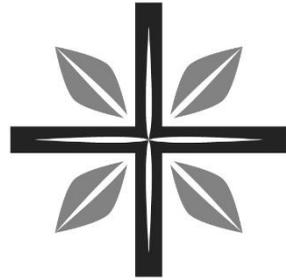


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



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 AM.
To the Ends of the Earth: Fellowship Hall, lower level of church
Bible Information Class: St. Matthew's Room, lower level of church
A staffed nursery is available during Bible class.

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 9 & 10, 2018

God's Promise Kept: We have hope

Prelude

Call to Worship (10:30 AM)

Grade K4

Jesus, Our Good Friend

Someone's coming, someone special,
Jesus, our good friend.
Soon he'll be a little baby,
Jesus, our good friend.

See the star that shines to welcome
Jesus, our good friend.
See, it leads the people to him,
Jesus, our good friend.

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Prepare the Royal Highway (see pg. 11)

Christian Worship Supplement 702

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.

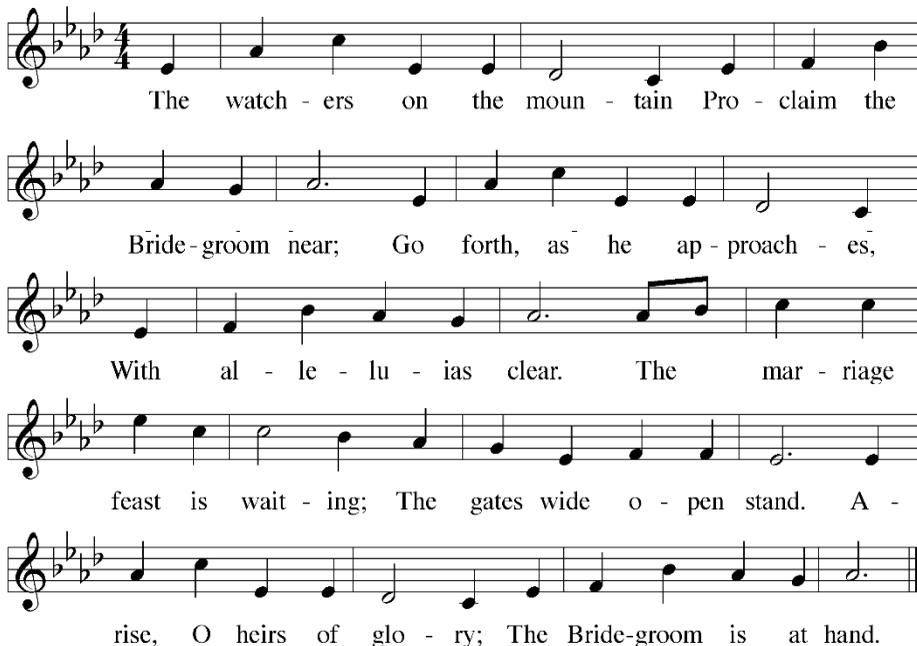
C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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



The watch-ers on the moun-tain Pro-claim the
Bride-groom near; Go forth, as he ap-proach-es,
With al-le-lu-ias clear. The mar-riage
feast is wait-ing; The gates wide o-pen stand. A-
rise, O heirs of glo-ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.

✦ 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: 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.



Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

The LORD promises to send a faithful messenger to proclaim his coming.

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the LORD you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 24 (see pg. 12)

We prepare the way for the LORD’s faithful messenger – the King of glory.

Second Lesson

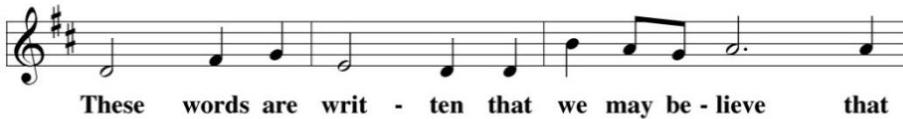
1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Paul lovingly instructs the Corinthians on the importance of faithful messengers.

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

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.



Please stand

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist – the Lord's faithful messenger – came as prophesied by Malachi.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the desert,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.
Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.
And all mankind will see God's salvation.’ ”



Be seated

Anthem (8:00 AM)

Junior Choir

Come to us, Emmanuel. Come to us, Lord Jesus.
Come to us, Emmanuel. Come and set us free.
We lift our longing hearts to you. Come and bring us peace.
Come to us, Emmanuel. O come, Lord Jesus, come.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come to us, Emmanuel. Come to us, Lord Jesus.
Come to us, Emmanuel. Come and bring us your light.
From darkness we have called to you, praying in the night.
Come to us, Emmanuel. O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Hymn of the Day

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Christian Worship 16

Sermon

Malachi 3:1-4

Different than Expected

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. If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.



Please stand

Prayer of the Church for Advent

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

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying
Christian Worship 13

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.



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

Vietnam

Postlude

Prepare the Royal Highway



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!
 now a - dore him! Ho - san - na to the
 so a - bound - ing:



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

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Presiding Minister	Seminary Student Eric Zabell (Saturday) Pastor Eric Schroeder (Sunday)
Musicians	Lisa Eggebrecht, piano (Saturday) Dr. William Braun, organ (Sunday)
Junior Choir Director	Mandy Treder
Head Ushers	Michael Schneider (Saturday) Mark Meissner (8:00 AM) Matt Bahr (10:30 AM)
Greeters	Mark & Mary Meissner, Chris Sturdevant and Sharon Vander Veen (8:00 AM) Ron & Judy Felsing, Eric Zabell, Kathryn Hendee and Jessica Gromacki (10:30 AM)

Worship Notes

- The altar flowers are placed by Sally Parker in celebration of her 76th birthday and for blessings received.

In Our Prayers

- Joy Schnell, who continues her lengthy hospital stay at Froedtert.
- Family and friends of Lucille Lambrecht, who passed away Thursday morning at the age of 95.

Parents' Preview for December 16

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.

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” stanza 3 (*Christian Worship 7*)



3 You saints, who here in pa - tience Your cross and
suf - f'ring bore, Shall live and reign for - ev - er
When sor - row is no more. A - round the
throne of glo - ry The Lamb you shall be - hold; In
tri - umph lay be - fore him Your shin - ing crowns of gold.



The Second Advent Candle: The Bethlehem Candle is a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ Child. May our hearts be ready to receive the Good News.

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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
TH	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

