

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, assisted listening devices, children's service folders, and children's worship notes are available from the ushers.
- 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.
- As the offering is received, members and guests are asked to sign the Friendship Register. Please pass the register to your neighbor and then return it to the center aisle. Visitors are also asked to fill out a guest card and give it to an usher.
- The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in our worship today. Scripture tells us that the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in God's Word and a privilege reserved for those who have publicly confessed their oneness in faith. Therefore, we ask guests who are not members of WELS or ELS congregations to refrain from communion until such oneness can be established. We do not intend to be exclusive and unloving. Rather, we desire to faithfully carry out the teaching of Scripture and further explore God's Word with you in the hope that we may eventually enjoy such "communion fellowship" together. For more information, please speak with one of our pastors.

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 14 & 15, 2019

Promises Made: God's kingdom gives us strength and courage.

Prelude

Please stand

ADVENT GATHERING RITE

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

C: Amen.

M: Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,

C: That the King of glory may come in.

M: Who is this King of glory?

C: The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Psalm 24:7, 8

1 Lo, he comes with clouds de -
scend - ing, Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner
slain. Thou - sand, thou - sand

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "1 Lo, he comes with clouds de -". The second staff continues the melody for the second line: "scend - ing, Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner". The third staff continues the melody for the third line: "slain. Thou - sand, thou - sand". The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across bar lines.

saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph
of his train. Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ re - veals his end - less reign.

M: “Surely the day is coming;

C: **It will burn like a furnace.**

M: All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble,

C: **And that day that is coming will set them on fire.**

M: But for you who revere my name,

C: **The sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.**

M: Then you will trample down the wicked;

C: **They will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,” says
the LORD Almighty.**

Malachi 4:1-3

(sung) **Ev’ry eye shall now behold him robed in glorious majesty;
Those who ridiculed and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.**

M: Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

C: **He who has clean hands and a pure heart.**

Psalms 24:3, 4a

M: But it is written, “All have turned away, they have together become worthless;

C: **There is no one who does good, not even one.”**

Romans 3:12

M: Therefore, let us confess our sins.

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) **Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers.
With what wonder, with what wonder, with what wonder,
Gaze we on those glorious scars.**

M: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

Therefore, in the name of Christ Jesus ☩ I forgive you all your sins.

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

(sung) **Yea, amen, let all adore you high on your eternal throne.
Ev’ry knee shall bow before you; come and take your people home!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
You shall reign and you alone!**

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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.**

Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Job 1:6-22

Job patiently waited for the LORD to drive the darkness from his life.

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”

In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 146 (see pg. 15)

Blessed are those who put their hope in the LORD and wait patiently for him.

Second Lesson

James 5:7-11

James urges us to wait patiently until the Lord comes again.

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

Brothers, 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 consider 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.

Verse of the Day

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

Please stand

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

As God’s messenger, John waited patiently for the one who was expected.

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who was 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 cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away 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 desert 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.’

I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Arise, O Christian People
Christian Worship 14

Sermon

Matthew 11:2-11

Realistic Expectations

Please stand

Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

**He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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. If you are a visitor today,
you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.*



Please stand

Prayer of the Church

The minister says the Prayer of the Church.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

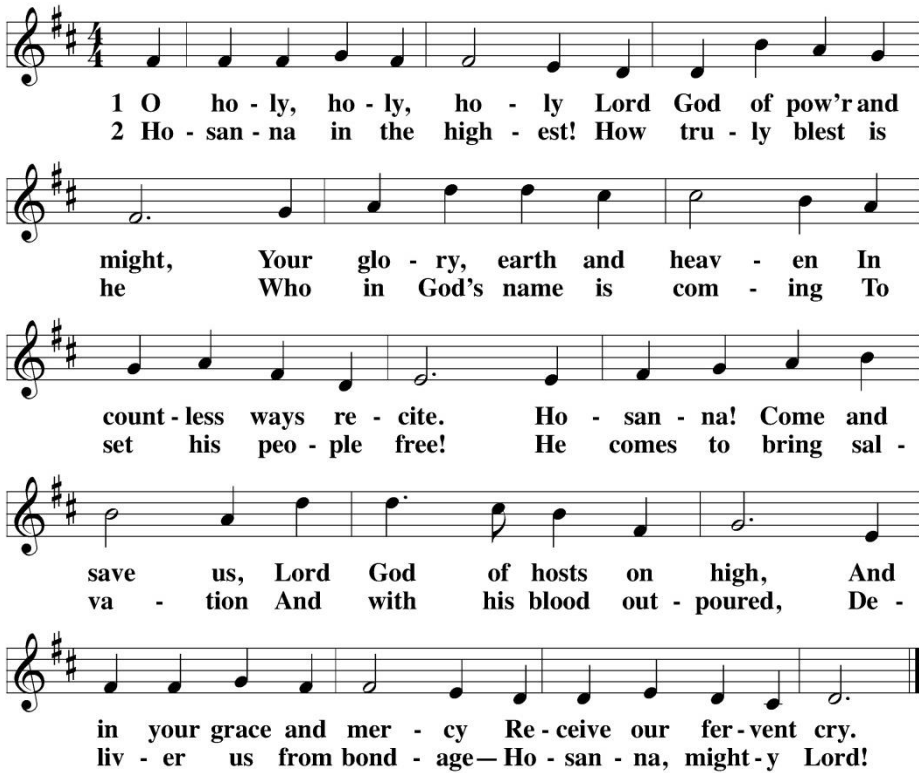
M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:†



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is
might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To
count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -
save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -
in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

† **Proper Preface:** The *proper preface* includes a text specific to the current season of the church year and is a prayer thanking God for his various blessings offered through Jesus. This text gives the congregation an opportunity to thank God for specific blessings appropriate to the season. The conclusion of the proper preface reminds us that by partaking of Christ's body and blood, we are united with the whole Christian Church – those who have gone before us and those who will come after us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: Blessed Lord, we praise you because you have fulfilled what you promised through your holy prophets of long ago and have sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem us. We give you sincere and humble thanks for your Son's gracious advent: he has come near to us in human flesh, redeeming the world from darkness; he comes near to us in Word and sacrament, giving us life and light; he will come near to us in glory, banishing forever the shadows of night.

As we receive his body and blood, once given and poured out for us, lift up our hearts to the day when we will see our Redeemer face-to-face. Then we will need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for the Lord will be our light. Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Come, Lord Jesus.

C: **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.**

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

*To receive communion, please proceed down the center aisle and exit via the side aisles.
Grape juice is available in the center of the individual cup tray for those unable to receive wine.
Personal prayers for communion can be found on pg. 18 of the service folder.*

Distribution Hymns

Zion, at Your Shining Gates (see pg. 16)
Christian Worship Supplement 701

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
Christian Worship 18

Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness
Christian Worship 311

Please stand

O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace, as -
sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -
light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,
crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are (stanzas 1 & 4)

Christian Worship 27

Announcements

Postlude

If you do not wish to take your service folder home, please place it in the basket so it can be reused.



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.

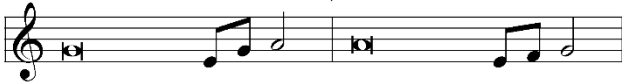
Psalm 146

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

Psalm tone



Praise the LORD, O my soul.

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,
the maker of heaven and earth. ***Refrain***

The LORD gives food to the hungry,
the LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

The LORD watches over the outcast
and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

The LORD remains faithful forever.
He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

**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*****

701

Zion, at Your Shining Gates



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.

Text (st. 1, 3-5): Benjamin H. Kennedy, 1804–1889, alt.

Text (st. 2): Michael Schultz, b. 1963 © 2006 Michael Schultz. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 (Alterations in other stanzas also by M. Schultz.)

Tune: COVENANT CHURCH (77 77) K. Lee Scott, b. 1950 ©1990 Concordia Publishing House.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Presiding Minister	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Musicians	Eric Sipe, organ (Saturday) Mandy Treder, organ (Sunday)
Communion Assistants	Larry Totsky, Bill Dittman, Dan Ebeling (8:00 a.m.) Scott Uecker, Dave Allerheiligen, Andrew Duncan, Eric Zabell (10:30 a.m.)
Greeters	Steve & Jen Wolf, Dave & Dana Leyrer (8:00 a.m.) Brian & Tracey Lampe, Marcus & Karah Radue (10:30 a.m.)
Head Ushers	Kerry Kuehn (Saturday); Mark Meissner (8:00 a.m.); Matt Bahr (10:30 a.m.)
AV Operators	Dan Schmal (8:00 a.m.); Brian Cleary (10:30 a.m.)

Worship Notes

- The altar flowers are placed by Dawn Lambrecht in celebration of her grandson Brooks Lambrecht's 1st birthday and in prayer for his safe arrival from South Korea this spring.

In Our Prayers

- Zach Todor, hospitalized.
- Don Hackbarth and Janice Hansen, temporarily convalescing at area care facilities.
- Jill LaMarche, scheduled for knee replacement surgery this week.

Personal Prayer for Before Communion

Merciful Lord, I come here to your table trusting in your measureless grace and not in my own goodness. Even though I am not worthy to eat the crumbs under your table, you are always rich in mercy. Gracious Lord, grant pardon and peace through the body and blood of this sacrament. Amen.

Personal Prayer for After Communion

Faithful God, in baptism you have adopted me as your child and made me a member of the body of Christ. I thank you for the forgiveness of sins present in this Sacrament. As I leave the table, empower me by your Spirit to witness and serve in your name. Amen.

Acknowledgements (reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709971, all rights reserved)

Divine Service II. Text © 2008 Northwestern Publishing House.

“Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending” Text and tune public domain.

“Psalm 146” Tune Lynn Trapp © 1989 MorningStar Music Publishers. Tone © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House.

“Holy, Holy, Holy” Text Stephen P. Starke © 2006 Northwestern Publishing House. Tune public domain.

“Lamb of God” Text public domain. Tune Dale Witte © 2005 Northwestern Publishing House.

“Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)” Text Stephen P. Starke © 2006 Concordia/Starke. Tune public domain.

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” Text and tune public domain.



Readings for the Week of Advent 3

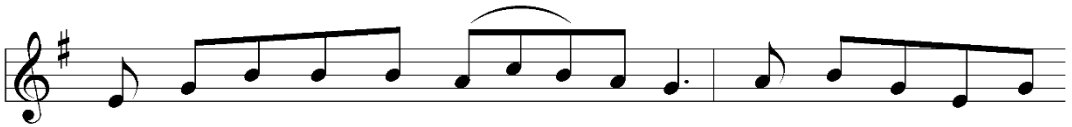
M	Matthew 11:11-15	Luke 1:5-25
T	Matthew 3:1-11	Luke 1:57-70
W	Luke 3:10-20	John 5:31-36
R	John 1:6-9, 15, 16	Hosea 14:5-9
F	John 1:29-34	2 Timothy 4:5-8
S	Luke 7:29-35	Isaiah 62

Parents' Preview for December 22

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”

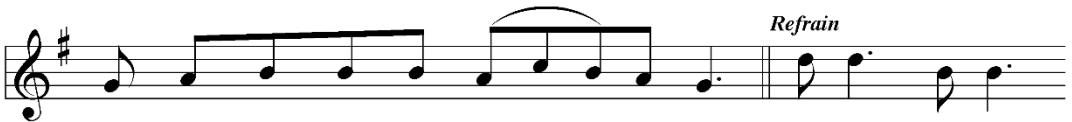
Christian Worship 23



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!

