



"Come, FOLLOW me," Jesus said,  
"and I will make you  
FISHERS OF MEN."



Matthew 4:19

*Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church  
Third Weekend after Epiphany  
Saturday, January 21, 2023*



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

419-836-5514

Third Weekend after Epiphany

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## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING SONG

*Once Again*

We will gather as his children,  
once again and worship him.  
We will sing out songs of praises,  
once again and worship him.

Once again in Jesus' name.  
Once again we share together.  
Once again in Jesus' name,  
Once again his children gather.

We will offer grateful praises,  
once again and worship him.  
We'll surrender heavy burdens,  
once again and worship him.

Once again in Jesus' name.  
Once again we share together.  
Once again in Jesus' name,  
Once again his children gather.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we come needing your forgiveness. We turn our backs on your unconditional love. We allow the events of our daily lives to slowly and gradually cloud our awareness of you. We are more insensitive than**

**we are rebellious. We are more wooden than we are alive. God, shake us up, turn us around, and give us a new energy to love and follow you. Hear the prayers of our hearts, God.**

*A time of silent meditation and reflection*

P: Jesus promised he would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to be with those who believe in him. Through the waters of baptism, we are given a visual reminder of this great promise; our sins have been washed away and we have been made clean. In the promise of baptism, we are reminded that we do not need to live our lives alone. We are reminded that we have a constant friend and a comforter in Jesus. Praise God for the new life we receive through baptism.

**C: Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

### **SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I bap-

tized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 4:12-23**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

## **SERMON**

Pastor Shawn O’Brien

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**All: I believe in a great God who created the world in power and love. God's character is reflected in all of creation and in his Son, Jesus**

**Christ. His life, his teachings, his miracles, his death and his resurrection provide true forgiveness of sin and life for all creation. His strength bolsters my weakness. His love covers my failures. His sacrifice forgives my sin. I trust him as a friend and a brother. I believe in the Holy Spirit, God at work in and among us. I believe God is present and active in today's world and I can know God's joy in this life and in the age to come. I believe the church of Christ is the people of God. I can experience true meaning and everlasting love in my life through prayer, the Sacraments, and the community of the church. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, **C: Amen**

### **OFFERING SONG**

*Sanctuary*

Lord prepare me..to be a sanctuary.  
Pure and ho-ly..and tried and true.  
With thanksgiving..I'll be a liv-ing  
Sanctuary..for..you

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

P: As we gather to celebrate this holy meal, we remember Jesus said...

**C: I am the bread of life, anyone who eats this bread will never be hungry.**

P: And Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his friends saying, "Take this and eat it. This is my body given for you. Do this to remember me."

**C: Jesus said, I am the water of life, springing up to life eternal.**

P: And Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and shared it with his friends saying, "Drink this, all of you, for this is the new covenant in my blood established between us forever."

**C: Jesus is the living bread which came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread and drinks of this cup proclaims the Lord's death until he comes again.**

P: Those who eat this bread will have life in them, for the bread which Jesus gave for the life of the world is his flesh.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

## **THE DISTRIBUTION**

### ***Welcome!***

*St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.*

## **BLESSING**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

**C: Amen**

## CLOSING SONG

*Be Bold Be Strong*

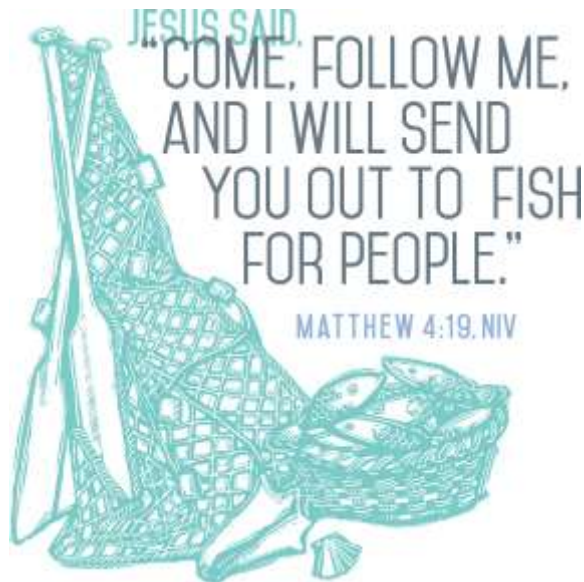
Be bold ... Be strong ...  
for the Lord your God is with you.  
Be bold ... Be strong ...  
for the Lord your God is with you.

Do not be afraid ... do not be dismayed  
Walk in faith and victory ...  
walk in faith and victory ...  
walk in faith and victory ...  
For the Lord, your God is with you.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God!**



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***We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church.  
We are... "creating and nurturing life changing relationships  
based on the love of God in Jesus Christ,  
so that we may grow in faith, serve God,  
and serve our neighbor."***

Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday School for all ages 8:30 am  
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am

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Welcome to join  
[St. John Lutheran Church - Williston](#)  
Facebook Group