



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

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# The First Sunday in Advent

November 28 & 29, 2020

To Those Who Overcome: Jesus Promises Life.

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## Prelude

### Opening Hymn

*Please stand to sing the final stanza*

### O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*Christian Worship 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  $\oplus$  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<sup>+</sup>

### First Lesson

Genesis 6:1-3, 5-14, 17-22

*In the waters of the flood, God destroyed mankind but saved Noah and his family.*

When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air – for I am grieved that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

This is the account of Noah.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark – you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.”

Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

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**\*Lectionary:** A *lectionary* is the list of readings for a given Sunday or festival of the church year. Public reading of the Scriptures has always been an important part of worship. Two lessons were read in the Jewish synagogue: one from the law and one from the prophets. Along with these lessons, the early Christians also began to read from the Gospels and the letters of the apostles, now known as *epistles*. The lectionary (series of readings) used by many Lutheran churches is based on a three-year cycle. The First Lesson comes from the Old Testament (except during the Easter season, when it is from Acts) and is generally chosen to match the emphasis of the Gospel. The Second Lesson comes from a New Testament epistle. Each year, one of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke) serves as the basis for the Gospel, with readings from John used during the Easter season in all three years.



**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*

**Response to the Word (Sunday)**

**O Emmanuel**  
*by Karen Marrolli*

Shadows are deep'ning and evening is falling, dusk ever hast'ning our midnight of souls.  
Light to our darkness and hope for our longing, come dwell among us till daylight consoles.  
O Emmanuel, your people are calling, calling for healing as darkness unfolds.  
Shadows are deep'ning and evening is falling, dusk ever hast'ning our midnight of souls.

Come as the artist, forever creating torrents of dayspring where all tears have dried.  
Bring us your sunrise, the darkness abating. Bring us your healing for hearts broken wide.  
O Emmanuel, your people are waiting, waiting for solace; O come and be our guide.  
Come as the artist, forever creating torrents of dayspring where all tears have dried.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.

**Second Lesson**

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

*In the waters of baptism, God saves us from his coming judgment.*

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

**Verse of the Day**

Alleluia, alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

*Please stand*

**Gospel****Mark 13:32-37***In keeping watch, we prepare for the time when God will come in judgment and salvation.*

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

**M:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise be to you, O Christ.

*Be seated*

**Anthem**

**Savior of the Nations, Come**  
*arranged by Johann Altenberg*

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.

Wondrous birth, O wondrous Child of the virgin undefiled,  
Though by all the world disowned, yet to be in heav’n enthroned!

Praise to God the Father sing, praise to God the Son, our King  
Praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally.

**Hymn of the Day**

**Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates**  
*Christian Worship 3*



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -  
2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where  
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make  
5 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My





hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is  
 char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is  
 Christ the rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and  
 it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for  
 heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.  
 hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
 heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -  
 The end of all our woe he brings; There -  
 The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who  
 So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And  
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -



fore re - jice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther  
 fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior  
 comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it  
 new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be  
 til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 praise For word and deed and grace!  
 fame We of - fer to your name.

**Letters to the Seven Churches: Ephesus**

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

*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

*The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. To submit your offering electronically, scan the QR code or visit [www.sjtosa.org/giving](http://www.sjtosa.org/giving). If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an 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

## Church of God, Elect and Glorious

*Christian Worship Supplement 774*



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious,  
2 God has called you out of dark - ness  
3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple,  
4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly,



Ho - ly na - tion, cho - sen race;  
In - to his most mar - v'lous light,  
Stran - gers to God's heart of love;  
Be the peo - ple he in - tends;



Called as God's own spe - cial peo - ple,  
Brought his truth to life with - in you,  
But he brought you home in mer - cy,  
Strong in faith and swift to an - swer



Roy - al priests and heirs of grace:  
Turned your blind - ness in - to sight.  
Cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.  
Each com - mand your mas - ter sends:



Know the pur - pose of your call - ing.  
Let your light so shine a - round you  
Let his love flow out to oth - ers;  
Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all his might - y deeds;  
That God's name is glo - ri - fied  
Let them feel a Fa - ther's care;  
Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer;



Tell of love that knows no lim - its,  
And all find fresh hope and pur - pose  
That they too may know his wel - come  
Give your lives in joy - ful ser - vice—



Grace that meets all hu - man needs.  
In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.  
And his count - less bless - ings share.  
Sing his praise, his love de - clare.

*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

### Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

*Christian Worship 15*



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is  
2 Lo, the Lamb, so long - ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
3 That, when next he comes with glo - ry And the  
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He may shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness; You are chil - dren of the day."  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n,  
with his mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

### Announcements

### Postlude

## **Serving at Worship**

**Minister**

Pastor Eric Schroeder

**Musicians**

Dr. William Braun, organ (Saturday)

Lynn Kozlowski, organ (Sunday)

## **Worship Notes**

- The altar flowers are placed by Jason and Melissa Gregory and family in celebration of Jenna's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **In Our Prayers**

- Alicia Myalina and Ivy Airianna Cruz, daughters of Michael Cruz and Sarah Sorattanansoun (néé Guerrero), who will be baptized in a private ceremony following the 10:30 a.m. service.

## Parents' Preview for December 6

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.

### **"Prepare the Royal Highway" stanza 1** *(Christian Worship Supplement 702)*

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The  
King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and  
val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in  
sa - cred sto - ry: Ho - san - na to the  
Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!



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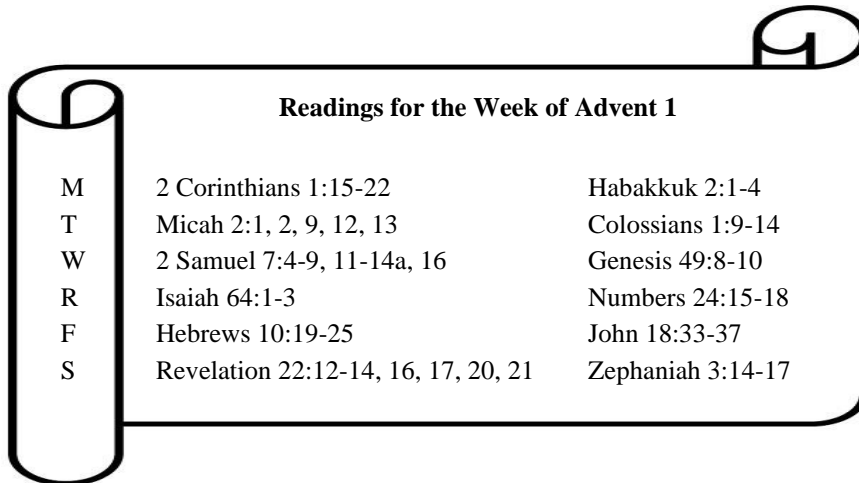
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<b>Readings for the Week of Advent 1</b>		
M	2 Corinthians 1:15-22	Habakkuk 2:1-4
T	Micah 2:1, 2, 9, 12, 13	Colossians 1:9-14
W	2 Samuel 7:4-9, 11-14a, 16	Genesis 49:8-10
R	Isaiah 64:1-3	Numbers 24:15-18
F	Hebrews 10:19-25	John 18:33-37
S	Revelation 22:12-14, 16, 17, 20, 21	Zephaniah 3:14-17

## St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

<b>Wednesdays, December 2, 9 &amp; 16</b>	Midweek Advent Worship 1:00 (broadcast online) & 6:45 p.m.
<b>Saturday, December 19</b>	Worship 5:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 20</b>	Worship 8:00 (broadcast online) & 10:30 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, December 23</b>	Children's Christmas Service 1:00 p.m. (broadcast online only, no in-person service)
<b>Thursday, December 24</b>	Service of Lessons & Carols TBD (broadcast online)
<b>Friday, December 25</b>	Christmas Day Festival Worship TBD (broadcast online)
<b>Saturday, December 26</b>	No evening worship
<b>Sunday, December 27</b>	Worship 8:00 (broadcast online) & 10:30 a.m.
<b>Thursday, December 31</b>	New Year's Eve Worship 5:30 (broadcast online) & 7:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday, January 2</b>	No evening worship
<b>Sunday, January 3</b>	Worship 8:00 (broadcast online) & 10:30 a.m.

To help us schedule our Christmas Eve and Day worship services, please take the brief survey available at [www.sjtosa.org/worship](http://www.sjtosa.org/worship).



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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  
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org*

*Pastor Kyle Bitter  
kyle.bitter@sjtosa.org*

## **Chinese Outreach Pastor**

*Pastor Joshua Yu  
joshua.yu@sjtosa.org*

## **School Principal**

*Mr. Dan Markgraf  
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