



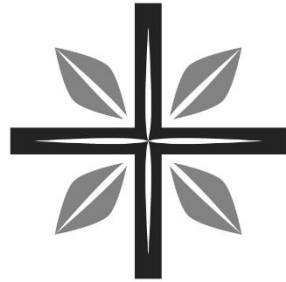
# St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

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# 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](http://www.sjtosa.org/Connect)). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.
- Please join us for Bible class at 9:15 a.m.  
*The Joyful Christian: Paul's Letter to the Philippians*  
(Fellowship Hall, lower level of church)  
A staffed nursery is available during Bible class.

# The Third Sunday in Advent

December 11 & 12, 2021

When the Lord Comes Near, He Humbles His Enemies

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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  $\text{✠}$  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 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.

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

**M:** We hear his call to see the light.

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

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

**C:** **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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**M:** Let us pray.

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.

**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

Zephaniah 3:14-17

*The Lord will come near to save us and humble his enemies.*

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem!  
The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy.  
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.  
On that day they will say to Jerusalem,  
    “Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.  
    The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save.  
    He will take great delight in you,  
        he will quiet you with his love,  
        he will rejoice over you with singing.”

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 130

*Refrain*

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;  
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

*Psalm tone*

\*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;  
O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,  
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness;  
therefore you are feared. **Refrain**

I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.  
My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,  
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

**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**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

*Because the Lord will come near to humble his enemies, we can rest securely in God's peace.*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## **Verse of the Day**

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

*Please stand*

## **Gospel**

**Luke 3:7-18**

*One more powerful than John – the Messiah, the Christ – was coming near to humble his enemies.*

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”

Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”  
“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.



*Be seated*

### **Anthem (Sunday)**

*Adult Handbell Choir*

### **Prepare the Royal Highway**

*arranged by Cathy Moglebust*

Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near!  
Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s Word!

God’s people see him coming: your own eternal King!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s Word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev’ry nation its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him; their voices join in singing:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s Word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav’n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s Word!



## Hymn of the Day

**Arise, O Christian People**  
*Christian Worship 310*

## Sermon

**Philippians 4:4-7**

What to Give Up for Advent

*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](http://www.sjtosa.org/offering).*



*Please stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

**M:** O Jesus, Word of God made flesh, through whom the world was formed and by whose Word all things are upheld, we stand in humble awe and reverence at the great mystery of your incarnation.

**C:** **Our reason cannot comprehend how you, the Almighty Son of God, could be born of a woman and live here as our brother.**

**M:** But what we cannot understand with our minds, you have graciously enabled our hearts to accept by faith.

**C:** **We praise and thank you that through the Holy Spirit, you have directed our hearts to bow in faith before you.**

**M:** Through your Spirit, keep us in true repentance, that we may ever confess our sins and unworthiness and continually trust the sacrifice you made on the cross to save us.

**C:** **You are indeed our God who was made flesh; our sin-bearer and our substitute; our hope, our joy, and our peace.**

**M:** O Savior of the world, send the Holy Spirit to create faith through the gospel that all may find in you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

**C:** **Fill us with your Holy Spirit and move us to share this saving message with those around us.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow*

**M:** As we anticipate your coming to the manger in Bethlehem, remind us also of your daily coming to us in Word and Sacrament and of your glorious coming on the last day.

**C:** **Our hearts long for that day when we will see you face to face. Come quickly, 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

## Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

*Christian Worship 305*

*Please stand*

**M:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



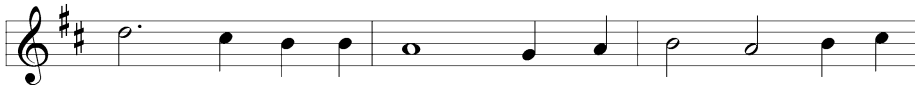
*Be seated*

## Closing Hymn

## Zion, At Your Shining Gates *Christian Worship Supplement 701*



1 Zi - on, at your shin - ing gates, See, the  
2 Christ, your king - dom comes to - day As we  
3 Come and give us peace with - in, Loose us  
4 Give us grace your yoke to wear, Give us  
5 So when you shall come a - gain, Lord of



King of glo - ry waits; Haste your mon - arch now to  
hear your Spir - it say: "God's own Son, a sac - ri -  
from the bands of sin, Take a - way the heav - y  
strength your cross to bear, Make us yours in deed and  
an - gels and of men, We with all your saints shall



greet, Spread your palms be - fore his feet.  
fice— Sin - ners' way to par - a - dise."  
weight Laid on us by greed and hate.  
word, Yours in heart and life, O Lord.  
sing Loud ho - san - nas to our King.

## Announcements

## WELS Connection

World Missions: TELL Network

## Postlude

## Serving at Worship

<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Joel Leyrer
<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Kyle Bitter
<b>Musicians</b>	Megan Bauer, piano (Saturday) Mandy Treder, organ (Sunday) Becky Rehborg, clarinet Kathryn Hendee, tambourine
<b>Adult Handbell Choir Director</b>	Kristi Meyer

## In Our Prayers

- Pastor Eric Schroeder and Mandy Treder, as each deliberates the two divine calls they now hold.
- Mary Schmal, scheduled for surgery this week.
- Mark Naumann, recuperating at home from successful surgery this past week.
- Kevin Travis, scheduled to begin a series of chemotherapy treatments this week.

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# Parents' Preview for December 19

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.

## “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

(*Christian Worship 327*)



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's  
3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your  
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!



**Readings for the Week of Advent 3**

M	Isaiah 29:15-30:14	Revelation 1:1-20
T	Isaiah 30:15-26	Revelation 2:1-29
W	Isaiah 30:27-31:9	Revelation 3:1-22
R	Isaiah 32:1-20	Revelation 4:1-11
F	Isaiah 33:1-24	Revelation 5:1-14
S	Isaiah 34:1, 2, 8-35:10	Revelation 6:1-17

# 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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