



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

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## Welcome to Worship!

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus*, a word meaning “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent—the first season of the church year—we expectantly wait and prepare for the arrival of the Messiah, our Savior. We wait to celebrate the first coming of Jesus on Christmas Day, and we wait his second coming on the Last Day. During the season of Advent, our paraments (altar decorations) are blue, a color representing hope and reminding us to look to the sky for Christ’s second coming.

The theme for our midweek Advent services this year is “Prepare the Way of the Lord,” words first proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah and then repeated by John the Baptist. Our Scripture lessons come from Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible. This psalm is made up of 22 stanzas with eight verses in each stanza. Psalm 119 is an *acrostic*: each stanza starts with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The psalm contains many different elements and themes, including prayers of praise, lament, vindication, obedience, and petitions for wisdom. May God bless our time together as we come together around these ancient words!

## 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](http://www.sjtosa.org/Connect)). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

# Midweek Advent 3

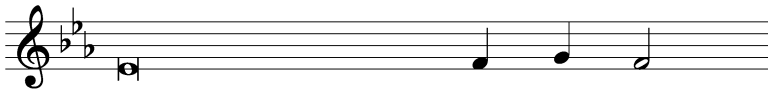
## December 14, 2022

Prepare the Way of the Lord: In Prayer

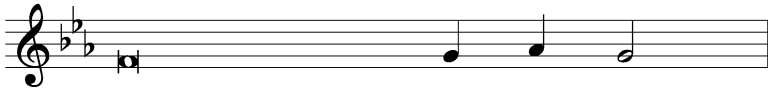
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### Prelude

*Please stand*



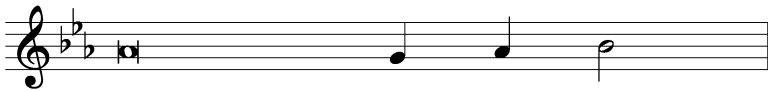
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;



**the light no darkness can o - ver - come.**



Stay with us now, for it is evening,



**and the day is al - most over.**



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,



**and shine within your peo - ple here.**



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov - ing glow of  
 2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing  
 3 You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry danc - ing



God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on  
 sun of dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can  
 star of night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -  
 hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with  
 each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us we shall raise our songs to you, God of  
 won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that  
 a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing



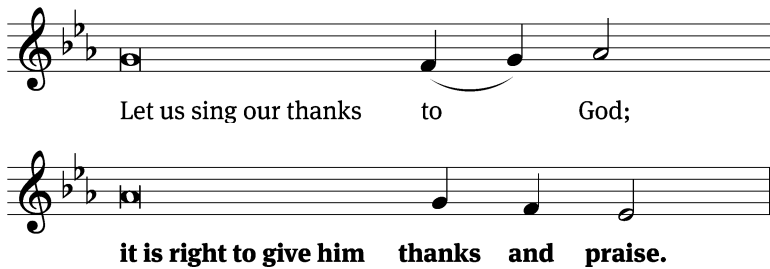
day - break, God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.  
 bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.  
 Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.



May God be with you all,



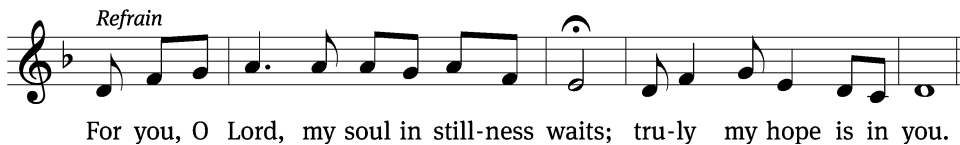
and al - so with you.



Let us sing our thanks to God;  
**it is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.  
**Amen.**

*Be seated*



*Refrain*  
 For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
 your radiance shines in all who look to you;  
 come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. *Refrain*

O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;  
 our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word;  
 come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. *Refrain*

O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
 and in your advent draw us all to you,  
 our hope reborn in dying and in rising. *Refrain*

O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage;  
 we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain;  
 open to us the pathway of your peace. *Refrain*

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May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

**Amen.**

## **Reading**

Psalm 119:145–152

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD,  
and I will obey your decrees.  
I call out to you; save me  
and I will keep your statutes.  
I rise before dawn and cry for help;  
I have put my hope in your word.  
My eyes stay open through the watches of the night,  
that I may meditate on your promises.  
Hear my voice in accordance with your love;  
preserve my life, LORD, according to your laws.  
Those who devise wicked schemes are near,  
but they are far from your law.  
Yet you are near, LORD,  
and all your commands are true.  
Long ago I learned from your statutes  
that you established them to last forever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord  
*Christian Worship 724*

## **Sermon**

Psalm 119:145–152

*Prepare the Way of the Lord in Prayer*

*Please stand*

*(sung)* An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."



1, 3 My — soul pro - claims your great - ness, O God, and my  
2 You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -



spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your  
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.



Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One, strong is your  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One, strong is your



kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the  
jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to



weak — and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart. *st. 2*  
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more. *st. 3*

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



Please stand

In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For peace and salvation, we pray to you:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For peace between nations, for peace between peoples:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For us who are gathered to worship and praise you:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all of your servants who live out your gospel:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all those who labor in service to others:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**



For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:  
**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

Help us, comfort us, all of our days:  
**Keep us, hold us, gracious God. 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.**



Let us praise the Lord:



thanks be to God.



May God the Fa - ther bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our



guide and path, for all of our days.



A - men.

## **Closing Hymn**

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night  
*Christian Worship 789*

## **Announcements**

## **Postlude**

## **Acknowledgments**

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# Serving at Worship

**Preacher**

Rev. Heath Butler

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Joel Leyrer

**Musicians**

Mandy Treder, piano  
St. John's School instrumental students (3:30 p.m.)

## Worship Notes



- **The Third Advent Candle: The Shepherds' Candle** remembers those who were among the first to hear the good news that the Messiah was born. May we be like the shepherds and share this message of joy with a sin-darkened world around us.

# 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](mailto:joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org)

*Pastor Eric Schroeder*  
[eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org](mailto:eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org)

## Chinese Outreach

### Pastor

*Pastor Joshua Yu*  
[joshua.yu@sjtosa.org](mailto:joshua.yu@sjtosa.org)

## School Principal

*Mr. Dan Markgraf*  
[dan.markgraf@sjtosa.org](mailto:dan.markgraf@sjtosa.org)

## Church Office

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