

Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025 – 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

"An Advent Prelude" (Veni Emmanuel)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

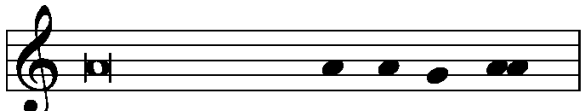
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Please stand and face the back of the Sanctuary for the procession of the cross.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

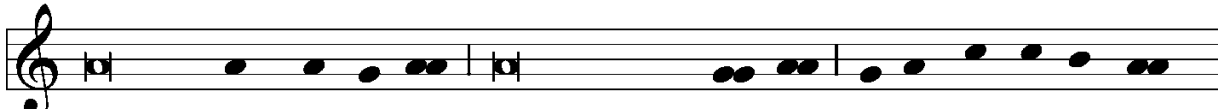
Kyrie



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.



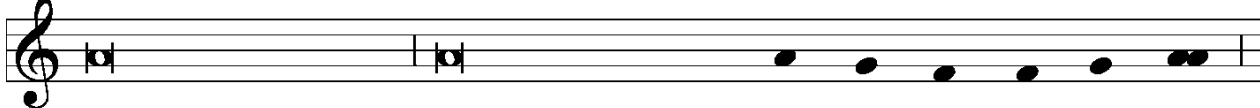
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



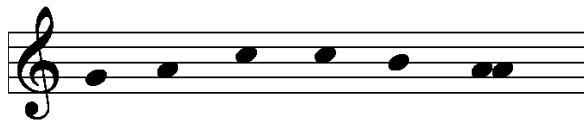
and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



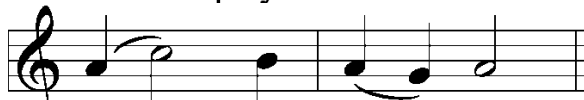
C Lord, have mer - cy.



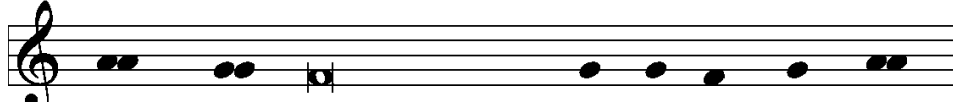
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



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.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

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

P 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.

C Amen.

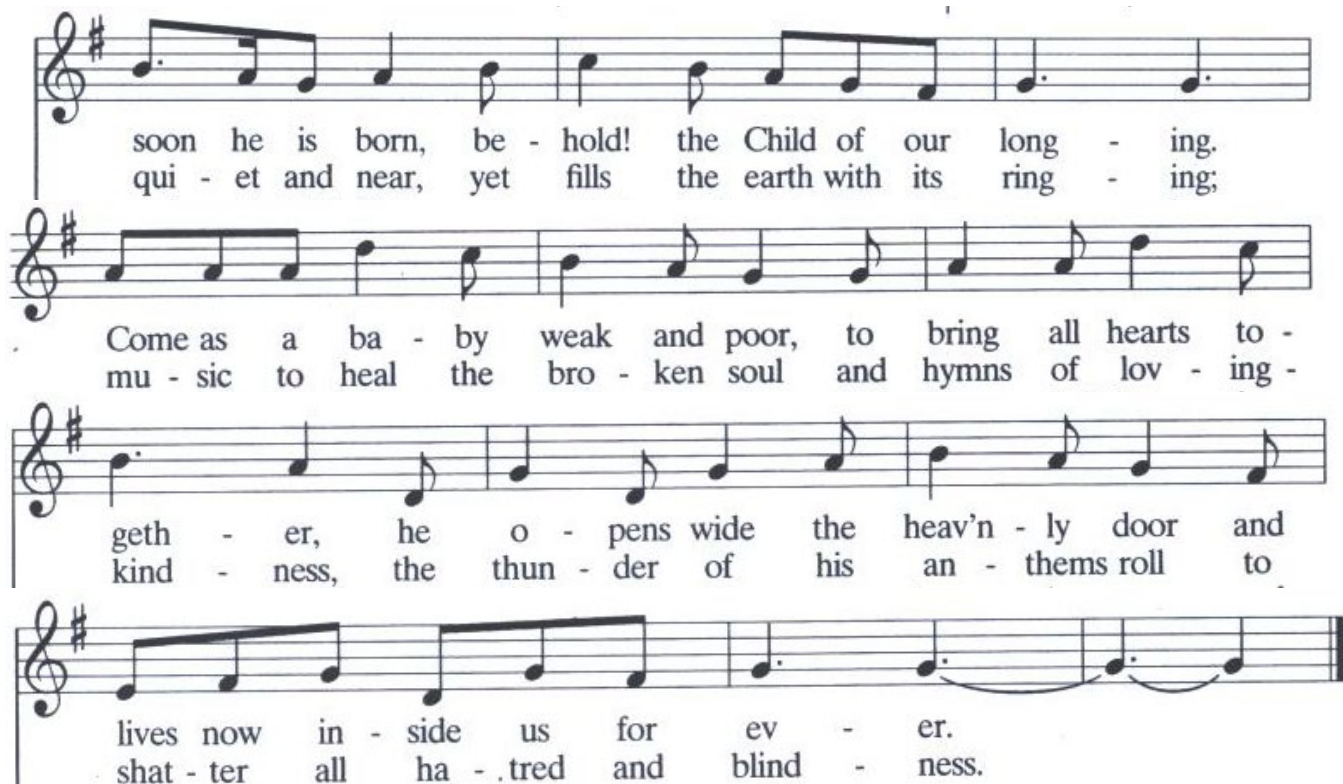
Advent Hymn "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn" (WOV 633)
(Advent 2, stanza 1 & 2)



1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - 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 -

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to

lives now in - side us for ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.

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

Isaiah 11:1–10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall

judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

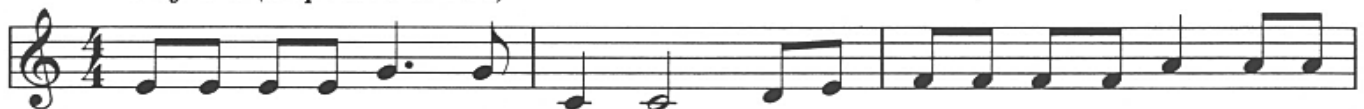
L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

“The First Song of Isaiah”

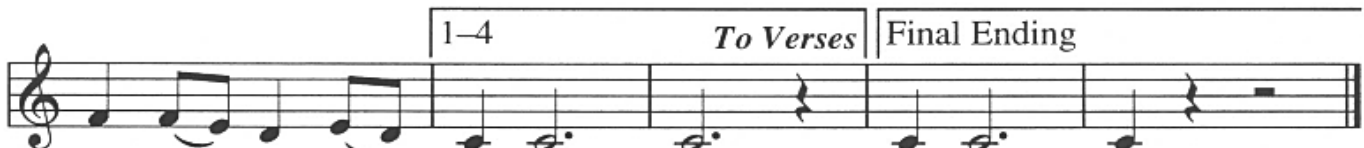
Refrain (Repeated at end)



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



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.

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.

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

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



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

Matthew 3:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume 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.

¹⁰Even 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.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His

winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



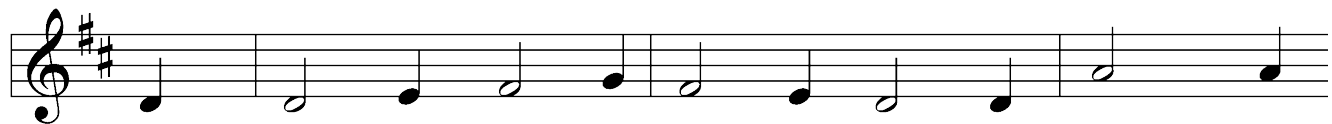
G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

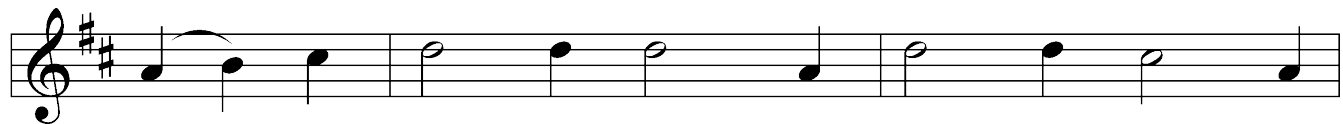
"The Promise of Justice"

Hymn of the Day

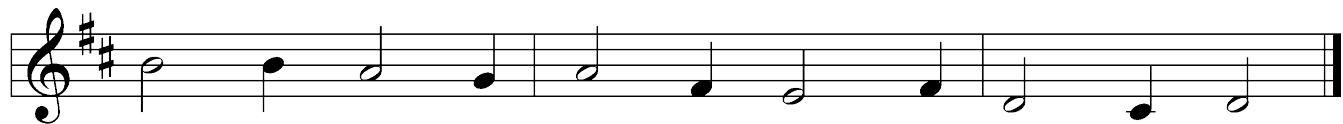
"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (LSB 344)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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.

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).

Farewell and Godspeed

Today we bid farewell and pray God's blessings upon Ryan and Teegan Burkholder who are relocating to Massachusetts.

Announcements

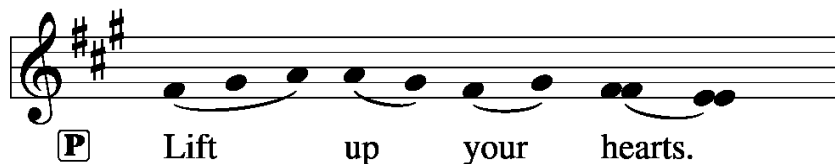
Offertory Prayer

L Let us pray: Merciful God,

C **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.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface





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



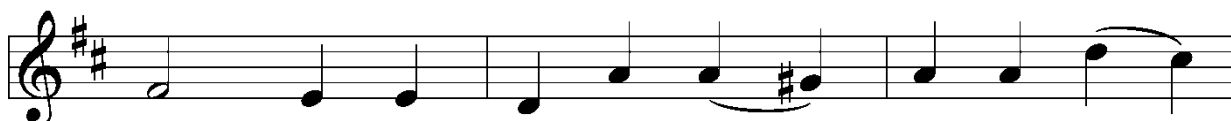
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



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

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



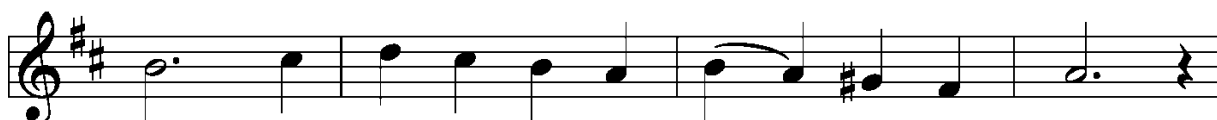
C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



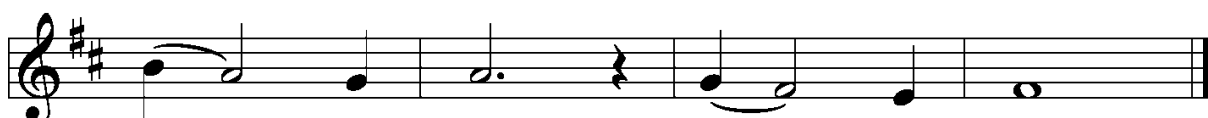
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



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.

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

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

*Desert, blossom as a Rose
Rising, radiant as it grows,
All arrayed in 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.

Distribution Hymns

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

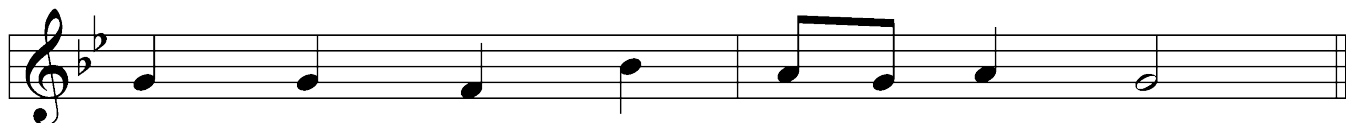
(LSB 332)



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.

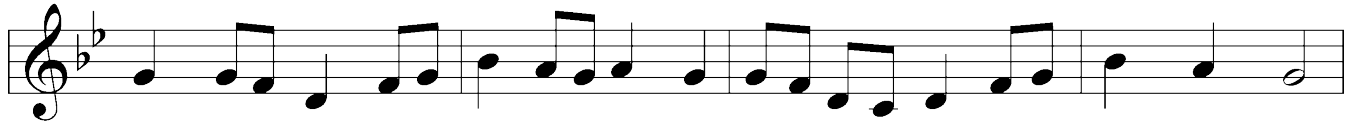
Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318
Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

(LSB 338)



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
Text and tune: Public domain

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

P 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.

Sending Hymn

"Hark the Glad Sound" (LSB 349)



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

"An Advent Postlude" (Wachet Auf)



Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Welcome & Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Mike Nordvall
Communion Lay Assistant	Tish Nordvall
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Sophie Wilson
Crucifer	Samuel Rempe
Ushers	Andrea Godwin Joseph Godwin
Altar Care	Karen Kemmet
AV Operator	Mark Gilbertson
Welcome Host	Jan Swicord
Nursery	Christin Kjelland
Advent Candle Bearers	The Seaton Family



Please join up in Fellowship Hall after the service for our final fellowship gathering for the year. Also, we look forward to seeing you all back here at 4pm for the concert of the year. Bobby McKey's Dueling Pianos will be here in the Fellowship Hall to kick off the holiday season with all your favorite holiday hits and more.



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given
in honor of
Sophie & Sean Wilson for their Baptisms.

SCAN HERE TO



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Register or attend events/classes

Request for prayers

Connect on social media

...AND MORE!

Acknowledgments

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Advent and Christmas Schedule 2025

Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday in Advent

4:00 p.m. Holiday Christmas Concert “Bobby McKey’s Dueling Pianos”

Wednesday, December 10

12 Noon Midweek Advent Worship (Holy Communion)

Sunday, December 14 – Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Holy Communion)

Wednesday, December 17

12 Noon Midweek Advent Worship (Holy Communion)

Thursday, December 18

4:00 p.m. ECEC Christmas Family Chapel

Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m. Congregational Christmas Program (No Holy Communion)

12:00 p.m. SJLC Teen Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Service (No Holy Communion) – No Livestreaming

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship (Holy Communion)

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service (Holy Communion)

Sunday, December 28 - First Sunday after Christmas

10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols for Christmas (No Holy Communion)

*No Bible Class

*No Children's Ministry

Wednesday - December 31 – New Year's Eve

5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve (Holy Communion)

Sunday, January 4 - Epiphany of Our Lord

10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Holy Communion)



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/Facilities Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith

Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff

Director of ECEC	Amanda Parks
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

Contact Us

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