

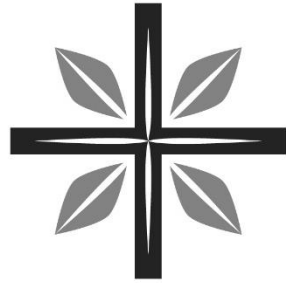


St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- Large print service folders and assisted listening devices are available from an usher.
- Children's service folders and worship notes are available in the round tract rack in the entry area.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or available online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

The First Sunday in Advent

November 27 & 28, 2021

When the Lord Comes Near, He Humbles Himself

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Christian Worship '93 19

C: O Lord, how shall I meet you,
How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O Jesus, let your Word be
A lamp to light my way,
To show me how to please you,
To guide me ev'ry day.

See, Zion casts before you
Green boughs and fairest palms,
And I, too, will adore you
With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever
For you with praises new
And from your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.

ADVENT GATHERING RITE

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

(sung) **I lay in fetters, groaning,
You come to set me free;
I stood, my shame bemoaning,
You come to honor me;
A glory you do give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

(sung) **Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
A heritage in heav'n.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

M: We light one Advent candle and remember Jesus, the One who is coming again. He will come at the end of time to gather together all his people, both the living and the dead.

C: **We remember Jesus, who will come at a day and hour unknown to his creation.**

M: We hear his call to watch.

C: **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell among us.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

The first Advent candle is lit during the sung response.

(sung) **He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to his foes,
A light of consolations,
And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams most cheering,
And guide us safely home.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

(sung) **Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed
And tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you,
He's standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you
And bids you weep no more.**

Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Israel was conquered and humbled, but a Savior would come near to restore God's people.

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

“In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.’ ”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 24

Refrain



Wel-come the King of glo - ry, each tribe and na - tion!



He is the LORD Al-might - y, bring-ing sal - va - tion.

Tone



The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,

they will receive blessing from God their Savior. *Refrain*

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty – he is the King of glory.

**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. Refrain**

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

God sustains our faith through humble means until he comes near on Judgment Day.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia, alleluia. See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey. Alleluia.

Please stand

Gospel

Luke 19:28-40

Our Savior humbly entered Jerusalem as he came near to his final journey to the cross.

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ”

Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Anthem

Savior of the Nations, Come
setting by Michael Praetorius

Savior of the nations, come; virgin’s Son, make here your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Here a maid was found with child, yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon his throne.

Glory to the Father sing, glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be now and through eternity.

Hymn of the Day

Prepare the Royal Highway
Christian Worship 302

Sermon

Against All Expectations

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

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

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

Be seated

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. To submit your offering electronically or to fill out an online Connection Card, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Please stand

Prayer of the Church

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Be seated

Hymn

Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending
Christian Worship 487

Please stand

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

The King Shall Come
Christian Worship '93 25



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child To
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn When
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn Shall
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And



light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the
bear and fight and die, But crowned with glo - ry
Christ, vic - to - rious, rose And left the lone - some
dawn up - on our race The day when Christ in
light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your



east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes—
like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.
place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
splen - dor comes And we shall see his face.
peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings!

Announcements

Postlude

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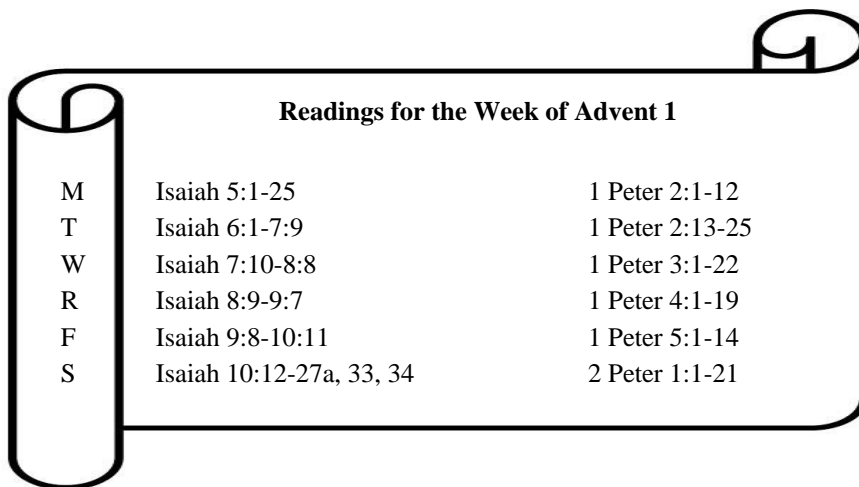
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Readings for the Week of Advent 1		
M	Isaiah 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1-12
T	Isaiah 6:1-7:9	1 Peter 2:13-25
W	Isaiah 7:10-8:8	1 Peter 3:1-22
R	Isaiah 8:9-9:7	1 Peter 4:1-19
F	Isaiah 9:8-10:11	1 Peter 5:1-14
S	Isaiah 10:12-27a, 33, 34	2 Peter 1:1-21

Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Kyle Bitter

Presiding Minister

Pastor Joel Leyrer

Musicians

Mandy Treder, piano (Saturday)
Lynn Kozlowski, organ (Sunday)

Adult Choir Director

Dr. William Braun

In Our Prayers

- Pastor Kyle Bitter, as he deliberates the two divine calls he now holds.
- All those near and far who have been personally and emotionally affected by the Christmas parade tragedy in Waukesha last Sunday.

Parents' Preview for December 5

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *(Christian Worship 316)*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout 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.
us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Wednesdays, December 1, 8 & 15	Midweek Advent Worship 3:30 & 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, December 18	Early Learning Center Christmas Service 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 18	Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 19	Worship with Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 24	Grade School Christmas Service 4:00 p.m. (Wisconsin Lutheran High School)
Friday, December 24	Service of Lessons & Carols 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 25	Christmas Day Festival Worship 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 25	No evening worship
Sunday, December 26	Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 31	New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, January 1	Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 2	Worship with Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors

*Pastor Joel Leyrer
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org*

*Pastor Eric Schroeder
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*Pastor Kyle Bitter
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Chinese Outreach Pastor

*Pastor Joshua Yu
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