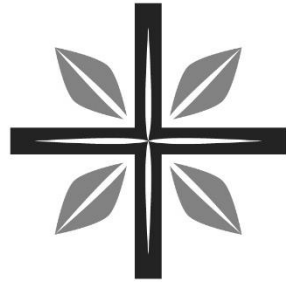




# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



## 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.
- Please join us for Bible class at 9:15 a.m.  
*The Last Word on End Times:* Fellowship Hall, lower level of church  
A staffed nursery is available during Bible class.

# The Second Sunday in Advent

## December 7 & 8, 2019

Promises Made: God's kingdom is worth waiting for.

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**Call to Worship (10:30 a.m.)**  
*Grade K4*

**Mary's Little Boy Child**

**Opening Hymn**  
*Please stand to sing the final stanza*

**When All the World Was Cursed (Saturday & 8:00 a.m.)**  
*Christian Worship 20*

**See This Wonder in the Making (10:30 a.m.)**  
*Christian Worship 300*

**Affirmation of Holy Baptism (10:30 a.m.)**

*Christian Worship, pg. 12*

**M:** The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** **Amen.**

## PRAAYER AND PRAISE

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



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the  
lights ap - pear; The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing,  
Bride - groom near; Go forth, as he ap - proach - es,  
And dark - er night is near. The Bride - groom  
With al - le - lu - ias clear. The mar - riage  
is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh. Up,  
feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand. A -  
pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.

### 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: A - men.

## THE WORD

### First Lesson

**Daniel 4:19-37**

*Daniel calls on Nebuchadnezzar to repent and turn to God the Most High.*

Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So the king said, “Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you.”

Belteshazzar answered, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the beasts of the field, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds of the air – you, O king, are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

“You, O king, saw a messenger, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live like the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.’

“This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes. The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”

All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”

The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.”

Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;

his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

### Psalm of the Day

### Psalm 14

*God calls on us to repent and take refuge in him.*

*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**

**Acts 3:19-26**

*Peter calls on the crowd to repent and turn from their wicked ways.*

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.’

“Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

### **Verse of the Day**

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

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Please stand*

## Gospel

**Matthew 3:1-12**

*John calls on the people to repent and produce good fruit.*

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the desert,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ ”

John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”





C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated*

**Anthem (8:00 a.m.)<sup>†</sup>**

*Junior Choir*

**Savior of the Nations, Come**

*arranged by Linda Moeller*

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's Son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, by the Spirit of our God  
Was the Word of God made flesh, woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child by the virgin undefiled,  
Though by all the world disowned, yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

From the Father's throne he came and ascended to the same,  
Captive leading death and hell – high the song of triumph swell!

Praise to God the Father sing, praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be ever and eternally.

**Hymn of the Day**

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

*Christian Worship 16*

**Sermon**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

The Advent Story

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<sup>†</sup> **Anthem:** The *anthem* is a relatively recent addition to the liturgy. Known as the “choir’s sermon,” it has its roots in Reformation era worship. Historically, the music was more elaborate and complex than hymn or psalm settings. In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the anthem was often an extensive musical work, sometimes combined with the hymn of the day. Today, the anthem is generally chosen to reflect the theme of the service as seen through the Gospel.

*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*

## **THANKSGIVING**

### **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](http://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:** Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**C:** **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

**M:** As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C:** **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

**M:** You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C:** **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

**M:** Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C:** **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M:** Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**C:** **Come, 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**

**Christ, the Word of God Incarnate (see pg. 14)**

*Christian Worship Supplement 750*

*Please stand*

**M:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



*Be seated*

**Closing Hymn**

**Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

*Christian Worship 15*

**Announcements**

**WELS Connection**

Prison Ministry

**Postlude**

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

## Serving at Worship

<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Joel Leyrer
<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Eric Schroeder
<b>Musician</b>	Carmen Rupprecht, piano (Saturday) Eric Sipe, organ (Sunday)
<b>Junior Choir Director</b>	Mandy Treder
<b>Greeters</b>	John Frailing, Chris Sturdevant, Peter & Sharon Trettin (8:00 a.m.) Jessica Gromacki, Paula Rauth, John & Julie Rader (10:30 a.m.)
<b>Head Ushers</b>	Rick Yahn (Saturday) Jon Johnson (8:00 a.m.) Michael Schneider (10:30 a.m.)
<b>AV Operators</b>	Jonah & Riley Rindfleisch (8:00 a.m.) Ben Haferman (10:30 a.m.)

## Worship Notes

- Malachi Marc Shambeau, son of Marc and Katharine (nee Hoenecke) Shambeau, will have his baptism affirmed during the 10:30 a.m. service. Serving as sponsors are Joe and Andrea Jost.

## In Our Prayers

- Zachary Todor and Don Hackbarth, hospitalized.
- Janice Hansen, temporarily convalescing at a care facility.
- Friends and family of Elaine Fruth, who went to be with her Lord on Wednesday at the age of 90. Her Christian Victory service will be held at Grace Lutheran in Oshkosh this week.

## 750

## Christ, the Word of God Incarnate



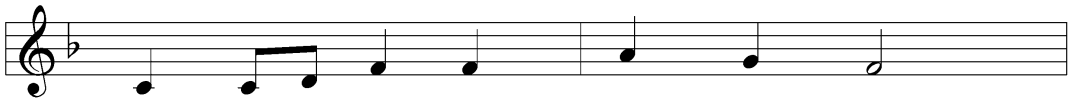
1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate,  
 2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en,  
 3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant  
 4 Christ, our good and faith - ful Shep - herd,  
 5 Christ, the way that leads un - fail - ing  
 6 Christ, the Al - pha and O - me - ga;



Lord and Son of A - bra - ham;  
 Food for bod - y, food for soul;  
 From the stump of Jes - se's tree;  
 Watch - ing all your lambs and sheep;  
 To the Fath - er's home on high;  
 Christ, the first - born from the dead;



Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,  
 Christ, the man - na, dai - ly giv - en,  
 Christ, true vine, you nur - ture branch - es  
 Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,  
 Christ, the truth that frees the cap - tive;  
 Christ, the life and res - ur - rec - tion;



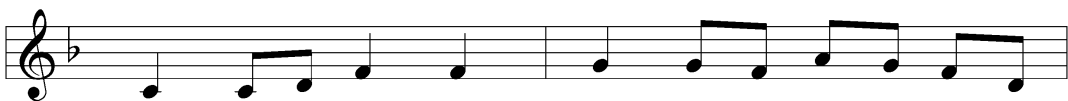
Per - fect God, the great I Am;  
 Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole.  
 To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly.  
 Nev - er - fail - ing vi - gil keep.  
 Christ, the life that can - not die.  
 Christ, the Church's glo - rious head:



Christ, the Light, you shine un - van - quished,  
 Feed us with the food of heav - en,  
 Graft us in - to you, O Sav - ior;  
 When we stray, Good Shep - herd, seek us,  
 Me - di - a - tor to the Fath - er,  
 Praise and thanks and a - do - ra - tion



Light and life you bring to all;  
 Fore - taste of the feast to be;  
 Prune our hearts so we re - main  
 Find us, lift us, bear us home;  
 Sac - ri - fice and Great High Priest:  
 And un - end - ing wor - ship be



Light our path with your own pres - ence,  
 Quench our thirst with liv - ing wa - ter  
 Fruit - ful branch - es in your vine - yard  
 Lamb of God, our Shep - herd, keep us;  
 Lead us to your heav'n - ly man - sions,  
 To the Fath - er and the Spir - it



Grant us grace to heed your call.  
 Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Till e - ter - nal life we gain.  
 Let us hear your voice a - lone.  
 There to share your wed - ding feast.  
 And to you e - ter - nal - ly.

*This inventive hymn is replete with scriptural titles and illustrations that describe the person and work of Christ from beginning to end.*

Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964 © 2001 Steven P. Mueller. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: HOLY MANNA (87 87 D) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1825

# Parents' Preview for December 15

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.

## “Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending” (stanza 1)

*Christian Worship Supplement 704*



1 Lo, he comes with clouds de -  
scend - ing, Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner  
slain. Thou - sand, thou - sand  
saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph  
of his train. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ re - veals his end - less reign.





**The Second Advent Candle: The Bethlehem Candle** reminds us of the city of David, the place of Jesus' birth. On that first Christmas night, God's **love** for his fallen creation shone forth through the birth of the Christ-child in Bethlehem.

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

*"Psalm 14"* Tune Lynn L Peterson © 2005 Northwestern Publishing House.

*"Savior of the Nations, Come"* Text public domain.

*"Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"* Text and tune public domain.

**Readings for the Week of Advent 2**

M	Luke 12:35-40	Isaiah 26:1-12
T	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	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

<b>Wednesdays, December 11 &amp; 18</b>	Midweek Advent Worship 3:30 and 6:45 p.m.
<b>Saturday, December 14</b>	Early Childhood Christmas Program 9:00 a.m.
<b>Saturday, December 21</b>	Worship 5:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, December 22</b>	Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
<b>Tuesday, December 24</b>	Children's Christmas Eve Service 4:00 p.m., Wisconsin Lutheran High School
<b>Tuesday, December 24</b>	Service of Lessons & Carols 7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, December 25</b>	Christmas Day Festival Worship 10:00 a.m.
<b>Saturday, December 28</b>	No evening worship
<b>Sunday, December 29</b>	Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
<b>Tuesday, December 31</b>	New Year's Eve Worship 6:45 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, January 1, 2020</b>	New Year's Day Worship 10:00 a.m.



