

St. Johns Lutheran Church



AS WE GATHER

Some Advent wreaths have a pink candle for this Third Sunday in Advent. The festive, joyful pink candle reflects today's Readings, which begin to anticipate the unbridled joy that Jesus' birth brings. We do many joyful things during Advent. We sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, and travel far and wide to visit those we love. Yet all these joyful things point to an even greater joy—the joy that comes by the Creator of the universe, the Lord almighty, who loves you, forgives you in Jesus, and cares about you beyond human measure! “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME GUESTS

We're glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Our service today includes the celebration of God's presence, as He comes in the true body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. **Any who are not yet instructed or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain** from receiving the sacrament until they have spoken with the pastor. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

PREPARATION

HYMN Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers *LSB 515*

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;**

**The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience
Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption
That sets Your people free!**

INVOCATION

**In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b–17, 20*

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

“Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;
He will exult over you with loud singing.

I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

We worship You, O Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The four Sundays preceding Christmas, which is when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, are recognized for four virtues. The candles on the Advent wreath symbolize **hope, love, joy and peace.**

Three Advent candles are lit (two blue and one pink)

Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from You. Our wonderings have at times turned into doubts that drew us away from You.

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they

have been from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ is given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS...Glory to God in the Highest *LSB 187*

Glory be to God on high:

and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,

have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers

and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;

for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MEMORIZED WORD

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, Luke 1:68-69

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14–20*

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of * Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je * rusalem.

Behold, your king is com * ing to you;

righteous and having sal * vation.

Blessèd is He who comes in the name * of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we * bless you.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:4–7*

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 11:10b*

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
who will prepare Your way before You.

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 7:18–28*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A

reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!

"Christ is near," we hear it say.

"Cast away the works of darkness,

All you children of the day!"

Startled at the solemn warning,

Let the earth-bound soul arise;

Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,

Shines upon the morning skies.

See, the Lamb, so long expected,

Comes with pardon down from heav'n.

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,

One and all, to be forgiv'n:

So, when next He comes in glory

And the world is wrapped in fear,

He will shield us with His mercy

And with words of love draw near.

Stand

**Honor, glory, might, dominion
to the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!**

SERMON

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING *(Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star LSB 872 stanzas 1,2,4 sung by Choir)*

OFFERTORY LSB 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

O Wisdom from on high, lead us by Your Spirit to rejoice in all that You have done to demonstrate Your love for us. Move your people to rejoice in the Lord always. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially . . .*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures.

We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents.

We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

O Lord of might, help us to see in the miracles of Jesus a sign pointing forward to that Day when He will come again in great glory to restore all creation. We pray,

Hear us, coming Lord.

You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayers we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SACRAMENT

PREFACE (*sung*)

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who alone fills our hearts with joy both in good times and bad times. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 195

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He

that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank You, Lord of all creation, for bringing joy into this heartbroken world. For the joy of creation, the beauty that points us to You as the Creator of all,

we thank You, Lord.

For the joy of Your covenant with Abraham and Sarah to bless the world through their offspring,

we thank You, Lord.

For the joy of Jesus, Your Son, who proclaimed, taught, and demonstrated the coming Kingdom, and who suffered, died, rose, and ascended,

we thank You, Lord.

For the joy we receive in the body and blood of Christ,

we thank You. We praise You. We adore You. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *(sung)*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI *(sung)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace.**

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Once He Came in Blessing *LSB 333*

The Advent of Our King *LSB 331*

NUNC DIMITTIS...SONG OF SIMEON

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace

According to Thy word,

For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

a light to lighten the Gentiles

and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end.**

Amen.

THANKSGIVING (*sung*)

**O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
and His mercy endureth forever.**

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS *(sung)*

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *(sung)*

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and ☩ give us peace.

Amen, amen, amen.

HYMN O Bride of Christ, Rejoice *LSB 335*

Choir:

O bride of Christ, rejoice;

Exultant raise thy voice

To hail the day of glory

Foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:

Hosanna, praise, and glory!

Our King, we bow before Thee.

Let shouts of gladness rise

Triumphant to the skies.

Now comes the King most glorious

To reign o'er all victorious. [Refrain]

A humble beast He rides,

Yet as a King presides;

Though not arrayed in splendor,

He makes the grave surrender. [Refrain]

**The weak and timid find
How meek He is and kind;
To them He gives a treasure
Of bliss beyond all measure. *[Refrain]***

**Then go thy Lord to meet;
Strew palm leaves at His feet;
Thy garments spread before Him
And honor and adore Him. *[Refrain]***

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Allen Dass
Lector	Dan Reh
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	William Gebhart and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Sam Shick
Acolytes	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Greeter	Roger Schmidt
Worship Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Dan Reh
Confirmation	Allen Dass

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Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week

Attendance Sunday: 41

Nepalese: 32

Offering: \$3,046.00

2022 ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS are available to be picked up in the back of church.

WAIT UPON THE LORD ADVENT SERIES

Week 3 (12/15/21) • Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing @6pm (Compass Christmas Program)

We recall the rejoicing of Elizabeth and Mary as they waited for their children to be born. Rejoicing is part of what we do as a family, too, during our waiting in Advent.

JESUS BIRTHDAY BOX From December 5th-December 12th, Social Ministry will have a box in the Narthex for families in need. They are asking for donations of popcorn tins, bags/boxes of candy, or bags/boxes of cookies.

POINSETTIAS It's time again to order poinsettias. The cost is \$11. There are envelopes in the Narthex to fill out with number of plants and names for the memorial page. Please place them in the offering basket.

LUTHERAN SOUTH "CHRISTMAS AT THE CHAPEL" Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 4:00 pm the Lutheran South music department will present "Christmas at the Chapel". The concert will be held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of Concordia Seminary in Clayton. The concert will include the Jazz Band, LuSo Choir, Concert Band, and the Wind Symphony.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY AFTER CHAPEL CONCERT SERIES The After Chapel Concerts are mini concerts featuring musicians from within and beyond the Seminary community. Concerts are held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus directly following morning chapel services from 9:55 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Concerts are typically held in the chapel balcony. These concerts also will be streamed at csl.edu/live. Check out their website for a full schedule and details! The next concert is on Tuesday, December 14th featuring Lessons and Carols.

Prayers

Special Prayer Petitions –For those infected by the corona virus for quick healing and recovery; **Maureen Rehmer** as she continues to suffer from complications @ Bethesda Rehab Center; **Field-workers** and **Vicars**; **Nepali & African Congregation** blessings; **EAGLE schools & Compass** as they continue to guide the children.

Shut Ins – Bobbie Kepford, Dennis Solomon, Jerry Schmaltz, Carol Carr, Steve Bain, Maureen Rehmer, Eileen Wehrheim, Don Osiek

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week

December 12-December 19

Sunday	9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study/Nepalese Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-2pm Office Open 3pm-6pm Compass
Tuesday	8am-2pm Office Open 3pm-6pm Compass 6pm Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-2pm Office Open 3pm-6pm Compass 3:45pm Compass Chapel 6:00pm Compass Christmas Program
Thursday	8am-2pm Office Open 2pm Ridgewood Bible Study
Friday	8am-1pm Office Open 8am Bible Study 2pm-6pm Compass
Saturday	8:30am Food Pantry 1pm Vicars
Next Sunday	9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study/Nepalese Worship 12:30pm African Worship