Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Two



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

"An Advent Prelude 'Veni Emmanuel'" (arr. Charles Callahan)

Ringing of the Bells

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

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

- **P** 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;
- **C** And his gospel is peace.
- P You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off;
- **©** Fear not, for I am with you;
- P Be not dismayed, for I am your God;
- 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?
- **©** 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.

P Take heart and fear not! God, in his mercy, has heard your cry! Because Jesus put on your flesh, suffered, bled, and died on your behalf, your sins are forgiven. I stand before you this day and announce to you: For Christ's sake, you are forgiven in the Father and of the
→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. His gospel is peace!

Please stand and face the back of the Sanctuary.

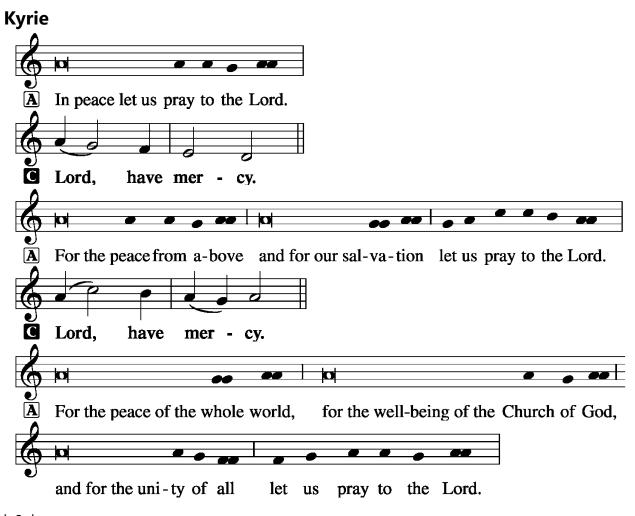
SERVICE OF THE WORD

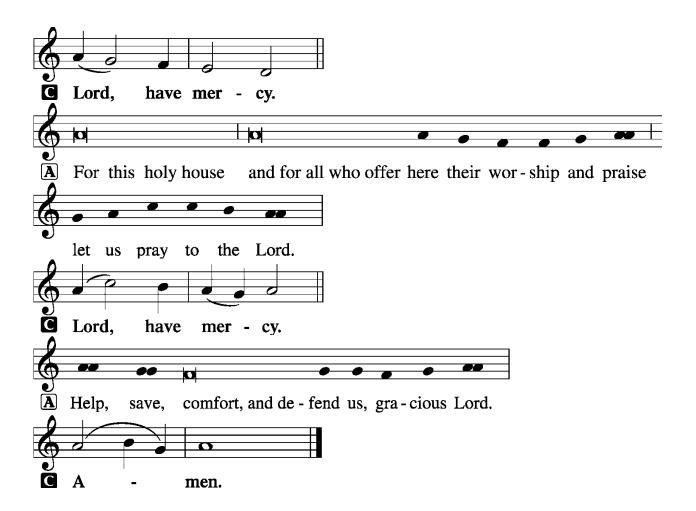
Blessing of the Advent Wreath

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

L Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

G Amen.

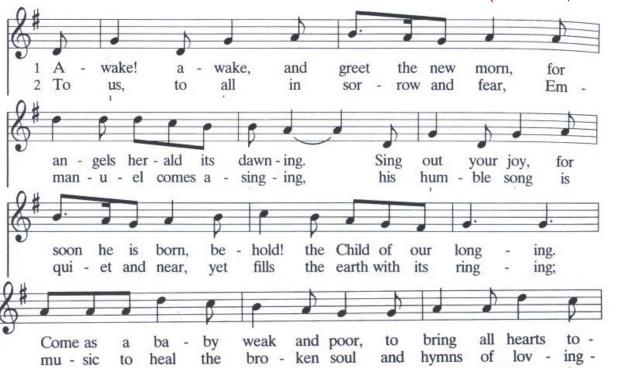


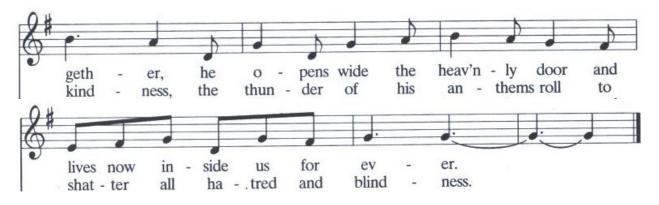


Advent Hymn

"Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn" (WOV 633)







Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Let us pray:

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading

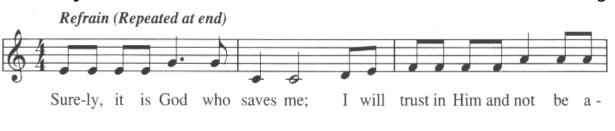
Malachi 3:1-7b

¹"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
 - **C** Thanks be to God.







1. There - fore you shall draw wa - ter with re - joic - ing



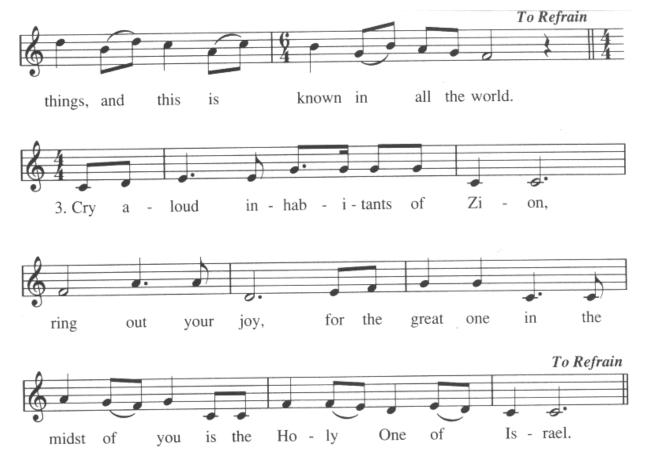
from the springs of sal - va - tion. And on that day you shall say, give



2. Make his deeds known a-mong the peo - ples; see that they re-mem-ber that his



name is ex-alt - ed. Sing the prais-es of the Lord, for He has done great



Words: From the *Book of Common Prayer*; Music: Jack Noble White; Copyright © 1977 by Charles Mortimer Guilbert. Used by permission.

Epistle Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

I This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

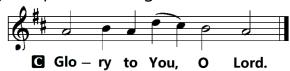
Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel Luke 3:1-20

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 third chapter.



¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁵and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him,

"Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

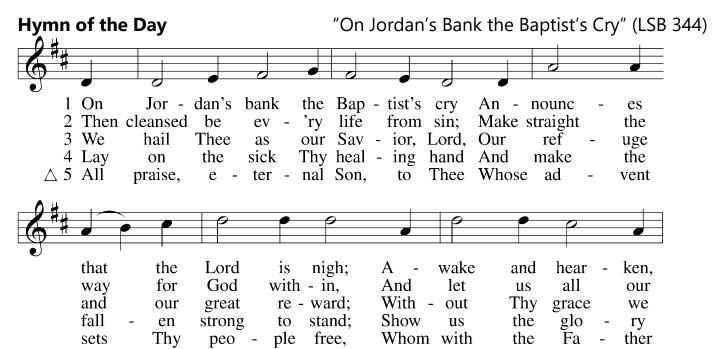
¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

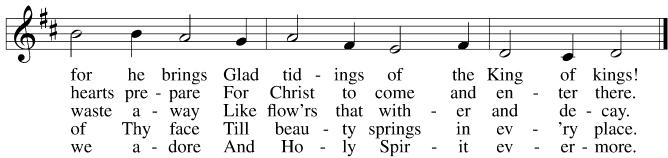




Sermon

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





Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621 Text and tune: Public domain

Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

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.

Prayer of the Church

P 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:

P 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,

In the mystery of the Word made flesh, 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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

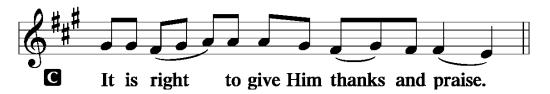
the Lord our

P The Lord be with you. And al-so with you. P Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

thanks

to

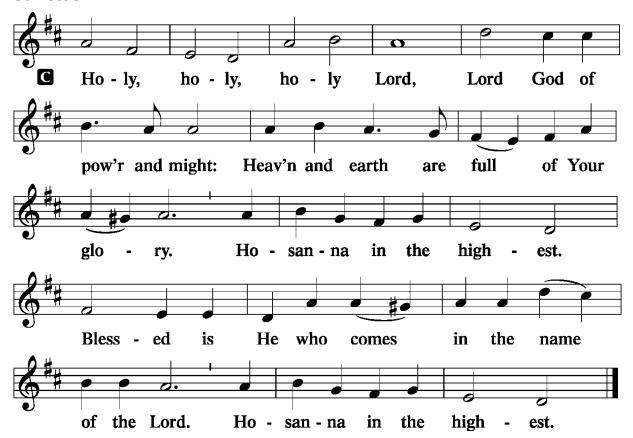
Let us give



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.
- **A**men. 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 Matthew 6:9-13

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;

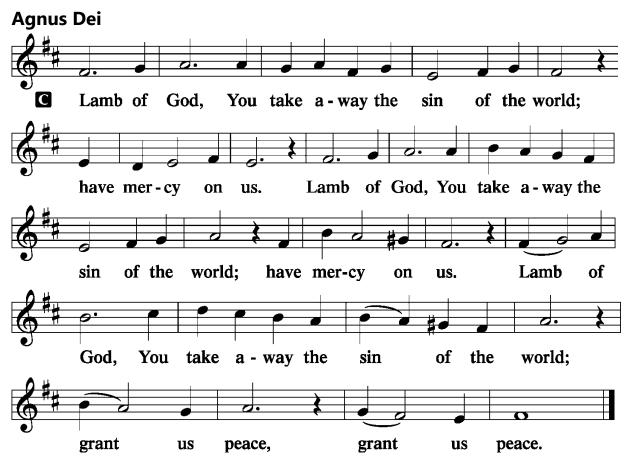
and lead us not into temptation,

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.
- **G** Amen.



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.

Distribution Anthem

"Advent Carol" (Alfred V. Fedak)
Choir of St. John's

Desert, blossom as a Rose Rising, radiant as it grows, All arrayed is crimson show; Come to us, O God of Hope.

Thirsty land, become a stream, Flowing fountain, calm, serene. Clear cascade from heaven above; Come to us, O God of Love.

Weakened hands, be now made strong; Silent tongues, break forth in song; Blinded eyes, your sight employ; Come to us, O God of Joy.

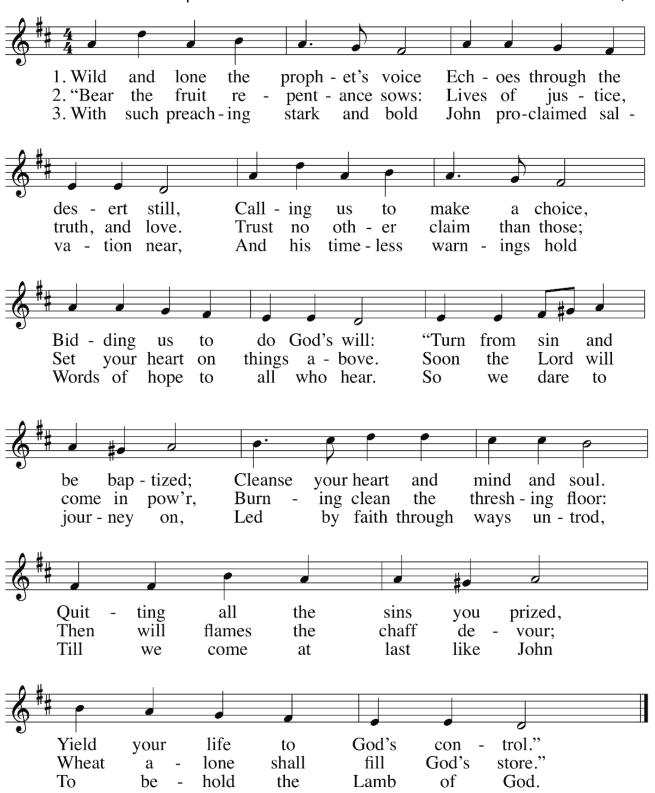
Soon a pathway shall be found, For the faithful, Holy Ground; Safe from angry, warring beast, Come to us, O God of Peace.

Sing God's praise, Jerusalem; Hope, joy, love, and peace shall come; Sorrow, sighing now dispel; Come to us, Emmanuel.

King of Glory, Soul of Bliss, Everlasting life is this: Thee to know, thy power to prove, Thus to sing, and thus to love!

Alleluia.





Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b.1944, $\ \$ 1989, Hope Publishing Company Tune: SALZBURG, 77 77 D; Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

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.

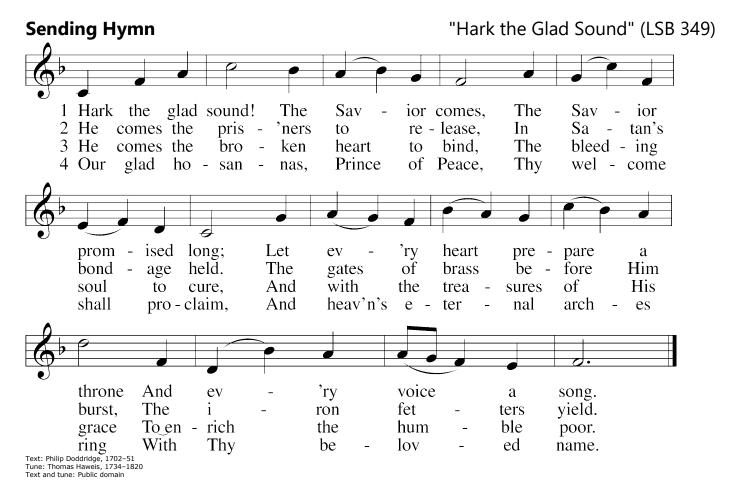
Benediction

The peace of Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, fill your hearts this Advent season. You know the peace of Christ, who draws near to you in your weakness, comforts you in your trembling, and speaks these words over you: "Do not be afraid." As you go, lift your eyes to see Jesus only, the One who is with you, for you, and whose grace is more than enough.

The blessing of almighty God, Father,

→ Son and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you.

C Amen.



Postlude

"An Advent Postlude" (Wachet Auf arr. Charles Callahan)

Please join us for the Virtual Congregational Voter's Meeting at 1pm on Zoom and for the Holiday Christmas Concert featuring the group SpeechLess at 4pm in the Sanctuary.

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant Pastor Meehan

Welcome & Children's Message Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Steve Tracy

Communion Lay Assistant Barbara Pate

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Reese Davis

Crucifer Giulianna Vazquez

Ushers Benjamin May

Michelle May

Altar Care Karen Kemmet

AV Operators Scott Budzien

Jim Haugan

Welcome Host Joe Godwin

Nursery Anne Weikart

Sydney Weikart

Advent Candle Bearers The Townsend Family

+ +

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



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



To **download** our SJLC app



To **view** the current **Midweek Update**



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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

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"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 Amanda Parks

ECEC Administrator Kari Wells

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