

### Prayer before worship

Draw near to us, O Advent Lord, in this time of worship. Open our hearts and minds to your life-giving presence as we wait and watch for your promised coming. Amen.

#### Welcome

Prelude

Musical Selections by the string quartet

#### **Ringing of the Bells**

**OPENING SENTENCES** (*PROVERBS* 9:10; *ISAIAH* 41:9*B*-10)

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism

▶ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

**P** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

**G** And his gospel is peace.

P You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off;

G Fear not, for I am with you;

**P** Be not dismayed, for I am your God;

- **C** I will strengthen you, I will help you,
- **P** I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** (*PSALM 130:3-4*)

- P If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
- **G** But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
- **P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father:
- Almighty God, you have told us that we are deceiving ourselves if we deny our sinfulness. Your law has shown us the truth, that we do not fear, love, and trust you above all else. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We deserve to suffer your just punishment for our sins. For the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be merciful and forgive us our trespasses, that we may be guided by your Word into the way of peace.

#### Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

**G** Amen. His gospel is peace!

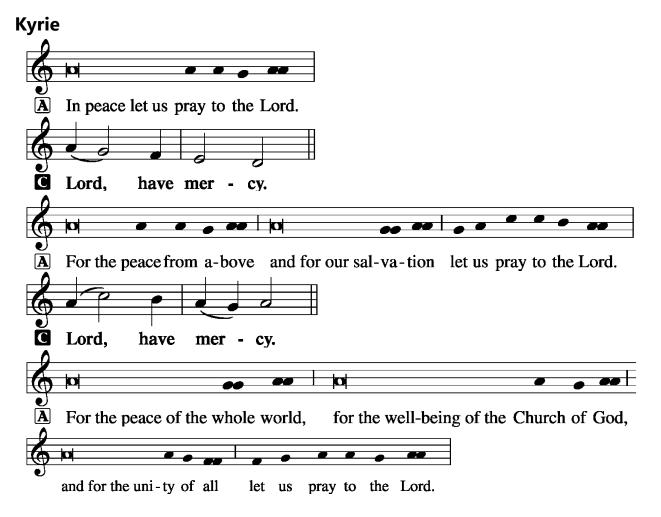
#### SERVICE OF THE WORD

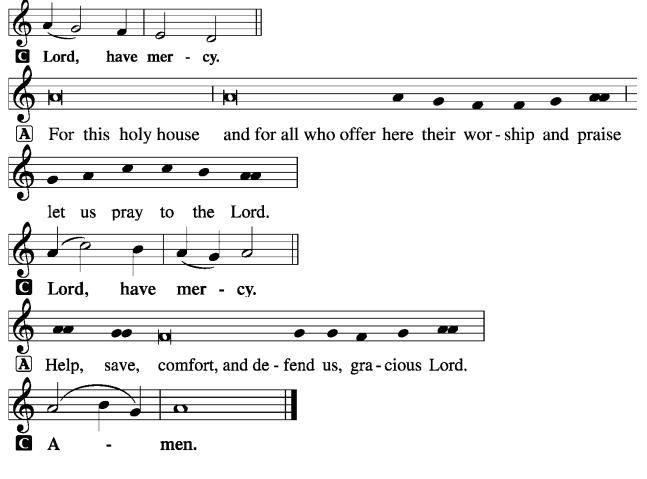
#### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath**

Each week we light a new candle on the Advent wreath.

E Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.







**Advent Hymn** 

"Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn" (WOV 633) (Advent 1, stanza 1 only)



### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

### **G** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **Children's Message**

### **Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup>"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

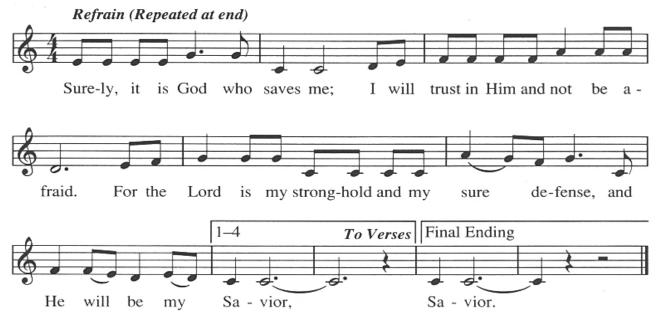
**I** This is the Word of the Lord.



"The First Song of Isaiah" Refrain (Repeated at end) Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be a fraid. Lord is my strong-hold and my For the de-fense, and sure To Verses || Final Ending 1 - 4will He be my Sa - vior. Sa - vior.

### **Psalmody**





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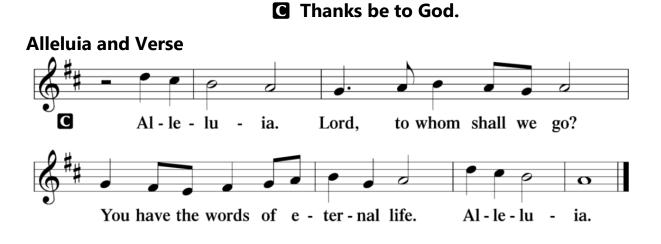
### Epistle

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup>as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup>and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup>so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**I** This is the Word of the Lord.



### **Holy Gospel**

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.



<sup>25</sup>[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup>For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."





"His Gospel Is Peace: No Fear of the Future"

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" (LSB 516)



#### **Profession of Faith**

We believe in one God, the Father 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

#### **Prayer of the Church**

Waiting for the fulfillment of our hope in Christ's promised coming, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. During the Advent season each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy." Please respond by saying "Hear our prayer." The prayers end with the words:

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

#### C Amen.

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

#### Announcements

### **Offertory Prayer**

- L Let us pray: Merciful God,
- G waiting for your Son's promised coming, you embrace our lives with your great love. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

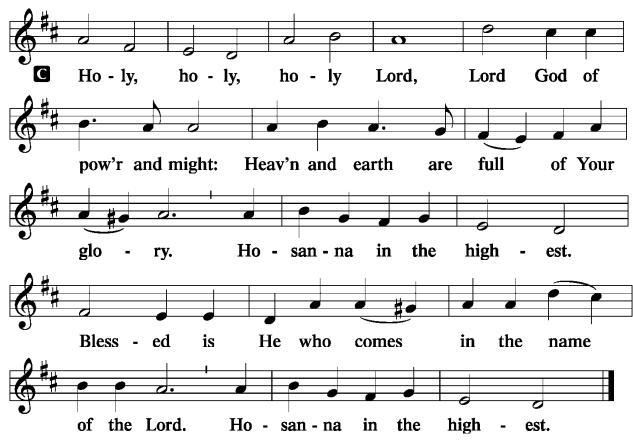




### **Proper Preface**

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

#### Sanctus



#### The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My 
→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### **Proclamation of Christ**

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **G** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

**G** 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.

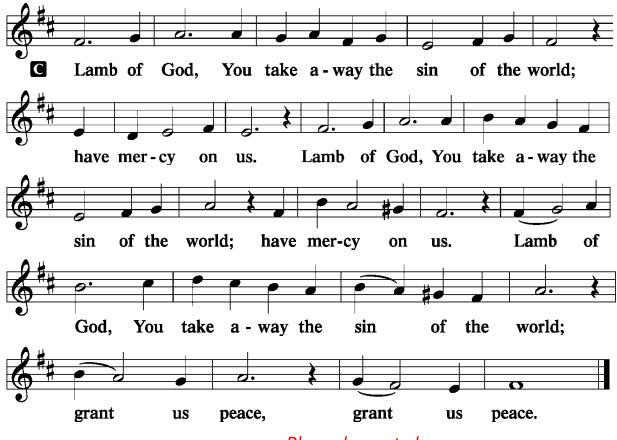
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

#### **Agnus Dei**



Please be seated

### Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their

Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Choir Anthem "Zion Hears The Watchmen Singing" (Johann Walther/March Schweizer) Choir of St. John's

Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing; She wakes, she rises from her gloom; For her Lord comes down all glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious. Her Star is risen, her Light is come. Ah come, Thou blessèd One, God's own belovèd Son: Alleluia! We follow till the halls we see Where Thou hast bid us sup with Thee.





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### Dismissal

### Post-Communion Collect

**L** Let us pray:

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

#### Benediction

■ The peace of Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, fill your hearts this Advent season. As you look back on the wonders of Bethlehem, be filled with awe and gratitude for God's steadfast love. As you face the future, go forth with hearts secure and at peace, confident in the God who holds your tomorrow.

The blessing of almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you. **C** Amen.



Postlude

Musical Selections by the string quartet

+ + +

### Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Welcome & Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Mark Guilfoil
Communion Lay Assistant	Jennifer Hills
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Christian Pleisch
Crucifer	Sofi Hills
Ushers	Barbara Pate
	Greg Miller
Altar Care	Jean Gilbertson
AV Operators	Mark Gilbertson
	Jim Haugan
Welcome Host	Denise Canter
Nursery	Janet Smith
	Beth Rempe
Advent Candle Bearers	The Uzl Family

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Our wholehearted thanks and blessings to our String Quartet (Christina Johnson, Jordan Wright, Matthew Reffner, Emily Mullen) for joining us this morning.

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This weekend's altar flowers are given by donations to the flower fund.

To **view** the current Midweek Update

To download

our SJLC app





To **Give** to St. John's

# We welcome you to our Advent and Christmas celebrations!



#### Wednesday, November 27

7:00 pm Service on Thanksgiving Eve (No Holy Communion)

#### Sunday, December 1

- 9:15 am Advent Wreath Making Event
- 10:30 am First Sunday in Advent (Holy Communion)

#### Wednesday, December 4

- 12 Noon Midweek Advent Worship (Holy Communion)
- 5:30 pm A Night at Bethlehem

#### Friday, December 6

6:00 pm Women's Christmas Dinner

#### Sunday, December 8

10:30 am Second Sunday in Advent (Holy Communion) 4:00 pm Holiday Christmas Concert "Speechless"

#### Wednesday, December 11

12 Noon Midday Advent Service (Holy Communion)

#### Sunday, December 15

10:30 am Third Sunday of Advent (Holy Communion)

#### Wednesday, December 18

12 Noon Midday Advent Service (Holy Communion)

#### Thursday, December 19

5:00 pm ECEC Christmas Family Chapel

#### Sunday, December 22

10:30 am Fourth Sunday in Advent (No Holy Communion)

#### Tuesday, December 24

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Children's Service (No Holy Communion) 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (Holy Communion)

#### Wednesday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day Service (Holy Communion)

#### Sunday, December 29

10:30 am Lessons & Carols for Christmas (No Holy Communion) \*No Bible Class \*No Children's Ministry

#### Tuesday, December 31

5:00 pm New Year's Eve Worship (Holy Communion)

#### Sunday, January 5

10:30 am Epiphany of Our Lord (Holy Communion)

In-Person and Livestreamed Worship is held Sunday mornings at 10:30 am, except as noted.

Christian education classes for all ages are at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings.



### St. John's Lutheran Church

5952 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310-4404 (703) 971-2210 www.sjlc.com

"The Church of the Three Crosses"



St. John's Lutheran Church 5952 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

### St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. John Meehan
Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith
Communication Specialist	Jacqueline Fuller

## Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff

Director of ECEC ECEC Administrator

Amanda Parks Kari Wells

### Contact Us

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