

New Year, Same Promises  
**“God’s Promise of Growth”**

February 12, 2023

**As We Gather**

Our Epiphany worship series is focusing on God’s enduring promises as we enter a new year with all of its changes. We find comfort, hope and strength that God’s promises are sure.

Today we reflect on God’s promise of growth. God promises to be at work in our lives that we may grow spiritually, becoming more like Christ, for His glory and to be a blessing to others. But how does this come about? Today we look at spiritual growth, what it is and how God works it in our lives.

**Welcome**

**+ Gathering +**

**“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” LSB 394**

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem  
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana wedding guest  
In Thy God-head manifest;  
Manifest in pow'r divine,  
Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,

Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,  
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine,  
All will see His glorious sign;  
All will then the trumpet hear,  
All will see the Judge appear;  
Thou by all wilt be confessed,  
God in man made manifest.

5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,  
Present in Thy holy Word--  
Grace to imitate Thee now  
And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee  
At Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.

**Invocation**

**Confession and Absolution**

**Musical Offering**

**Kindergarten & First Grade Choir**

## Prayer

## Children's Church

### + Service of the Word +

#### First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. <sup>16</sup>For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup>This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup>and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

#### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup>You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?

<sup>5</sup>What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. <sup>9</sup>For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

#### Musical Offering

*"The Bells Heard 'Round the World"*  
*Arr. Valerie Stephenson*

*Handbells*

**Holy Gospel:                   Matthew 5:21-37**

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup> But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

<sup>25</sup> “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup> But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

<sup>31</sup> “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup> But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup> “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ <sup>34</sup> But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ!**

**The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Sermon**

**“God’s Promise of Growth”**

## Offering

### “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no power no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

## Prayers

*Please add your prayer requests to the live chat*

### Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

#### St. John's People and Families

Kevin, Joy, Parker, & Carson Dahl  
Nancy Gressinger  
Glen, Missy, & Baily Loban  
Jeff, Carri, Gracie, & Tessa Mello  
Gerry & Marlen Virkus  
Kale, Ranko, Aidan, & Jack Anderson  
Aaron, Heather, & Layne Fishleder  
Scott, Jordan, & Hudson Haberle  
James, Lora, & Liam McCarthy  
Brian and Liam Wood

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Benediction

**"Great are You Lord"**

You give life You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope You restore  
Ev'ry heart that is broken  
And great are You Lord

**Chorus**

It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise to You only  
You give life You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope You re - store  
Ev'ry heart that is broken  
And great are You Lord **Chorus x2**

And all the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing  
Great are You Lord  
**Chorus x2**

**Offering**

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

**Memory Verse for This Week**

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.

<sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything,  
but only God, who makes things grow.

*1 Corinthians 3:6-7*

## **Serving in Worship Today**

Preacher	Rev. Michael &. Schmid
Lay Readers	Brett and Kristi Carey
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Jacob Bartelt
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Worship Preparation Team	Marlen Virkus, Ruth Peterson, Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Ushers	Clint & Bev Holdsworth
Projection Technician	Bob Klein
Children's Church	Tyler & Michele Roberts
Worship Band	Steve & Christi Jeffery

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