

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 15 & 16, 2018

God's Promise Kept: John points the way

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

Christian Worship 4

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Please kneel

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Please stand

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

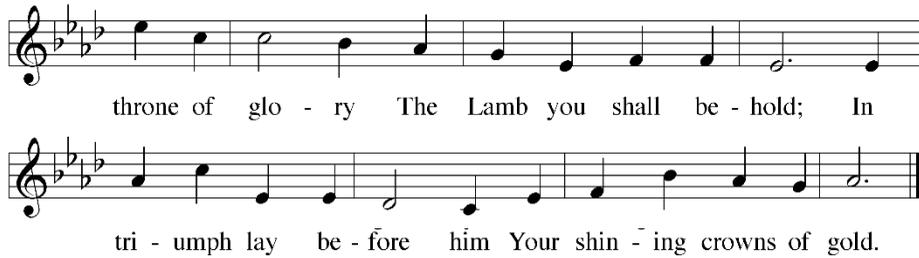
M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: **Amen.**

You saints, who here in pa - tience Your cross and
suf - f'ring bore, Shall live and reign for - ev - er
When sor - row is no more. A - round the



throne of glo - ry The Lamb you shall be - hold; In
tri - umph lay be - fore him Your shin - ing crowns of gold.

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

Nehemiah 8:9-18

Nehemiah tells the returning exiles to rejoice and find joy in the LORD.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

† The Gloria in Excelsis, the song of the angels from Luke 2 celebrating the birth of the Christ-child, normally follows the Confession of Sins and Kyrie. During Advent, the Gloria is omitted or replaced to build anticipation and focus on preparation for the Savior’s birth. It will be restored to the liturgy as we sing it anew with the angels on Christmas morning.

Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our LORD. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve.”

Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the scribe to give attention to the words of the Law. They found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in booths during the feast of the seventh month and that they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: “Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make booths” – as it is written.

So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves booths on their own roofs, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. The whole company that had returned from exile built booths and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great.

Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 14

David tells the Israelites to rejoice as they wait for the LORD to restore their fortunes.

Refrain

Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus,
come. Re - store your peo-ple and bless them.

†**Nehemiah:** The books of Nehemiah and Ezra recount the return of Judah from the Babylonian captivity. Nehemiah (meaning “The LORD comforts”) focuses on the third return from Babylon and the rebuilding of the wall surrounding Jerusalem. For more information on Nehemiah, see pg. 44 of *Understanding Lutheran Worship*, found in the hymnal rack.

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**Luke 3:7-18**

John preaches the good news, which is the basis for our rejoicing.

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.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Anthem (Sunday)

School Small Group Choir

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

by John A. Behnke

Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be; loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken, heal the world, by sin now broken.

Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Hymn of the Day

Arise, O Christian People

Christian Worship 14

Sermon

Celebrating Sukkot

Nehemiah 8:9-18

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!

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."

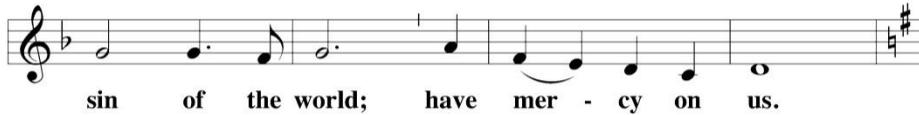
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



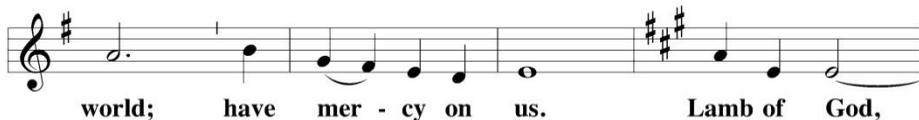
Lamb of God, you take a - way the



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



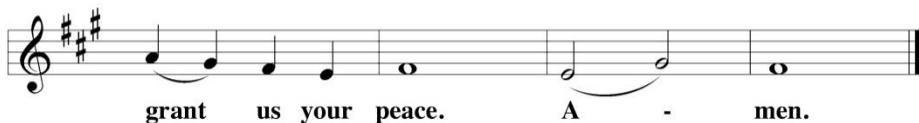
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



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. 15 of the service folder.

Distribution Hymns

Zion, at Your Shining Gates (see pg. 17)

Christian Worship Supplement 701

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

Christian Worship 540

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face
Christian Worship 315

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

God's Own Son Most Holy (stanzas 1 & 2)

Christian Worship 17

Announcements

Postlude

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

Personal Prayer for Before Communion

Help me, O God, to be rightly prepared to receive the sacrament. Take away any unbelief and overcome any doubts that I may have. Lord Jesus, give me a believing heart that the gifts and forgiveness offered here truly are for me. Amen.

Personal Prayer for After Communion

Heavenly Father, through this holy supper you nourish my faith, increase my hope, and strengthen my love. Teach me always to hunger for your Son, the true and living bread. Enable me to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth. Amen.

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Presiding Minister	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Musician	Eric Sipe, organ (Saturday) Dan Schmal, organ (Sunday)
Communion Assistants	Mark Meissner, Larry Totsky, Cary Haakenson (8:00 AM) Scott Uecker, Keith Hackbarth, Andrew Duncan (10:30 AM)
Greeters	Peter & Sharon Trettin, Steve & Jennifer Wolf (8:00 AM) Brian & Tracey Lampe, Sally Parker, Mary Perez and Eric Zabell (10:30 AM)
Head Ushers	Matt Bahr (Saturday); Kerry Kuehn (8:00 AM); Rick Yahn (10:30 AM)

Worship Notes

- The altar flowers are placed by Kyle and Monica Lentz in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary, an blessings received.

In Our Prayers

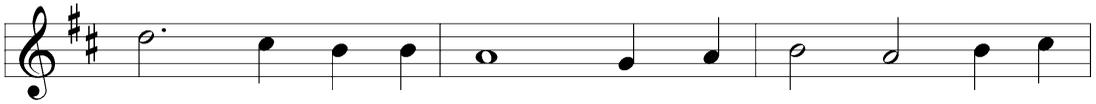
- Joy Schnell, who remains hospitalized at Froedtert.
- Mary Heins, as she undergoes knee replacement surgery on Tuesday.

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.

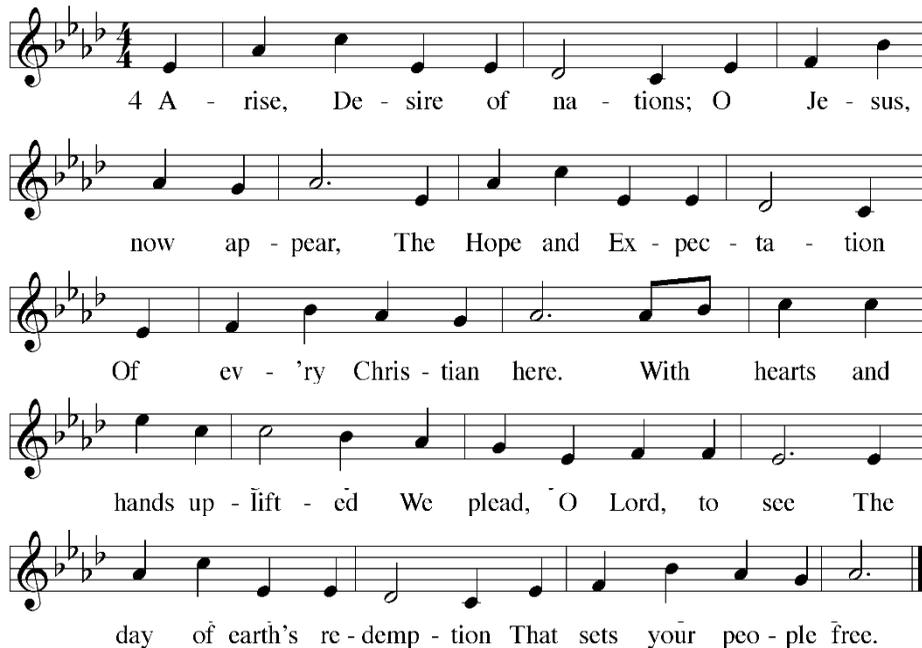
Text (st. 2): Michael Schultz, b. 1963 © 2006 Michael Schultz. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
(Alterations in other stanzas also by M. Schultz.)

Tune: COVENANT CHURCH (77 77) K. Lee Scott, b. 1950 ©1990 Concordia Publishing House.
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Parents' Preview for December 23

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.

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” stanza 4 (*Christian Worship 7*)



4 A - rise, De - sire of na - tions; O Je - sus,
now ap - pear, The Hope and Ex - pec - ta - tion
Of ev - 'ry Chris - tian here. With hearts and
hands up - lift - ed We plead, O Lord, to see The
day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free.



The Third Advent Candle: The Shepherds' Candle honors those who were the first to share the Good News. We continue to share the good news in word and song as we celebrate around our star-topped Christmas trees.

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“Psalm 14” Tune and tone © 2005 Northwestern Publishing House.

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth” Text © 1969 James Quinn, SJ. Published by OCP.

“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.

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
TH	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 62:1-3, 10-12

