **#1-20 range** please throw it away or bring it back. **New envelopes have been placed in your mailbox.**

All the other boxes numbered 21 and higher appear to be correct. Please contact the office if you did not receive any.

Thank you for the prayers, phone calls and cards following my recent surgery and continuing recuperation.

John and Brenda Boring

Belleville Mennonite School is currently accepting applications for several staff positions. To view the complete job descriptions, learn more or apply, please visit our website (www.bmsprek12.org) or call the school office (717-935-2184).

The Social Ministry committee continues to collect items for the Mitten Tree along with non-perishable food for the Shelter Service through January. More information can be found in the newsletter. Please place your food donations on/under the grey table located in the narthex.

There are still quite a few dates left to place altar flowers for this year. Sign-ups can be found in the narthex. **Please remember to notate** whether you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered. Currently, the cost remains at \$40.00.

January 1 thru January 5, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 17 Offering ~ \$1,450.00

St. John's ~ Income \$1,450.00 Expense \$4,597.41
Net Income - \$3,147.41

Daycare ~ Income \$5,152.60 Expense \$247.65
Net Income \$4,904.95