



**THE LORD'S CHOICE
IS UNEXPECTED**



IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

Epiphany Moments: the Lord's choice is unexpected. God chose a childless old man to be the father of a great nation? He chose the younger brother, Jacob the deceiver, to inherit the blessing over the first-born, Esau? God chose a stammering fugitive with blood on his hands to be the prophet who would lead his people out of slavery? God operates in ways that we wouldn't have imagined, yet in just the way that we so desperately needed. Today, we consider God's choice of Israel's new king, his approval of his Son, the Christ, and also his choice in saving you and me – not by anything we had done – rather by his mercy and his Spirit and his washing. Let's marvel at the Lord's unexpected choice!

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. At St. Paul's, you will find a worship service designed to praise God and increase people's faith. While all styles of worship take some getting used to, we hope you will find that the main message – the unconditional love Jesus has for us – comes through clearly.

PARTICIPATE. Many parts of our worship service are interactive. Feel free to sing along with the hymns and songs. There are also times in the service when Pastor and congregation speak back and forth. Please join together as you feel comfortable.

PARAMENTS. In Lutheran churches you often see paraments. These are the colored cloths with symbols on them hanging from the altar and pulpit. They change with the church seasons and celebrations as a visual reminder of what we are celebrating in our worship. The color for today, the Baptism of Our Lord, is white...a color of perfection and purity. This represents Jesus, with whom the Father is well-pleased. We who are baptized also wear his holiness and are therefore pleasing to the Father. (Galatians 3:26-27)

PERSONAL CONVENIENCES. For your convenience, restrooms are located in the southwest corner of the narthex across from the entrance into the sanctuary...feel free to ask for directions. Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate mode so as not to disrupt others during the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

To help you focus while you join us for worship, take the time to eliminate as many distractions around you as possible. We may be separated by in-person or livestream worship, but we can connect with each other here for Christian support and encouragement.

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

The Greek word “*Epiphany*” literally means “*to shine into*”. It’s an unveiling of Jesus’ true identity. Bringing to mind how the special star led the wise men to worship the baby Jesus. But that Greek word is normally used in the sense of “*appearance*”.

For 18 centuries, Christians have set aside the early part of the new year to talk about how God reveals Jesus’ identity as true God, Messiah, the Christ...the anointed Savior. Epiphany also stresses that when one has seen Jesus with the eyes of faith...they are never the same. Their life takes on new meaning and purpose.



OUR WORSHIP SERIES

When someone has an epiphany...it’s not that reality has changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an “a-ha!” moment causing us to look at things very differently.

In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry...revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives...it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently (and better). Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments. Our worship follows this pattern:

EPIPHANY MOMENTS

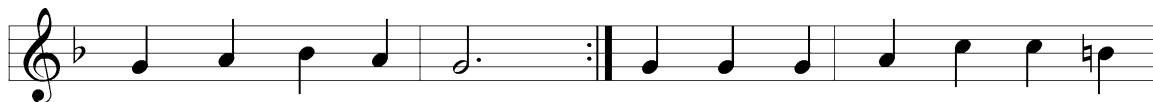
Baptism of Our Lord	Jan. 12 th	<i>... the Lord’s Choice is Unexpected</i>
2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Jan. 19 th	<i>... God Delivers More, Not Less</i>
3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Jan. 26 th	<i>... Rejection is Not Proof of Failure</i>
4 th Sunday after Epiphany	Feb. 2 nd	<i>... Popularity is Not Proof of Success</i>
5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Feb. 9 th	<i>... the Least Qualified are the First Sent</i>
6 th Sunday after Epiphany	Feb. 16 th	<i>... Blessings are Cursed, Curses are Blessed</i>
7 th Sunday after Pentecost	Feb. 23 rd	<i>... Overcoming Evil with Good</i>
Transfiguration of Our Lord	Mar. 2 nd	<i>... Glory is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed</i>

GATHERING RITE ON HOLY BAPTISM

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your



Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to



sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is
born of water and the Spirit.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 3:5,6

Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers
conceived us.

Psalms 51:5

**But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the
name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

1 Corinthians 6:11

My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -
 My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of
 forth your child and heir.
 all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort
 me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise
 Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and
 sure - ly will en - dure.
 deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -
 filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

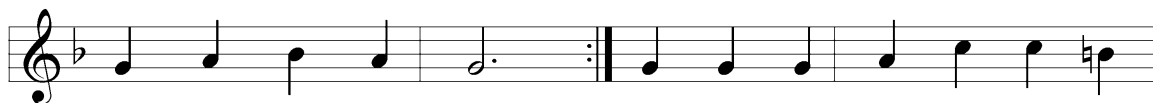
Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-27

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.



All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it
Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me



all, O Lord, from me.
your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or



own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

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.



THE WORD

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

To Samuel's surprise, the LORD passed by tall and impressive warriors in favor of a young shepherd to anoint as the next king of Israel.

¹The 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.”

²But 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.’ ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

⁴Samuel 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?”

⁵Samuel 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.

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

⁷But 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.”

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” ⁹Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” ¹¹So 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.”

¹²So 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.”

¹³So 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.

SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

God chooses those who couldn't do anything righteous to save themselves; he chooses to save through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he 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, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. "And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well-pleased.'" Alleluia. (Mark 1:11)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

The Gospel according to Luke chapter 3.



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

**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

HYMN OF THE DAY

To Jordan's River Came Our Lord | 377



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



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



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."

5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
 anointed Christ in glorious sight
 as God's own choice, from Adam's fall
 to save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!
 This man is Christ, our substitute!
 He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
 proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: James P. Tiefert, b. 1949
 Tune: Musikalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, Hamburg, 1690, alt.
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 Tune: Public domain

*The Answer to Our Heart's Longing
Abode - Assurance - Approval*

Stand

C: 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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

Be Seated

CONNECT

We would kindly ask everyone to fill out a *Connect Card* now. If you are worshipping with us virtually, we kindly ask that you also fill out a digital *Connect Card*. What will be the “next steps” you can take as a response to the message you have heard today? You can also let us know how we can pray for you or ask for more information on one of the ministries or programs we are offering. Thank you!



OFFERING

If you're visiting today...we're glad to have you as our guest. Please don't feel any obligation to participate in this part of the service. In fact...we hope you'll consider this service our gift to you! This offering is an opportunity for those of us who are regular attenders to invest tangibly in what God is doing here. If you do wish to give an offering...please feel free to do so.

Giving Options:

- ◆ Scan the QR code to the right.
 - ◆ give your gift [online](#).
 - ◆ via text message: text “GIVE” to 877.492.5452 and follow the text instructions.
-



Stand

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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



C: 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

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 \dagger 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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: 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.

DISTRIBUTION

Through the Apostle Paul Jesus tells us that celebrating the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity with him and with the others who partake in this meal (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). He also says, *"So then, whoever eats of the bread and drinks of the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves"* (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). For these reasons, St. Paul's practices close communion with those united to us in beliefs and church membership. We welcome confirmed members of the WELS and ELS to the Lord's Table. We ask that you speak with one of our pastors before taking the Lord's Supper. They are eager to meet with you. We thank you kindly. And greatly look forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper with you. In preparation for communing today...you may use the questions found on pp.295-296 in the blue hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness | 663



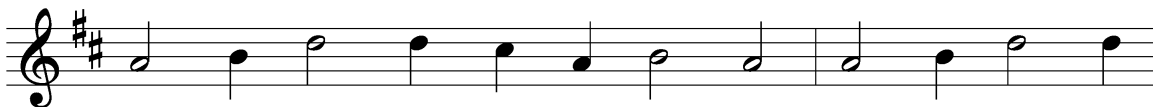
1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness; leave be -
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, and with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure nei - ther
4 Now I kneel be - fore you low - ly, filled with



hind all gloom and sad - ness. Come in - to the day-light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet him, for with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure, but the price - less gifts of
joy most deep and ho - ly, as with trem - bling awe and



splen - dor; there with joy your prais - es ren - der
mor - tal he is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
won - der on your might - y work I pon - der,



un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed has this won - drous
O - pen wide the gates be - fore him, say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, naught would buy the
by such mys - ter - y sur - round - ed, depths that no one



sup - per found - ed. He, though reign - ing high and
there a - dore him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
ev - er sound - ed. None may dare to pierce un -



ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive you, that I nev - er - more will leave you.
riv - en, and his blood, for you once giv - en.
bid - den se - crets that with you are hid - den.

5 Human reason, though it ponders,
cannot fathom these great wonders,
that Christ's body must be boundless
since the souls it feeds are countless,
and that he his blood is giving
with the wine we are receiving.

These great mysteries unsounded
are by God alone expounded.

6 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
you have left your throne in heaven
on the cross for me to languish
and to die in bitter anguish,
to forgo all joy and gladness
and to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

7 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
fount of life, my soul inspiring:
at your feet I cry, my maker,
let me be a fit partaker
of this blessed food from heaven
for our good, your glory, given.

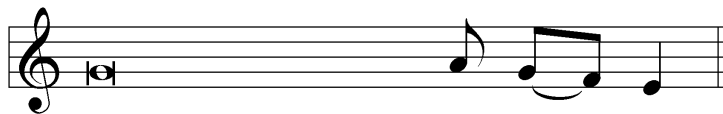
8 Jesus, Lord of life in heaven,
help me when this meal is given
to receive it for my blessing
as I come, my sins confessing.
In this supper let me measure,
Lord, how deep is your love's treasure,
that, as I on earth have eaten,
I may be your guest in heaven.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 4, 7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 3, 5–6): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 8): tr. Peter M. Prange, b. 1972
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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Text (sts. 1–7) and tune: Public domain

THANKSGIVING

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



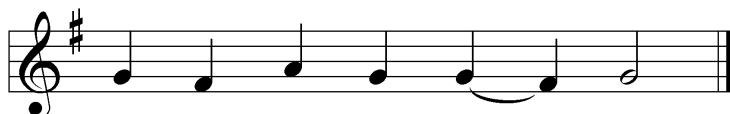
C: A - men.

BLESSING

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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE The Only Son from Heaven | **383:1-2,4**



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, fore - told by an - cient seers,
2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!
4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you with God the Ho - ly Ghost



by God the Fa - ther giv - en, in hu - man form ap - pears.
He comes, the King a - noint - ed, the Christ, the vir - gin - born,
and Je - sus, we a - dore you, O Pride of an - gel host.



No sphere his light con - fin - ing, no star so
grim death to con - quer for us, to o - pen
Be - fore you mor - tals low - ly cry, "Ho - ly,



bright - ly shin - ing as he, our Morn - ing Star.
heav'n be - fore us and bring us life a - gain.
ho - ly, ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text (sts. 1-2): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-1874, alt.; (sts. 1-2): Elisabeth Cruciger, c. 1500-1535; (st. 4): Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978;
Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, Erfurt, 1524, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER: Pastor Adam Bode

SERVICE ACCOMPANIST: Deb Doletzky

ALTAR GUILD: Debbie Van Alstine, Karen Beining, Sandy Weber

USHERS: 8:00a – Allen Kraemer, Trevor Athorp, Ray Price, Dan Doetsch

10:30a – Alan Kuether, Terry Roehrborn, James Van Alstine, Justin Kiecker

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