



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



The Second Sunday in Advent

December 5 & 6, 2020

To Those Who Overcome: Jesus Promises Innocence.

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 two Advent candles and remember Jesus, the One who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death as the promised Messiah.

C: **We remember Jesus, the coming Lord whose way John the Baptist prepared.**

M: We hear his call to repent.

C: **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

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) **He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to his foes,
A light of consolations,
And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams most cheering,
And guide us safely home.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

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.

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

Isaiah 40:1-11

The prophet Isaiah foretells of the coming of the Sovereign LORD.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed,

that her sin has been paid for,

that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD;

make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up,

every mountain and hill made low;

the rough ground shall become level,

the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All men are like grass,

and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

The grass withers and the flowers fall,

because the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

The grass withers and the flowers fall,

but the word of our God stands forever."

You who bring good tidings to Zion,

go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem,

lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid;

say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,

and his arm rules for him.

See, his reward is with him,

and his recompense accompanies him.

He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart;

he gently leads those that have young.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 14

The psalmist David foretells of the coming of salvation for Israel from Zion.

Refrain

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

Psalm Tone

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men

to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;

there is no one who does good, not even one. **Refrain**

Will evildoers never learn –

those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,

but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Israel rejoice and be glad!

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

2 Peter 3:8-14

Peter foretells of the coming of the day of the Lord.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

Please stand

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist foretells of the coming of the Messiah.

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way – a voice of one calling in the desert,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ ”

And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Anthem

Grade 7

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

setting by Jeffrey Blersch

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
Without your grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;
Oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

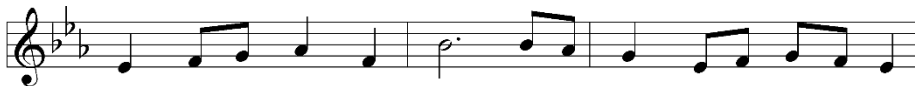
Hymn of the Day

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Christian Worship 13



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, A
2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; Get
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; The



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, A high - way for our God! The
peo - ple The com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, And he shall right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, The lof - ty
 flow'rs of the field they per - ish; Like grass their
 feed his flock like a shep-herd, The lambs shall



hills brought low; Make straight all the crook - ed
 works de - cay. The pow'r and the pomp of
 gent - ly hold, To pas - tures of peace shall



pla - ces Where the Lord our God may go!
 na - tions Shall pass like a dream a - way;
 lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.

Sermon

Revelation 2:12-17

Letters to the Seven Churches: Pergamum

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live – where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city – where Satan lives.

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”

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

Prepare the Royal Highway
Christian Worship Supplement 702



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and
own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -
greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry
comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall
All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness



sa - cred sto - ry:
doubt as - sail you! Ho - san - na to the
now a - dore him!
so a - bound - ing:



Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

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

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide (stanzas 1 & 3)

Christian Worship 22

1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; Come down, come
3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; Grim death looms
down with might - y stride; Un - lock the gates, the doors break
fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y
down; Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
hand From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.

Announcements

Postlude

Serving at Worship

Minister

Pastor Joel Leyrer

Musicians

Eric Sipe, organ (Saturday)
Lisa Eggebrecht, organ (Sunday)

In Our Prayers

- Joseph Eick and Anne Reinhardt, who will be united in marriage at Christ Lutheran in Milwaukee on Saturday, December 12.

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Parents' Preview for December 13

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.

Psalm 71 Refrain

Refrain

Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Readings for the Week of Advent 2

M	Luke 12:35-40	Isaiah 26:1-12
T	2 Thessalonians	2 Peter 1:3-11
W	Revelation 2:1-5, 7	Zechariah 2:10-13
R	Mark 13:5-13	Haggai 2:1-9
F	Luke 17:20-25	Revelation 1: 4-8
S	Revelation 3:14-22	Isaiah 35:1-7

St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Wednesdays, December 9 & 16	Midweek Advent Worship 1:00 (broadcast online) & 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, December 19	Worship 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 20	Worship 8:00 (broadcast online) & 10:30 a.m.
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 TBD (broadcast online)
Friday, December 25	Christmas Day Festival Worship TBD (broadcast online)
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.

To help us schedule our Christmas Eve and Day worship services, please take the brief survey available at www.sjtosa.org/worship.

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 Kyle Bitter
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