



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

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Come, Lord Jesus!

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## Welcome to Worship!

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

This time of year, it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the coming Christmas holiday and forget about why the very first Christmas was needed. Long ago in the Garden of Eden, mankind fell into sin—and we've been caught in its clutches ever since. We can't do anything to escape from sin's hold, and we know that the natural consequence of sin—death—will be our fate one day. But there's good news too: since the Garden of Eden, there's been a plan to deal with the consequences of sin. God would become man, would take on flesh and blood, to free us from sin's hold. And so when we look into the manger, we see more than a baby. We see Immanuel, God with us, the Son of God who also became the Son of Mary.

## 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.

## Lord's Supper

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 Fourth Sunday in Advent

## December 17 & 18, 2022

Come, Lord Jesus! As Immanuel

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### Prelude

#### Call to Worship (10:30 a.m.)

*Sunday School students*

#### The Bells of Waiting Advent Ring

*by Paul Wigmore*

The bells of waiting Advent ring! A song in winter's darkest night,  
yet listen to the tale they tell: earth waits for Christ from glory bright.

Sing to the mighty Father God, whose love enshrines his majesty;  
there is no darkness where he reigns and light above all light is he.

And all who trust him and obey will find when Jesus comes again  
that they are heirs to that bright place, God's realm of glory, their domain!

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost we sing our praises, loud and long;  
and wait with winter's Advent bells to welcome Christ in Christmas song.

Text: Public domain

*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 four Advent candles and remember Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity and to save his people from their sins.

**We remember Jesus, the One whose name means Savior.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

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) You need not toil nor languish nor ponder day and night  
how in the midst of anguish you draw him by your might.  
He comes, he comes all willing, moved by his love alone,  
your woes and troubles stilling; for all to him are known.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 7:10–14

*Deliverance would come through Immanuel, the One born of a virgin.*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Second Reading

Romans 1:1–7

*Paul sees all of God's promises fulfilled in Jesus: Immanuel, true God and true man.*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia. The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

## Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

*Joseph accepted that Mary was carrying Immanuel:  
the very Son of God, the promised Savior from sin.*

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
*Christian Worship 327*

**Sermon**

Matthew 1:18-25

*Joseph's Christmas Journey*

*Please stand*

**Nicene Creed**

**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 truly 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.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

*The minister says the Prayer of the Church*

*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*

## **The Sacrament**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

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## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**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.**

## **Words of Institution**

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.

**Amen.**

# Jesus, Lamb of God

# Agnus Dei



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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## Be seated

*The Scriptures teach us that receiving the Lord's Supper is a public declaration of shared belief. Therefore, we ask our guests who are not members of a WELS or ELS congregation to refrain from receiving the Lord's Supper until they have had the opportunity to talk with one of our pastors about our beliefs and practice.*

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. 16 of the service folder.

## **Distribution Hymns**

Peace Came to Earth  
*Christian Worship 330*

A Great and Mighty Wonder  
*Christian Worship 349*

Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face  
*Christian Worship 660*

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.  
Go + in peace.

*Please stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us 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.

**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**

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates (sts. 1, 4)

*Christian Worship 305*

## **Announcements**

## **Postlude**

## **Acknowledgments**

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## Serving at Worship

**Preacher**

Pastor Joel Leyrer

**Presiding Minister**

Senior Vicar Christian Willick (Saturday)

Pastor Eric Schroeder (Sunday)

**Musicians**

Megan Bauer, piano (Saturday)

Lisa Eggebrecht, organ (Sunday)

**Communion Assistants**

Dan Markgraf & Dan Schmal (8:00 a.m.)

Keith Hackbarth & Brian Treichel (10:30 a.m.)

## In Our Prayers

- Pastor Joel Schwartz, who will be installed as our associate pastor of outreach and youth this afternoon.
- Bob and Vicki Schaller, who are both now convalescing at Linden Grove Care Facility in New Berlin.
- Bob Schoeneck, who was released from the hospital and is now temporarily convalescing at the San Camilla skilled care center.
- Rob Siever, who successfully underwent a surgical heart procedure this past week.

### Personal Prayer for Before Communion

May the receiving of your body and blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgment and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Amen.

### Personal Prayer for After Communion

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.



Readings for the Week of Advent 4		
M	Isaiah 45:1-8	Luke 1:39-56
T	1 Corinthians 2:6-10	Jeremiah 31:2-6,14
W	Mark 3:31-35	Isaiah 7:10-16
R	Romans 1:1-7	Isaiah 40:9-11
F	John 1:29-34	2 Timothy 4:5-8
S	Christmas Eve	

## Holiday Worship Opportunities

**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*

## Parents' Preview for December 25

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.

### Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *Christian Worship 350*



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

#### *Refrain*



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"



# 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)

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