

St. Johns Lutheran Church

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:



“Repent, for the kingdom of
heaven is at hand.”

AS WE GATHER

In the opening verses of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, John greets the readers of his epistle in this singular way: "Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come" (Revelation 1:4). John is confident that God's grace is readily available for the readers of his letter who are scattered in many Christian gatherings across the area of Asia. And he is certain that the peace of God can reach to all of his readers in their very different and individual situations. The Advent season brings us the assurance that God's plan is still unfolding and that we continue to abide in His peace. In this season of busyness, we can be peaceful and peaceable people by God's grace!

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 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People *LSB 347*

**"Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.**

**Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."**

**Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.**

**Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.**

**Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.**

INVOCATION & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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

As we prepare for the advent of Christ's coming John the Baptist reminds us to repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand. There is hope for the Christian that his sins are forgiven. That is why we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, 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. (*Two Advent candles are lit.*)

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

O God, our Father, You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. We acknowledge our sinful nature and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and deed. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

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 204

To God on high be glory

And peace to all the earth;

Good-will from God in heaven

Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!

We praise and bless You, Father;

Your holy name, we sing-

Our thanks for Your great glory,

Lord God, our heavenly King.

To You, O sole begotten,

The Father's Son, we pray;

**O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us , Jesus;
Receive our heart-felt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high.**

**For you a-lone are holy;
You only are the Lord,
For-ever and for-ever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad re-ply.**

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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 11:1-10*

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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 *Romans 15:4–13*

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the

Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” ¹²And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 3:4b, 6*

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 3:1–12* *(video)*

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume 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. ¹⁰Even 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. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

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 *“A Shoot will come forth” Sung by the Choir*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray:

Come, O Lord, among us, that as people united in faith, we may witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus. With hope we pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Come, O Lord, with Your presence on earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule there be times of peace. Come to our nation, that we find joy in that which is done through it by the leaders and by the people. With hope we pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Come, O Lord, and walk beside us that Your love and blessing be evident in all that we say and do. With hope we pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Come, O Lord, and bring Your response to the special concerns on our hearts today, including health and family needs and situations that are part of life, [*including . . .*]. With hope we pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

For all those who have completed their earthly journey in faith and now rest from their labors in eternal peace and joy, serving as witnesses of

Your never-ending care, we bless You, O Lord, and ask that we also be numbered with the saints in glory everlasting. With hope we pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You have established Your kingdom of peace among us and have brought to us the joy of Your salvation in our lives. Above all, we bless You and give thanks for the limitless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son as the fulfillment of Your great promises. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your supporting presence, Lord, now and forever. Together with angels and archangels and with all who rejoice in the courts of heaven we praise Your glorious name:

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, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to give Himself as a perfect sacrifice for us so that our lives may know true peace and endless joy. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table with thankful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we may continue as the people of Your kingdom of peace, awaiting the eternal feast in glory everlasting.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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."

PAX DOMINI (The Peace of the Lord)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

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

“The Day Is Surely Drawing Near”

LSB 508

“Arise, O Christian People”

LSB 354

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 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 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348

**The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.**

**Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.**

**Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.**

**Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.**

**The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Tristan Pilot
Lector	Isaac Hedstrom
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	Isaac Hedstrom

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Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week

Attendance Sunday: 58

Wednesday (Advent): 23

Offering: \$1,299.00

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 will be in January. If interested, please send an email to stjohnslcstl@gmail.com to be added to the GroupMe.

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR ADVENT If you have a used Christmas tree you could donate for this year, please leave it with the church office or call so that we can pick it up. Thank you.

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS With the abundance of food received on November 12th (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 14th.

LHSA ANNOUNCEMENT A perfect Christmas gift for a Lutheran High School, Lutheran South or Lutheran North grad! *Tidings of Great Joy: The History of Our Schools* celebrates the 75-year history of the Lutheran High School Association. The book is available for \$40. It begins with the creation of the Lutheran High School Association in 1945 and concludes with the 2019-2020 school year. It includes the histories of Lutheran High (later, as Lutheran Central), Lutheran South and Lutheran North. Books can be purchased at LSlancers.org/alumni; or call 314-389-3100 (North); or 314-631-1400 (South). The 411-page soft-cover book may be picked up at either school office. For mail orders, include \$10 for shipping and handling.

BRICKWORKS THEATRE COMPANY is performing *A Christmas Carol* this December. It opened on Dec. 3 and will run for three weekends. 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 or day-of at our box office.

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 (Starting on November 30th) 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 21st at 6pm. The Christmas Eve service will be on December 24th 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

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 17th 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 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, Melba Fanger

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week

December 4-December 11

Sunday	9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	<u>8am-12pm</u> Office Open / <u>8am-3pm</u> Counseling in Nursery <u>3pm-6pm</u> Compass / <u>7pm</u> Elders
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 8am Bible Study 8am-3pm Counseling in Nursery 1pm Nepali Mother's Prayer Service 2pm-6pm Compass
Saturday	8:30am Food Pantry 9am Confirmation 2pm Vicar Meeting
Next Sunday	9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study/Nepali Worship 12:30pm African Worship