

# St. Johns Lutheran Church

“Are you the one who is to come,  
or shall we look for another?”



“Go and tell John  
what you hear and see:

## **AS WE GATHER**

The prophet Isaiah encouraged his people by assuring them that God would bring about justice to His enemies. “Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you” (Isaiah 35:4). The heart of Isaiah’s promise is that through His justice, God will save us. God alone knows what is appropriate for each situation and what each person truly deserves. And ultimately, Christ’s coming will make all things right again.

## **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/>).

**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.**

### **PREPARATION**

**HYMN**                      Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus                      *LSB 338*

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,**

**Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

### **INVOCATION**

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

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

As we prepare for the advent of Christ's coming John the Baptist asks "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" Jesus gives him an answer that gives him comfort. I am the one whom the prophet Isaiah spoke of. There is joy for the Christian that Christ is the one who has come. The love God showed us by sending His son, gives us joy to rejoice in His presence and the peace Jesus establishes between us and God gives us such comfort. The candles on the Advent wreath have often symbolized **hope, love, joy and peace**. All which are centered on Christ the Light of the World. (*Three Advent candles are lit. 2 Blue, 1 Pink*)

O Lord, 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**

Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.  
**Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. When we question your indwelling presence. When we have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done.**

**We have not always made Your kingdom of first importance in our lives. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

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**      *Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord \* always;  
again I will say, \* Rejoice.

**I will hope con \* tinually  
and will praise you yet \* more and more.**

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of  
salvation \* all the day,  
for their number is past my \* knowledge.

**With the mighty deeds of the Lord God \* I will come;  
I will remind them of your righteousness, \* yours alone.**

O God, from my youth you have \* taught me,  
and I still proclaim your \* wondrous deeds.

**So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for \* sake me,  
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your  
power to all \* those to come.**

**Glory be to the Father and \* to the Son  
and to the Holy \* Spirit;**

**as it was in the be \* ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. \* Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord \* always;  
again I will say, \* Rejoice.

## **SALUTATION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, Your kingdom is everlasting and Your promises are sure. Grant us grace to live with unfailing confidence, knowing that You will bring about that time when all of Your enemies are defeated and all of creation truly is at peace. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and our King.

**Amen.**

## **MEMORIZED WORD**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Isaiah 35:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name \* of the Lord.**

**From the house of the Lord we \* bless You.**

**EPISTLE** *James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient.

Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged;

behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

<sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Matthew 11:10b*

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

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 11:2–15*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the

poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” <sup>7</sup>As they went away, 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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’” <sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands.

Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In Your mercy, strengthen newly established congregations, and support them in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Help them to serve these people according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and order our days in Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially* . . .]. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**Amen.**

## SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

LSB 208

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, King of the universe and Lord of our lives. Mercifully grant that we ever trust in the graciousness of Your plan for our lives and await with hope our eternity to come in Your glorious presence.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forevermore praising You and singing:

## **SANCTUS      LSB 208**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**

**Heaven and earth with full acclaim**

**shout the glory of Your Name.**

**Sing Hosanna in the highest,**

**Sing hosanna to the Lord;**

**Truly blest is He who comes**

**In the name of the Lord!**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

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."

**AGNUS DEI** (Lamb of God) *LSB 210*

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

Once He Came in Blessing      *LSB 333*  
Prepare the Royal Highway      *LSB 343*

**NUNC DIMITTIS** (*Song of Simeon*) *LSB 211*

**O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace;  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

### **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless us and keep us.  
The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.  
The Lord look upon us with favor and ☩ give us peace.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN**                      Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending *LSB 336*

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of His train;  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.**

**Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him  
Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall their true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of His passion  
Still His dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To His ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,  
High on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Alvaro Witt Duarte
Lector	Alvaro Witt Duarte
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Cameron Hampel, John Benwell, Patrick Benwell, Jayvon Evers, Joan Potvin, William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Isaac Hedstrom
Acolytes/Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Pastor Michael Tanney

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# Announcements

## Saved to Share Called to Care

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

Attendance Sunday/Communion: 44/38

Nepalese Attendance: 32

Wednesday (Advent): 25

Offering: \$4,065.00

**GREAT NEWS** We have finally signed the lease with Momentum Academy! And in a months time, we will be taking full responsibility of the Compass after-school program.

**GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS** With the abundance of food received on November 12<sup>th</sup> (PRAISE GOD), we are no longer collecting food for our food drive. What we do need are gifts to give to needy people for Christmas (popcorn tins, boxes or bags of cookies, candy, and socks and underwear for men, women, boys, and girls). Collection dates are from now through Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**POINSETTIAS** It's time again to order poinsettias. The cost is \$10. 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.

**BRICKWORKS THEATRE COMPANY** is performing *A Christmas Carol* this December. It opened on Dec. 3 and next weekend will be its last. This new reader's theater adaptation offers fast paced thrills and non-stop comedy for the whole family to enjoy! Join us before the show for a free winter-themed family activity and light refreshments.

In order to serve our community best, our tickets are pay-what-you-can, with a suggested price of \$10 a ticket. Reserve your tickets ahead of time at [brickworkstheatre.org](http://brickworkstheatre.org) or day-of at our box office.

**WOL RESTAURANT NIGHT** will be on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Chick-fil-A (3801 Hampton) from 4pm-7pm. Make sure you mention Word of Life at the register.

**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.

**MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE** The Gateway Ringers will present handbell music for the Christmas season at Hope Ev. Lutheran in St. Louis on Sunday, December 18th at 4pm. Come visit the sanctuary of Hope Lutheran church, decked out in Christmas splendor. Hope Ev. Lutheran is located at 5218 Neosho St. in St. Louis, MO.

**ADVENT 2022** The theme for this year's Advent is "A Tale of Trees". Each Wednesday will begin with a soup supper at 5:15pm, then there will be a project, and will conclude with a church service in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm. The Compass Christmas Program will be Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. The Christmas Eve service will be on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The Christmas Day service will be at 9am and will not be a Joint service.

**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](https://LSlancers.org/events)

**THE LUTHERAN SOUTH MUSIC DEPARTMENT** invites you to celebrate Advent with the annual "Christmas at the Chapel" concert at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11 at the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus at Concordia Seminary. The program will feature the Choir, Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Wind Symphony performing traditional and holiday music and will include a Christmas sing-a-long featuring several popular Christmas carols. All are invited to attend!

**YOU ARE INVITED** to join the members of Salem Lutheran Church, 8343 Gravois Road in Affton, MO on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for their CHRISTMAS CANTATA, entitled "*The Road to Bethlehem*," presented by Salem's Music Ministries under the direction of Mr. John Wittmayer. Invite your family members, friends, and neighbors to this service of music to experience in fresh and powerful ways the eternal hope that lies waiting for us in the form of a newborn Baby. We are reminded how God took a modest place like Bethlehem and turned it into an integral part of a glorious story. Take the journey with us and embrace its message of joy and love!

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES & CALENDERS** are available for pickup in the Narthex.

## Prayers

**Special Prayer Petitions** –**Joan** for recovery from hip surgery; **Melba Fanger** thanks that she is back home; **Maureen Rehmer** for healing of her hip; **Carmen Hobson** who is facing pain, stability, and results for upcoming surgery; **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**; **St. Johns** as we look for the funding for two new AC units.  
**Shut Ins** – **Bobbie** Kepford, **Jerry** Schmaltz, **Steve** Bain, **Eileen** Wehrheim, **Carmen** Hobson

### *Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week*

*December 11-December 18*

Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship w/ Communion</b> 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>8am-3pm</u> Counseling in Nursery 3pm-6pm Compass
Tuesday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass 6pm Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-12pm Office Open <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>3:45pm</u> Compass Chapel <u>5:15pm</u> Soup Supper / <u>6pm</u> Advent Worship
Thursday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>2pm</u> Ridgewood Bible Study <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>6:30pm</u> Adult Confirmation
Friday	8am-12pm Office Open <u>8am</u> Bible Study / <u>8am-3pm</u> Counseling in Nursery 1pm Nepali Mother's Prayer Service 2pm-6pm Compass 6pm-7:30pm Faith Oakville Small Group
Saturday	8:30am Food Pantry 9am Confirmation 2pm Vicar Meeting 5pm-11pm Bohannon Family Gathering
Next Sunday	<b>9:00am Worship</b> 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship