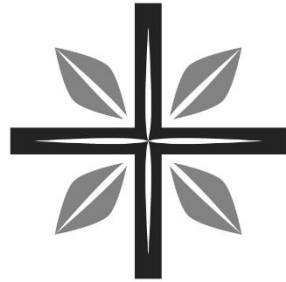


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



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.
- Large print service folders are available from an usher. Assisted listening devices, including both ear bud and loop receivers for digital hearing aids, are also available from an usher.
- Children's service folders and worship notes are available in the round tract rack in the entry area.
- 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.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21 & 22, 2019

Promises Made: God's kingdom comes through Immanuel.

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: 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.**

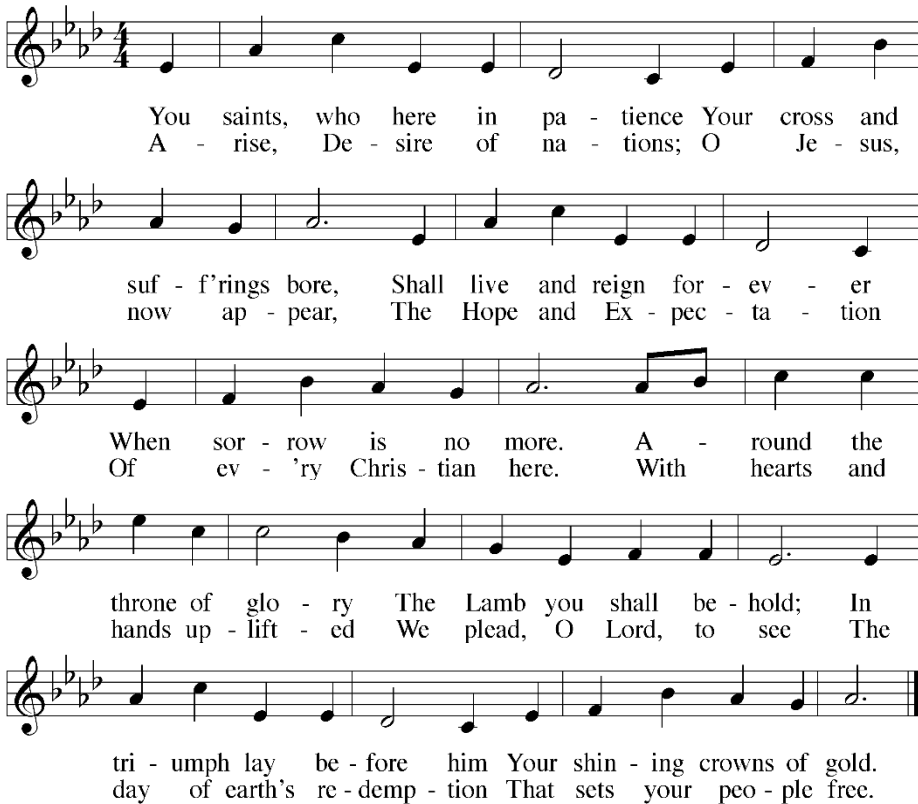
Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



You saints, who here in pa - tience Your cross and
A - rise, De - sire of na - tions; O Je - sus,
suf - f'ring's bore, Shall live and reign for - ev - er
now ap - pear, The Hope and Ex - pec - ta - tion
When sor - row is no more. A - round the
Of ev - 'ry Chris - tian here. With hearts and
throne of glo - ry The Lamb you shall be - hold; In
hands up - lift - ed We plead, O Lord, to see The
tri - umph lay be - fore him Your shin - ing crowns of gold.
day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free.

✠ 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.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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.**

Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:1-17

The LORD's promises are fulfilled through Immanuel.

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field. Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood – because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it." Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“It will not take place, it will not happen,

for the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.

Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son.

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.”

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."

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty – he is the King of glory.

**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

Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

God's promises are fulfilled in the gospel Paul preached.

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 human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day

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

Please stand

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

God's promises are fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and 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 be with child and will 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 had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



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

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Christian Worship 23

Sermon

Matthew 1:18-25

A Quiet Faith

Please stand

***Gospel:** The Gospel (Greek for “*good news*”) sets the theme for the entire worship service. It is a record of the very words and deeds of Jesus and is treated with reverence. The congregation stands for its reading. This tradition of standing serves as a visual reminder that the Gospels are the climax of the Scriptures. For more information on the Gospel, see pg. 18 of *Understanding Lutheran Worship*, found in the hymnal rack.

Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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

M: O Jesus, Word of God made flesh, through whom the world was formed and by whose Word all things are upheld, we stand in humble awe and reverence at the great mystery of your incarnation.

C: Our reason cannot comprehend how you, the Almighty Son of God, could be born of a woman and live here as our brother.

M: But what we cannot understand with our minds, you have graciously enabled our hearts to accept by faith.

C: **We praise and thank you that through the Holy Spirit, you have directed our hearts to bow in faith before you.**

M: Through your Spirit, keep us in true repentance, that we may ever confess our sins and unworthiness and continually trust the sacrifice you made on the cross to save us.

C: **You are indeed our God who was made flesh; our sin-bearer and our substitute; our hope, our joy, and our peace.**

M: O Savior of the world, send the Holy Spirit to create faith through the gospel that all may find in you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

C: **Fill us with your Holy Spirit and move us to share this saving message with those around us.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

M: As we anticipate your coming to the manger in Bethlehem, remind us also of your daily coming to us in Word and Sacrament and of your glorious coming on the last day.

C: **Our hearts long for that day when we will see you face to face. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! 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.**

Be seated

Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
Christian Worship 24

Please stand

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, 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

Rise, Arise
Christian Worship 30

Announcements

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



The Fourth Advent Candle: The Angels' Candle reminds us of the heavenly host that announced the birth of Immanuel and of the **peace** they proclaimed to the shepherds and to all the earth.

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Presiding Minister	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Musicians	Carmen Rupprecht, piano (Saturday) Lisa Eggebrecht, organ (Sunday)
Head Ushers	Tom Wessel (Saturday) Jon Johnson (8:00 a.m.) Michael Schneider (10:30 a.m.)
Greeters	Mark & Mary Meissner, Kathryn Hendee (8:00 a.m.) Steve & Cindy Zemplinski, Barb Bergquist, Lorna Leyrer (10:30 a.m.)
AV Operators	Lyle Haferman (8:00 a.m.) Brian Cleary (10:30 a.m.)

Worship Notes

- The altar flowers are placed by Kristine Laufer in memory of Joanne and Cheryl Branch.

In Our Prayers

- Zachary Todor, hospitalized at Children's Hospital.

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

Divine Service I. Texts revised from *The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941*. Music © 2002 Kermit Moldenhauer.

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" Text and tune public domain.

"Psalm 24" Tune Richard Proulx © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Tone © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House.

"Let All Together Praise Our God" Text and tune public domain.

Parents' Preview for December 29

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.

“Let All Together Praise Our God” (*Christian Worship 41*)



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To

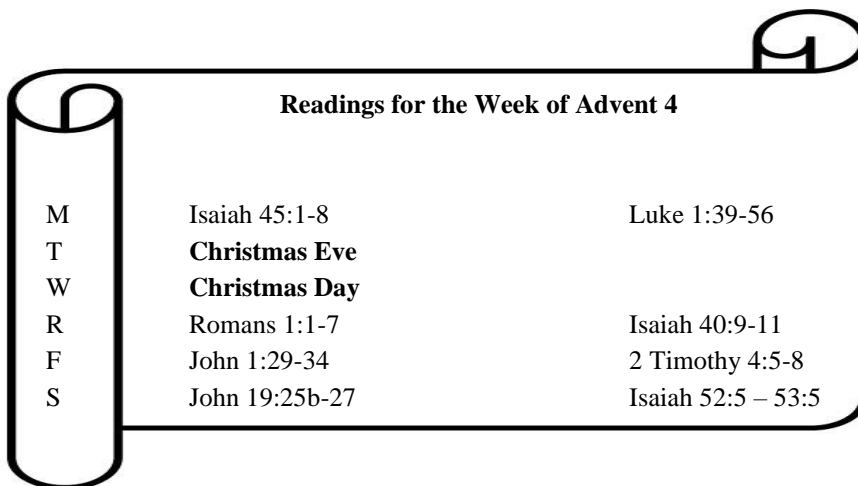


gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.

St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Tuesday, December 24	Children's Christmas Eve Service 4:00 p.m., Wisconsin Lutheran High School
Tuesday, December 24	Service of Lessons & Carols 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day Festival Worship 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 28	No evening worship
Sunday, December 29	Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 31	New Year's Eve Worship 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1, 2020	New Year's Day Worship 10:00 a.m.



Readings for the Week of Advent 4		
M	Isaiah 45:1-8	Luke 1:39-56
T	Christmas Eve	
W	Christmas Day	
R	Romans 1:1-7	Isaiah 40:9-11
F	John 1:29-34	2 Timothy 4:5-8
S	John 19:25b-27	Isaiah 52:5 – 53:5

