

# St. Johns Lutheran Church

Be ready!



For the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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## **AS WE GATHER**

Fear has become an unwelcome companion in this mortal life and even more over the past few years. As the world pauses to end a year and begin a new one, we are forced to come face-to-face with those fears. By God's grace and favor, we know all that the Lord has done to make us His own and to enable us to live under Him now and to be His in eternity. If this gracious God is for us, then, as Paul asks, who can be against us? We do not need to know what lies in wait for our earthly future if we know the heavenly future we have in Christ. Because God is for us, we have an answer to our fears and live out our days in confidence that we are more than conquerors through Christ, our Lord.

## **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**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384

**Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.**

Oh, that birth forever blessed,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing,  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore.  
Amen.

## INVOCATION

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

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**who made heaven and earth.**

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.*

Merciful Father, we have squandered and abused Your gift of time. We have used Your gift for evil, failed to live as a people set apart, and demonstrated more fear than trust to those around us.

**I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## WORD

**HYMN OF PRAISE**     Angels We Have Heard on High     *LSB 368*

**Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.**

*Refrain:*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]**

### **SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O almighty and gracious Lord, You have overcome all enemies and redeemed us to be Your children and to live under You now and forevermore. Grant us Your grace that our fears may be captive to Your love and our hearts established in the peace of Christ's holy name until we are delivered into Your eternal presence on the day You have appointed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You are one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **MEMORIZED WORD**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Psalm 46:1-3

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** *Isaiah 30:8-17*

<sup>8</sup>And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. <sup>9</sup>For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the Lord; <sup>10</sup>who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, <sup>11</sup>leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel." <sup>12</sup>Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word and trust in

oppression and perverseness and rely on them, <sup>13</sup>therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; <sup>14</sup>and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern." <sup>15</sup>For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, <sup>16</sup>and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. <sup>17</sup>A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *Psalm 90:12, 14*

**Teach us to num \* ber our days**

**that we may get a heart of \* wisdom.**

**Satisfy us in the morning with Your \* steadfast love,**

**that we may rejoice and be glad \* all our days.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 8:31b–39*

If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**            *Psalm 103:17a*

**Alleluia. The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him. Alleluia.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    Let All Together Praise Our God    *LSB 389*

**Let all together praise our God  
Before his highest throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again  
To give us his own Son,  
To gives us his own Son.**

**He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne,  
Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.**

**Within an earth-born form He hides  
His all creating light;  
To serve us all in humbly cloaks  
The splendor of His might.  
The splendor of His might.**

**He undertakes a great exchange,  
Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us His realm,  
His glory, and His name,  
His glory, and His name.**

**He is a servant, I a Lord  
How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!  
No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He.**

**He is the key and He the door  
To blessed paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more;  
To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.**

*Stand*

**Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**      *Luke 12:35–40*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup>[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CREED (WE ALL BELIEVE IN ONE TRUE GOD) LSB 953**

**We all believe in one true God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Ever-present help in need,  
Praised by all the heav'nly host;  
All He made His love enfolds,  
All creation He upholds.**



We all believe in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Mary's son,  
Who descended from His throne  
And for us salvation won;  
By whose cross and death are we  
Rescued from all misery.

We all confess the Holy Ghost,  
Who from both in truth proceeds,  
Who sustains and comforts us  
In all trials, fears, and needs.  
Blessed, holy Trinity,  
Praise forever be to Thee!

## SERMON

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH LSB 215

Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

**God, our Father in heaven**, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that **Your holy name be hallowed** by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

May **Your kingdom come to us** and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to **Your will be done**, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will.

Into Your merciful hands we commend [names] and all who are in need, Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Grant us our daily bread**, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us** so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before Your, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Lead us not into temptation**, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

And lastly, O heavenly Father, **deliver us from all evil** of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**HYMN**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

*LSB 388*

*Refrain:*

**Go tell it on the mountain,**

**Over the hills and ev'rywhere;**

**Go tell it on the mountain**

**That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching**

**O'er silent flocks by night,**

**Behold, throughout the heavens**

**There shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God set us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

Preacher	Stanish Stanley
Liturgist	Stanish Stanley
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Cameron Hampel, John Benwell, Patrick Benwell, Jayvon Evers, Joan Potvin, William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt
Acolytes/Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Stanish Stanley

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## **Announcements**

### **Saved to Share Called to Care**

#### **Our Response to God's Love Last Week**

Attendance Sunday/Communion: 32/26

Christmas Eve Attendance: 30

Offering: \$1,080.00

**LONG TERM SUB NEEDED** One of Word of Life's preschool teachers will be taking maternity leave from the end of March through the end of the school year. They are looking for a long term substitute teacher for that time period. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please contact Principal Melissa Bergholt at [mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net](mailto:mbergholt@wordoflifeschool.net) or 314-832-1244.

**BIG BAND SWING** The Lutheran South bands will host *Big Band Swing* on Friday, January 13 from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. The night will feature the local professional big band "The Ambassadors of Swing." Tickets are available for \$30 each and include beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. Free swing dance lessons will be offered at 6:30 p.m. It is sure to be a fun evening as we raise money for the band to go on tour this spring! Register at [LSlancers.org/events](http://LSlancers.org/events)

## Prayers

**Special Prayer Petitions** –**Joan** as she recovers from hip surgery; **Melba Fanger** as she recovers back at home; **Maureen Rehmer** for healing of her hip; **Carmen Hobson** who is facing pain, stability, and results for upcoming surgery; **Jerry** as he recovers from covid; **Bobbie** who is back in the nursing home, but suffering; **Confirmation Class** for the Lord to mature their faith; **Our Vicars** as they continue to take classes at the Seminary; **Our Field-Workers** Tristan (and family), Alvaro and, Isaac;  
**Shut Ins** – Bobbie Kepford, Jerry Schmaltz, Steve Bain, Eileen Wehrheim, Carmen Hobson

### *Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week January 1-January 8*

Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:30am Bible Study / Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-12pm Office Open 7pm Elders <u>NQ</u> Counseling in Nursery / <u>NQ</u> Compass
Tuesday	8am-12pm Office Open NO Compass NO Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-12pm Office Open NO Compass NO Compass Chapel
Thursday	8am-12pm Office Open 2pm Ridgewood Bible Study <u>NQ</u> Compass / <u>6:30pm</u> Adult Confirmation
Friday	8am-12pm Office Open <u>8am</u> Bible Study / <u>NQ</u> Counseling in Nursery <u>1pm</u> Nepali Mother's Prayer Service / <u>NQ</u> Compass
Saturday	<u>8:30am</u> Food Pantry / <u>9am</u> Confirmation <u>10:30am</u> Social Ministry / <u>NQ</u> Vicar Meeting
Next Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship