



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



Come, Lord Jesus!

Welcome to Worship!

This morning, we continue in our Advent theme of “Come, Lord Jesus!”

It's easy for us to judge the Jews of Jesus' day for wanting a political Messiah who would remove Roman oppression and reestablish the kingdom of Israel. It's even easy for us to judge the generic Christian of today for wanting a Messiah who is a good teacher and an inspiration for brotherly love. But what about us? If we're honest, don't we sometimes want a Messiah who isn't bothered by the sin that keeps cropping up in our life, who doesn't call for total dedication but is fine with our casual relationship with him, who grants us a blessed life according to our own definition? But that's not Jesus, not the Messiah who came. He's not always the Messiah we want, but he is always the Messiah we need: the One who will grant all of our needs according to his good and gracious will.

Worship Notes

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.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. 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 located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

Bible Study

This morning, Rev. Robert Fleischmann resumes his study on “The Christian and Bioethics.” We'll dive deeper into truth and how faith impacts our perception of truth. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

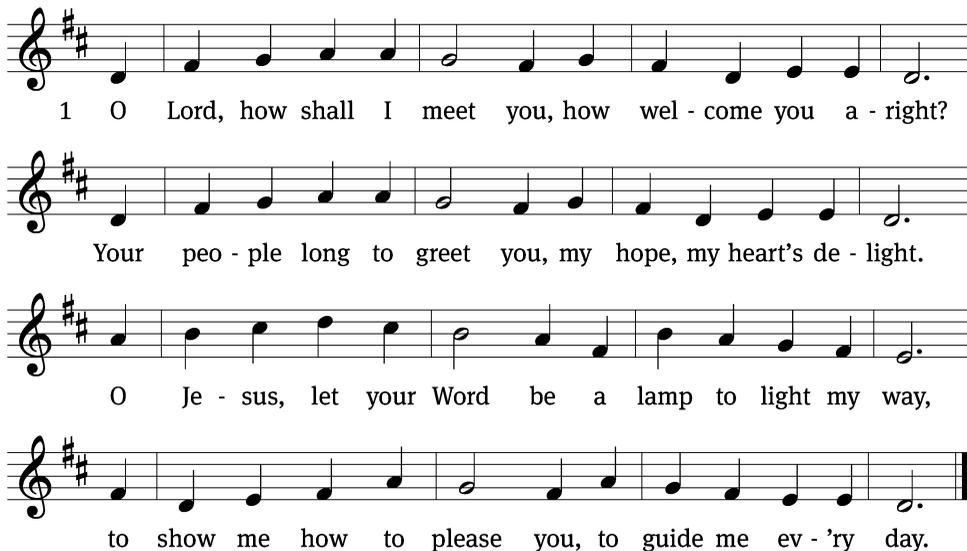
The Third Sunday in Advent

December 10 & 11, 2022

Come, Lord Jesus! As Messiah

Prelude

Please stand



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

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.

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.**

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.

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 eternal life in heav'n.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light three Advent candles and remember Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness in answer to his people's prayers.

We remember Jesus, the One proclaimed by John as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We hear his call to see the light.

We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell among us.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

The Advent candles are lit during the sung response.

**(sung) What though the foes be raging, heed not their craft and spite;
your Lord, the battle waging, will scatter all their might.
He comes, a King most glorious, and all his earthly foes
in vain his course victorious endeavor to oppose.**

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

Text and tune: Public domain

Be seated

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah, the One who would change everything.

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.
Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear; your God will come,
he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.
No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

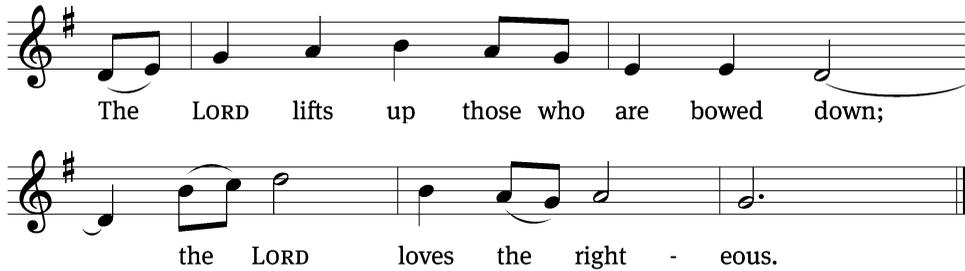
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

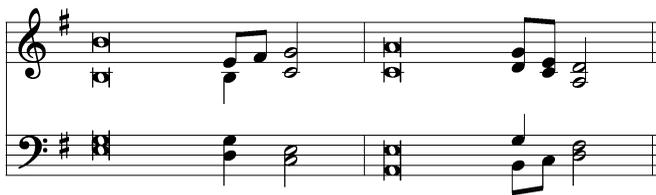
Psalm 146

Refrain



The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the right - eous.

Tone



I will praise the LORD / all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.
Do not put your trust in / princes,
in human beings, who / cannot save.
Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,
whose hope is in the / LORD their God. *Refrain*

He upholds the cause of / the oppressed
and gives food to the / hungry.
The LORD sets / pris'ners free,
the LORD gives sight / to the blind.
The LORD reigns for- / ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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Second Reading

James 5:7–11

James calls upon us to be patient as we await the Messiah's second coming.

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10

Alleluia, alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

Jesus assures his listeners that he is indeed the promised Messiah.

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'"

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem

Adult Handbell Choir

Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old
arranged by Sandra Eithun

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
was strong to heal and save;
it triumphed over pain and death,
o'er darkness and the grave.
To you they came, the blind, the mute,
the paralyzed and lame,
the lepers in their misery,
the sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
gave speech and strength and sight;
and youth renewed and frenzy calmed
revealed you, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
almighty as before,
in crowded street, by beds of pain,
as by Gennes' ret's shore.

O be our great deliv'rer still,
the Lord of life and death;
restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
with your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see
give wisdom's healing pow'r
that whole and sick and weak and strong
may praise you evermore.

Text: Public domain

Hymn of the Day

God's Own Son Most Holy
Christian Worship 321

What Did You Expect?

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Prayer of the Church

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.

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

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.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

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.

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

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.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

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

Come, Lord Jesus! 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. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Hymn

When All the World Was Cursed
Christian Worship 317

Please stand

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.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring
Christian Worship 319

Announcements

WELS Connection

Supporting Missions

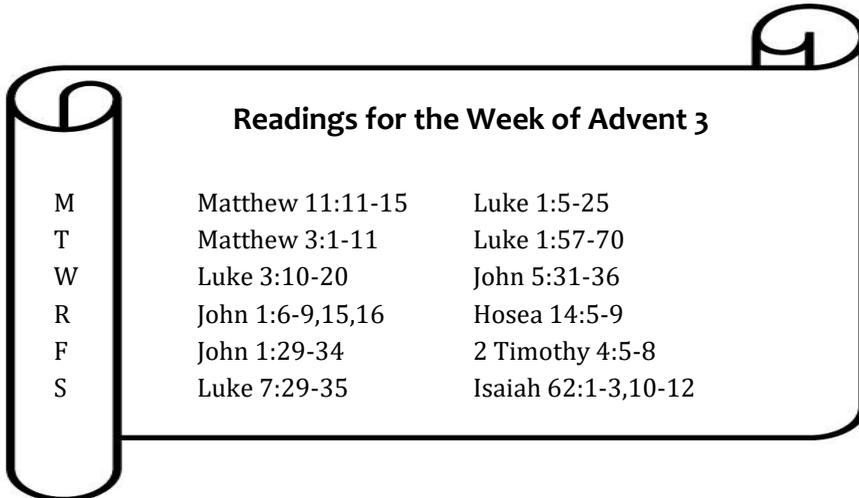
Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Eric Schroeder

Presiding Minister

Senior Vicar Christian Willick

Musicians

Marjorie Flanagan, piano (Saturday)

Eric Sipe, organ (Sunday)

Anne Eick, clarinet (Saturday)

Adult Handbell Choir Director

Kristi Meyer

Worship Notes

- The flowers are placed by David and Colleen Todor in celebration of Chloe Todor's 21st birthday.

In Our Prayers

- Sawyer Sweet, who was released from Children's Hospital this past Wednesday and is now recovering at home from successful intracranial surgery.
- Bob and Vicki Schaller, who were released from the hospital this past week and are now convalescing at Ascension Living St. Francis Place and Linden Grove Care Facility in New Berlin, respectively.
- Bob Schoeneck, who is hospitalized at Froedtert for pneumonia but is responding well and is scheduled to be moved to San Camilla skilled care facility for a few days before returning home.
- Rob Siever, who is recuperating at home from his recent stroke and is scheduled for a follow-up surgical procedure on Wednesday which includes an overnight hospital stay.

Parents' Preview for December 18

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.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Christian Worship 327



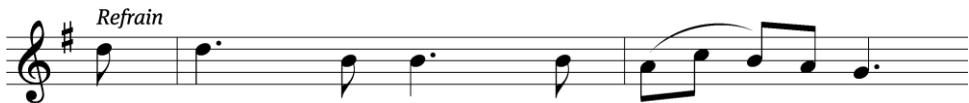
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



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



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Holiday Worship Opportunities

Wednesday, December 14

Midweek Advent Worship

3:30 & 6:45 p.m.

Fellowship meal from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 17

Early Learning Center Christmas Service

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 24

Children's Christmas Eve Service

4:00 p.m. at Wisconsin Lutheran High School

Saturday, December 24

Service of Lessons & Carols

7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Festival Worship

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 31

New Year's Eve Worship

5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2023

New Year's Day Worship

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Epiphany Worship

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study & Sunday School resume

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
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org

Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
joshua.yu@sjtosa.org

School Principal

Mr. Dan Markgraf
dan.markgraf@sjtosa.org

Church Office

7809 Harwood Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7831
church@sjtosa.org

School Office

1278 Dewey Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-4214
school@sjtosa.org

sjtosa.org