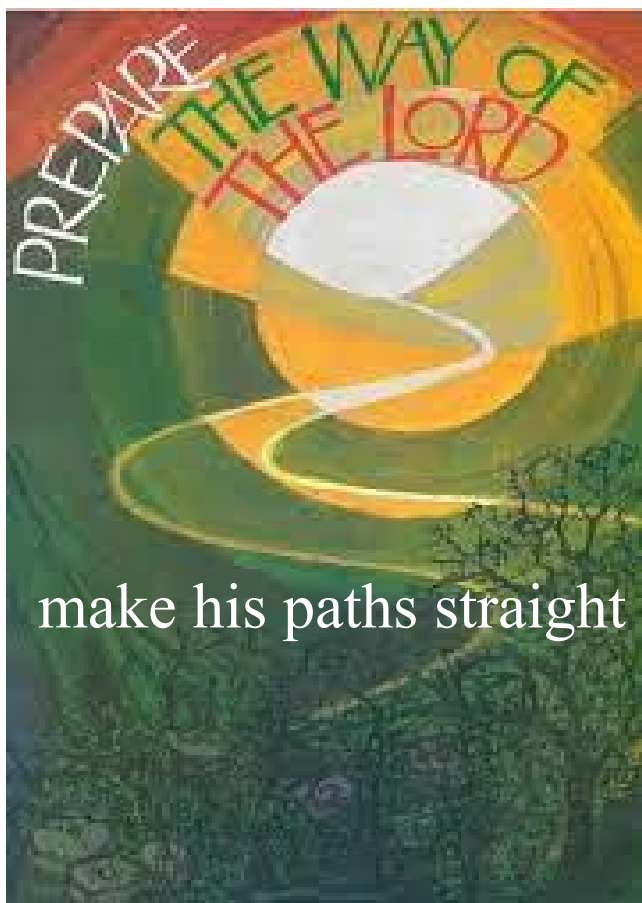


St. Johns Lutheran Church



AS WE GATHER

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” (*LSB* 345) is a cherished Advent hymn. That thrilling voice is that of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness, “The Savior is near! The kingdom of God is near! Repent, and live out your new life in Christ! Produce fruits worthy of repentance!” In many ways, we still live in the wilderness. Feel as though we are alone in the world. Many of us walk through the wilderness of serious disease, job loss, or watching our children or grandchildren walk away from faith. There is also the self-created wilderness of our own sin—the damage we have done in relationships with others. But John’s thrilling words bring us hope. While we are powerless to make it through the wilderness ourselves, God is powerful and sees us through. By the gift of repentance in turning to Him in our desperation and pain, God restores a right relationship to us and then sets us free to bear fruit worthy of repentance. We are not stuck. God can change and restore us! A thrilling voice indeed!

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. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

PREPARATION**HYMN**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

LSB 334

Choir:

*O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.*

**Your Zion strews 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.**

**I lay in fetters, groaning;
You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.**

Choir:

*Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,*

*That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.*

**Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
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
Eternal life in heav'n.**

**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 so cheering,
And guide us safely home.**

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

The LORD says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

The LORD says, "The messenger of the covenant in whom you
delight, behold, He is coming."

We thank You, O Lord! We adore You!

The LORD says, "I the LORD do not change;
therefore you are not consumed."

The LORD who began a good work in you will bring it to
completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

We praise You, O Lord! We worship You!

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.**

(Two Advent candles are lit)

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 not borne fruit worthy of repentance. We have sinned against You and our neighbors.

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

INTROIT *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

*Prepare ye, the way of the Lord
Prepare ye, the way of the Lord
(Sung Multiple times)*

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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,

to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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 *Malachi 3:1–7b*

¹“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. ⁶“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

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 1:2–11*

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 3:4b, 6*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord,

make His paths straight;

all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 3:1–14*

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” ⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

LSB 344

**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 Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.**

Stand

**All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free.
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

SERMON

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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

OFFERING

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, guide Your Church throughout the world to repent—to turn each day to You, confessing our sins and being restored by You to bear the fruit of the Spirit. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

O Desire of nations, guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. 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 to enter humbly 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, empower us to hear the words of John the Baptist afresh today. Lead us to repent of those things that hinder our trust in You and fill us by the Holy Spirit to bear much fruit. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

HYMN Prepare the Royal Highway *LSB 343*

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!

Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!

Refrain

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!

Refrain

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding For kindness so a bounding:

Refrain

Preacher

Pastor Michael Tanney

Liturgist

Dan Reh

Lector

Sam Shick

Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	William Gebhart and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Allen Dass
Acolytes	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Greeter	Roger Schmidt
Worship Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Allen Dass
Sunday School	Dan Reh

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Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week

Attendance Sunday: 62

Communion: 47

Offering: \$2,213.00

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

WAIT UPON THE LORD ADVENT SERIES

Week 2 (12/8/21) • Wait Upon the Lord with Hope @6pm

We read from the book of the prophet Isaiah, who told us all to have hope as we wait for the coming of the Lord. Hoping in the Lord helps us to stay strong as a family.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY for young adults between the ages of 18-30. The Bible Study will run from 5:30pm-7:30pm, and will include a pizza dinner (provided by St. Johns). Our next date being December 11th. If interested, please RSVP to stjohnslcst@gmail.com or call 314-773-0126 and let us know what your preferred pizza topping is.

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.

Prayers

Special Prayer Petitions –Joe Strickert for quick healing from his eye surgery; **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 5-December 12

Sunday	9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study/Nepalese Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-2pm Office Open 3pm-6pm Compass 6pm-7pm Ladies Exercise 7pm Elders
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 Advent Midweek Service
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 5:30pm-7:30pm Young Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study/Nepalese Worship 12:30pm African Worship