



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19 & 20, 2020

To Those Who Overcome: Jesus Promises a Throne.

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 ✠ 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 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.

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

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

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

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) **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

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; 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

2 Samuel 7:8-16

We receive the home and the rest that God promises to his people.

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 89 (see pg. 11)

We sing because we receive the LORD's love.

Second Lesson

Romans 16:25-27

Through the gospel, we receive the mystery of the incarnation.

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him – to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Verse of the Day

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

Please stand

In faith, Mary receives the promise of the birth of an eternal king.

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Anthem (Sunday)

Grade 8

O Come, Emmanuel

by Neil & Tracy Hankwitz

O come, O come, Emmanuel. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

The prophets told us long ago a star would come from Jacob,
The child would be born in Bethlehem, and he would come to save us.
O come, O come, Emmanuel. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

The angel said to Mary that she would have a son.
His name would be called Emmanuel, God's gift from heav'n sent down.
O come, O come, Emmanuel. O come, O come, Emmanuel.



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!

Sermon

Revelation 3:14-22

Letters to the Seven Churches: Laodicea

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

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.

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

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.

Please stand

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring (stanzas 1 & 2)

Christian Worship 26



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer



Low - ly came on earth to die, Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer, Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.

Announcements

Psalm 89

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

*

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever;
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. *Refrain*

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?
You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;
they exult in your righteousness.

**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***

Serving at Worship

Minister

Pastor Eric Schroeder

Musicians

Dr. William Braun, organ (Saturday)

Lisa Eggebrecht, organ (Sunday)

Morgan Festerling, violin

Worship Notes

- The flowers are placed by Pete and Lorrie Hansen in celebration of their 41st wedding anniversary.

In Our Prayers

- The family and friends of Henry Bahr, who went to be with his Lord on Wednesday, December 9, at the age of 83.
- Mason Joel Radue, son of Marcus and Karah (née Parbs) Radue, who will be baptized in a private ceremony following our 10:30 a.m. service today.

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“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring” Text and tune public domain.

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” Text and tune public domain.

Parents' Preview for December 27

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, All Ye Faithful" (*Christian Worship 55*)



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 23	Children's Christmas Service 1:00 p.m. (broadcast online only, no in-person service)
Thursday, December 24	Service of Lessons & Carols 3:00 (broadcast online), 4:30, 6:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 25	Christmas Day Festival Worship 8:30 (broadcast online), 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 26	No evening worship
Sunday, December 27	Worship 8:00 (broadcast online) & 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 31	New Year's Eve Worship 5:30 (broadcast online) & 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 2	No evening worship
Sunday, January 3	Worship 8:00 (broadcast online) & 10:30 a.m.

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	Christmas Eve	
F	Christmas Day	
S	John 19:25b-27	Isaiah 52:5 – 53:5

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 21st 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

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*Pastor Eric Schroeder
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