

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Two



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

"Comfort, Comfort These My People" (Sondra K. Tucker)

Handbell Choir

Ringling 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;

C 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.

C 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?

C But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

C 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.

C Amen. His gospel is peace!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

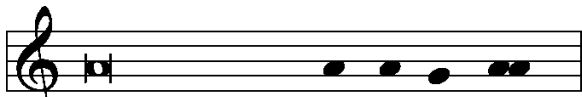
Blessing of the Advent Wreath

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

L Holy are you, God of the brokenhearted and oppressed; you promised to send your Chosen One who gives a garland instead of ashes to those who mourn; who brings down the powerful and lifts the lowly. As we light these candles, open our lips to testify to the true light coming into the world who enlightens everyone. Restore our fortune, O Lord, like streams in the desert.

C Amen.

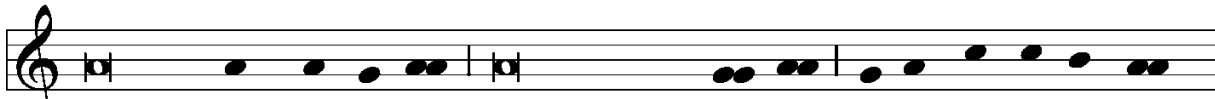
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



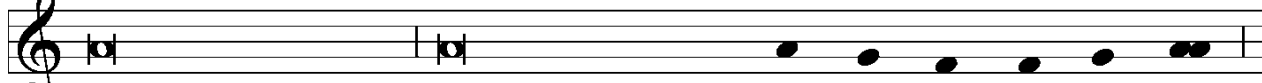
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



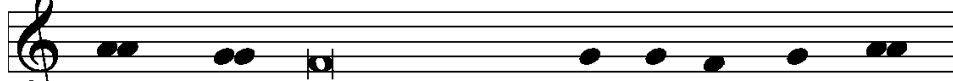
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Advent Hymn

“Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (WOV 633)

(Advent 3, Stanzas 1, 2, & 3)



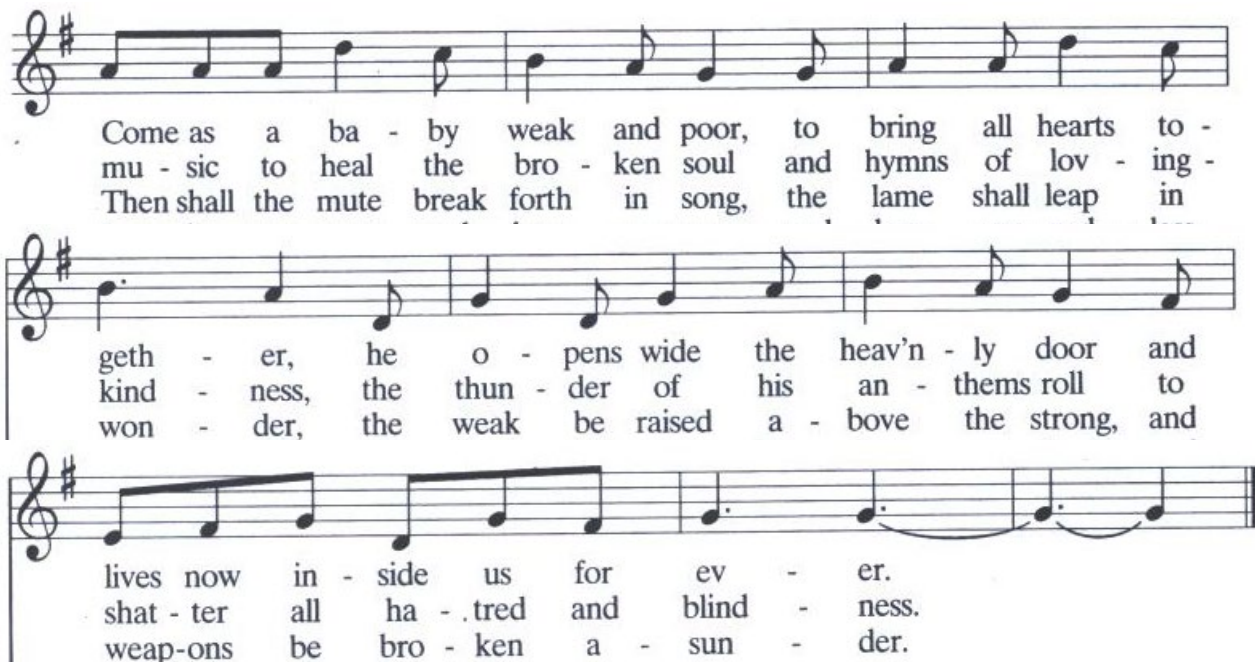
1	A - wake!	a - wake,	and	greet	the new	morn,	for
2	To	us,	to	all	in	sor - row	and
3	In	dark - est	night	his	com - ing	shall	be,
							when



an - gels	her - ald	its	dawn - ing,	Sing	out	your	joy,	for
man - u - el	comes	a -	sing - ing,	his	hum - ble	song	is	
all	the	world	is	de -	spair - ing,	as	morn - ing	light
							so	



soon	he	is	born,	be -	hold!	the	Child	of	our	long -	ing.
qui -	et	and	near,	yet	fills	the	earth	with	its	ring -	ing;
qui -	et	and	free,	so	warm	and	gen -	tle	and	car -	ing.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap-ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; 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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

"The First Song of Isaiah"

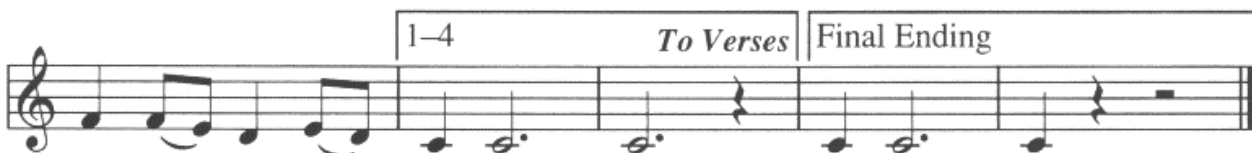
Refrain (Repeated at end)



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in Him and not be a -



fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and



He will be my Sa - vior, Sa - vior.

Verses



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

To Refrain



thanks to the Lord and call up - on his name;



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



things, and this is known in all the world.



3. Cry a - loud in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on,



ring out your joy, for the great one in the



midst of you is the Ho - ly One of Is - rael.

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

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18-28

*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 seventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken

by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

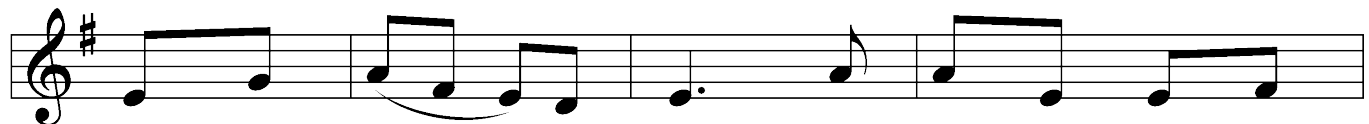
"His Gospel Is Peace: No Fear of Famine"

Hymn of the Day

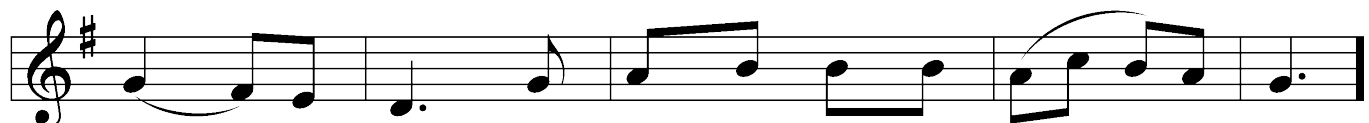
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (LSB 357)



All	1	O	come,	O	come,	Em - man - u - el,	And	ran - som
High Voices	2	O	come,	Thou	Wis - dom	from	on	high,
Low Voices	3	O	come,	O	come,	Thou	Lord	of
Choir	4	O	come,	Thou	Branch	of	Jes - se's	tree,
								Free
								them
								from

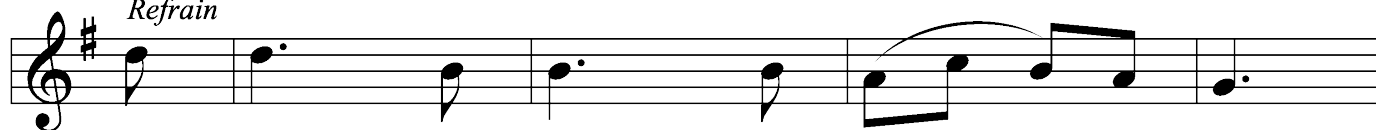


cap - tive	Is - ra - el,	That	mourns	in	lone - ly
all things	might - i - ly;	To	us	the	path
tribes	on	In	an - cient	times	didst
Sa - tan's	tyr - an - ny	That	trust	Thy	might - y

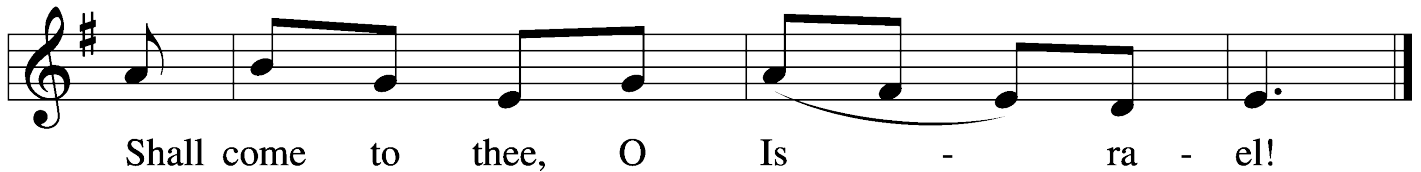


ex - ile	here	Un - til	the	Son	of	God	ap - pear.
knowl - edge	show,	And	teach	us	in	her	ways
give	the	In	cloud	and	maj - es - ty	and	awe.
pow'r	to	And	give	them	vic - t'ry	o'er	the
	save,						grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Pulpit side:

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

Baptismal Font side:

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

All:

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. 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.

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

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,

C 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

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P 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

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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."
- P** 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.

C 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

Matthew 6:9-13

C 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



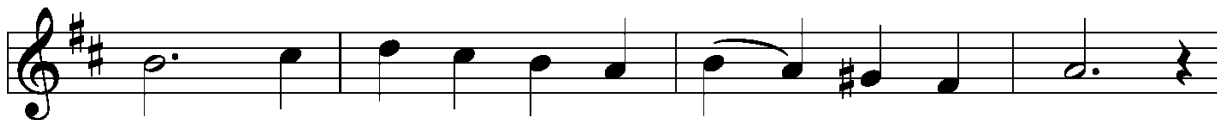
C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;



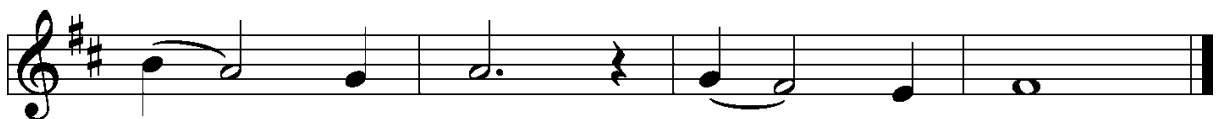
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

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.

Music at the Distribution

Handbell Choir Anthem

"Prepare the Royal Highway" (Sondra K. Tucker)

Distribution Hymn

"Are You the Coming One" (GIA 71)

1.-5. "Are you the com - ing one For

whom the a - ges long?" "See, pris'n - ers break their
 whom all peo - ple seek?" "The wan - d'ers lost in
 whom the suf - f'ring sigh?" "The lame, the sick, the
 whom th'op-pressed still wait?" "The ty - rant's pride at
 whom cre - a - tion cries?" "The earth, de - filed, shall

cru - el chains And fill the night with song!"
 a - lien ways Shall home, re - deemed, re - turn!"
 deaf and blind—I an - swer when they cry!"
 last shall fall; All crook - ed ways be straight!"
 be re - stored And life from death a - rise!"

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

(LSB 332)

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,

That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobrien, 1973
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyen, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
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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.

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Benediction

P The Father, who sees your every need, will provide for you. Let your heart overflow with gratitude and joy in the assurance of His love.
The peace of Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, fill your hearts this Advent season.

The Spirit uphold and keep you, shining His light upon your path and guiding you all the days of your life.

The blessing of almighty God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, be and abide with you always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

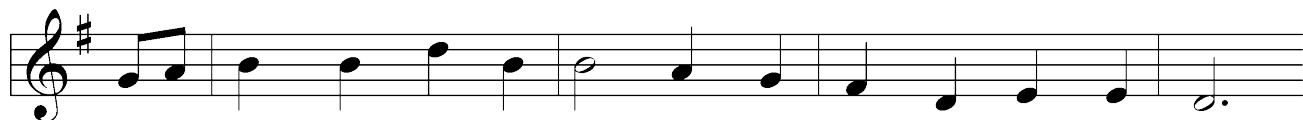
"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" (LSB 515)



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.
Tune: Swedish
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

"Carol of the Bells" (K. McChesney)

Handbell Choir

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant	Pastor Meehan
Welcome & Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Mark Guilfoil
Communion Lay Assistant	Rich Keppers
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Luke Pflugradt
Crucifer	Gavin Stiens
Ushers	Mike Waring Fred Esposito
Altar Care	Cathy Long
AV Operators	Greg Auld Andrea Godwin
Welcome Host	Joe Godwin
Nursery	Andi Hassett
Advent Candle Bearers:	The Strawderman Family



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



To **download**
our SJLC app



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



To **view** and subscribe to the
Midweek Update



Acknowledgments

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Carol of the Bells arr. K. McChesney (1999 Lorenz Publishing Company) All rights reserved.

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

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	Amanda Parks
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

Contact Us

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