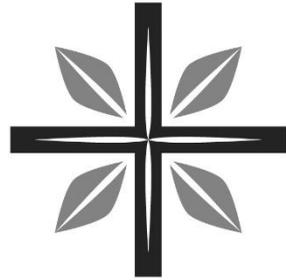


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



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 22 & 23, 2018

God's Promise Kept: Through the virgin

Preservice Music

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Peter Ma, percussion; Silas Ebeling & John Handeland, French horn

O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel

Camden Theesfeld, guitar

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Olivia Close, Ally Rhyner & Lexi Siegmund, guitar

Away in a Manger

Madalyn Morin, clarinet; Rhiannon Gantner, alto saxophone

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Silas Ebeling & John Handeland, French horn; Amos Ebeling, baritone; Riley Rindfleisch, tuba

The First Noel

Morgan Festerling & Rhiannon Gantner, violin

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

The Night Will Soon Be Ending (see pg. 12)

Christian Worship Supplement 705

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.

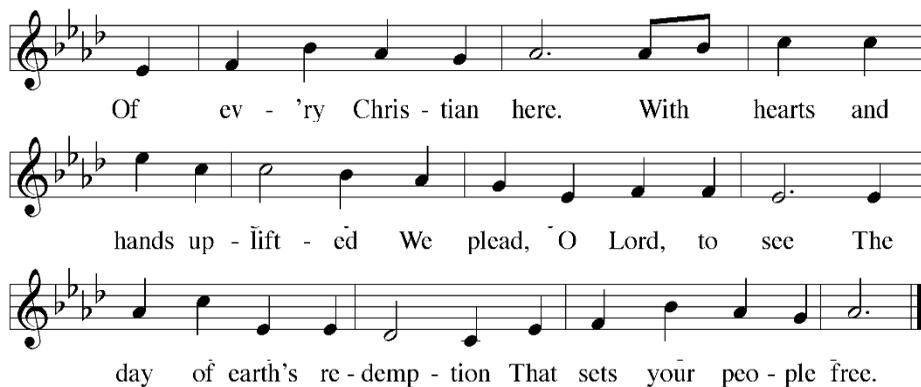
C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

A - rise, De - sire of na - tions; O Je - sus,
now ap - pear, The Hope and Ex - pec - ta - tion

✠ 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.



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.

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

Genesis 4:1, 2, 6-8, 25 – 5:5

In Adam every generation tastes death, but Christ will come and bring deliverance.

Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.” Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.” Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.

This is the written account of Adam’s line.

When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them “man.”

When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 85

God shows us his unfailing love and promises that he will bring peace and deliverance.



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever,
even as he said to our fathers.”



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

Genesis 4:1, 2, 6-8, 25 – 5:5

The Reason for the Season

Please stand

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

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

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

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Christian Worship 56

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 is the candle of joy and love – a reminder of the grace that is given to all who know the Christ Child.

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Presiding Minister	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Musicians	Brian Kent, piano (Saturday) Eric Sipe, organ (Sunday)
Head Ushers	Rick Yahn (Saturday) Tom Wessel (8:00 AM) Doug Knuth (10:30 AM)
Greeters	Mark & Jackie Bye, Sue Freedlund and John Frailing (8:00 AM) Jes & Susan Mariscal, Matt & Renee Pastorek (10:30 AM)

In Our Prayers

- Joy Schnell, hospitalized at Froedtert.
- Thanksgiving for Mary Heins, recovering at home from successful knee replacement surgery.

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“*Let All Together Praise Our God*” Text and tune public domain.

The Night Will Soon Be Ending



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And
 5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And



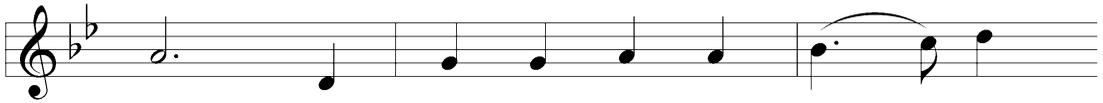
dawn can - not be far. Let songs of praise as -
 near, a child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of -
 soon bring morn - ing bright. So run where God's sal -
 rob our hearts of peace, And sin in all its
 makes the night as day; Yet we re - sist the



end - ing Now greet the Morn - ing Star! All
 fend - ed, Bears all our sins de - serve. The
 va - tion Glows in a sta - ble's light. As
 mad - ness A - round us may in - crease. But
 bright - ness And turn from God a - way. But



you whom dark - ness fright - ens With guilt or grief or
 guilt - y need not cow - er, For God has rec - on -
 old as sin's per - ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de -
 now one Star is beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the
 grace does not for - sake us, How - ev - er far we



pain, God's ra - diant Star now bright - ens
ciled Through his re - demp - tive pow - er
sign: God brings a new cre - a - tion—
night: God comes for our re - deem - ing
run. God claims us still as chil - dren



And bids you sing a - gain.
All those who trust this child.
This child its seal and sign.
From sin's op - pres - sive might.
Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

Readings for the Week of Advent 4

M	Christmas Eve	
T	Christmas Day	
W	Mark 3:31-35.....	Isaiah 7:10-16
TH	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

St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Monday, December 24

Children's Christmas Eve Service
4:00 PM, Wisconsin Lutheran High School

Monday, December 24

Service of Lessons & Carols
7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day Festival Worship
10:00 AM

Saturday, December 29

Worship
5:30 PM

Sunday, December 30

Worship
8:00 & 10:30 AM

Monday, December 31

New Year's Eve Worship
6:45 PM

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

New Year's Day Worship
10:00 AM

Parents' Preview for December 30

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.

