



**St. John  
Lutheran  
Church**

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**December 6, 2023**

# *Welcome*

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

May God bless your worship with us today,  
*Paul Kruse, Pastor*

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*Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live,  
Learn, Share, and Serve'*

**5:00 pm - Advent**

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of  
Christian faith in our community, to all  
generations, wherever they may be'*

## **Service Setting for Today**

**Divine Service Four** (pp 203ff)

## **Prelude**

**A Time of Preparation**

## **Welcome, and Sharing of the Peace**

## **Opening Song**

**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** LSB 357, vs 1,3,4,7

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

**ref** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason  
Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

## **Invocation**

LSB 203

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** **Amen.**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- G** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- G** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

- P** Almighty God,
- G** **Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- G** **Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy** - *Sung*

*LSB 204*

- G** **Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** **And also with you.**
- P** 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.
- G** **Amen.**

## First Reading

Genesis 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. <sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Isaiah 7:10-25

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!" <sup>18</sup> In that day the LORD will whistle for the fly that is at the end of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. <sup>19</sup> And they will all

come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures. <sup>20</sup> In that day the Lord will shave with a razor that is hired beyond the River—with the king of Assyria—the head and the hair of the feet, and it will sweep away the beard also. <sup>21</sup> In that day a man will keep alive a young cow and two sheep, <sup>22</sup> and because of the abundance of milk that they give, he will eat curds, for everyone who is left in the land will eat curds and honey. <sup>23</sup> In that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briers and thorns. <sup>24</sup> With bow and arrows a man will come there, for all the land will be briers and thorns. <sup>25</sup> And as for all the hills that used to be hoed with a hoe, you will not come there for fear of briers and thorns, but they will become a place where cattle are let loose and where sheep tread.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Alleluia**

*LSB 205*

**G** **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 1:18-25

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**☐ Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Apostles' 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.**

**Message Song    “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”** *LSB 883 vs. 1,2,5,6*

All praise to Thee, my God, this night  
For all the blessings of the light.

Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,  
Beneath Thine own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,  
The ill that I this day have done,  
That with the world, myself, and Thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

When in the night I sleepless lie,  
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;  
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
No pow'rs of darkness me molest.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt. Text: Public domain*

**Message    “What Are You Waiting For? – A New Relationship”**

## Offering

*Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.*



## The Advent Litany

**C** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**P** O God the Father, who did so love the world, as to give Your only-begotten Son to save us,

**C** Have mercy upon us.

**P** O God the Son, who did once come in the likeness of sinful flesh to suffer for us, and will come again to be our Judge;

**C** Have mercy upon us.

**P** O God the Holy Spirit, who mercifully visits the souls of Your elect, to abide with us forever,

**C** Have mercy upon us.

**P** Holy Trinity, blessed forevermore,

**C** Be favorable to us and bless us.

**P** From the snares of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**P** From unrepentance, unbelief, and neglect of Your holy commandments,

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**P** From all carelessness and forgetfulness of You,

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**P** From Your wrath, whether in this world, or in the world to come,

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**P** From a slumbering conscience and from an unprepared death,

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**P** By the compassion, and longsuffering of God the Father,

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**P** By Your first coming in lowliness,

**C** Good Lord, deliver us.

**P** By Your Passion and most precious Death,

**C Good Lord, deliver us.**

**P** By Your Intercession for us before the Father,

**C Good Lord, deliver us.**

**P** By Your Second Coming in Your glorious majesty,

**C Good Lord, deliver us.**

**P** By the mercies and consolations of God the Holy Spirit,

**C Good Lord, deliver us.**

**P** In our days of sorrow, weakness, and tribulation,

**C Support and defend us, O Lord.**

**P** In our last sickness, and in the hour of death,

**C Support and defend us, O Lord.**

**P** In Your awful Judgment, when the last sentence is pronounced,

**C Deliver us, holy and merciful Savior.**

**P** That You would grant to us true repentance and a pure conscience,

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** That You would enable us to bear all our trials patiently, and to glorify You in our daily life,

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** That You would defend and govern Your holy Church, especially in this land,

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** That You would grant to all our brothers and sisters, especially those most dear to us, unity, peace, and true concord,

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** That You would grant to the afflicted and suffering in soul or body Your merciful aid and deliverance,

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** That You would continually exalt our minds to heavenly desires,

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** That we may be more and more perfected in the fruits of the Spirit, and more entirely conformed to Your most holy will,

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** That being uncertain of the hour of our death, we may study to be watchful, and prepared to give an account of our stewardship,



**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** Hear us, O Lord.

**P** O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** Spare us, O Lord.

**P** O Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** Have mercy upon us.

**C** 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.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, for whose sudden coming to Judgment Your Church looks and waits, come now to us in Your quickening love, and plant Your holy fear and love within our hearts. Establish us in Your truth and righteousness, empower us with such boldness to confess You before men, that You may at the Last Day confess us before Your Father and all the elect angels in heaven, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

**C** Amen.

## Blessing

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Closing Song

**“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”** *LSB 922, vs 1 & 4*

All praise to Thee, my God, this night

For all the blessings of the light.

Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,

Beneath Thine own almighty wings.

Oh, may my soul in Thee repose,  
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
Sleep that shall me more vig'rous make  
To serve my God when I awake!

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Text: Public domain

**Acknowledgments**

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***Sermon Notes***

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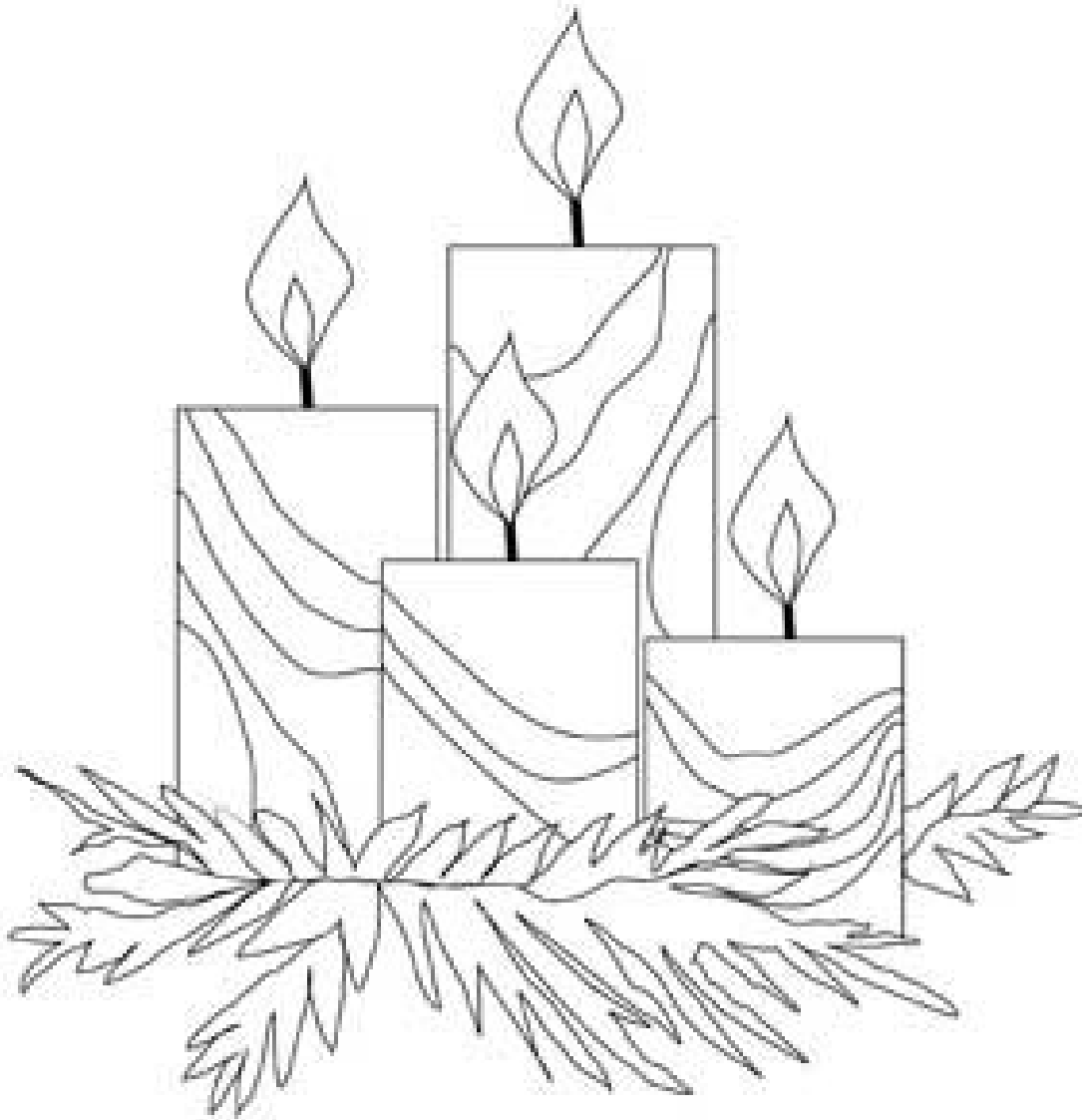
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