



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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5:00 - Contemporary



December 9, 2023

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Contemporary 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.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service .

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

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

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

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

Second Sunday in Advent

A Time of Preparation

Preludes

"Bethlehem's Treasure"

Gifts of praise, songs of love, Lord our lives we share.

Celebrate, heav'ns above Glad tidings to bear.

Father's gift of love come down, Sacrifice beyond all measure,
Heav'nly hosts proclaim this sound. Come and see the infant King,
Bethlehem's treasure. Oh ...

Many kings from afar Seek the shining star.

On our knees, in our hearts We cry, "Lord of lords You are."

Father's gift of love come down Sacrifice beyond all measure
Heav'nly hosts proclaim this sound Come and see the infant King
Bethlehem's treasure, Oh

Riches untold, Frankincense and gold,

They pale before the glory we behold.

Our Father's gift of love come down, Sacrifice beyond all measure,
Heav'nly hosts proclaim this sound.

Come and see the infant King, Bethlehem's treasure.

Bethlehem's treasure. Bethlehem's treasure.

Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

Opening Song

"Prepare the Way"

Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord

Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord

Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus

Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus

You are the light of the world You are the light of the world

You are the light of the world Jesus
You are the light of the world You are the light of the world
You are the light of the world Jesus
You are the King of the earth You are the King of the earth
You are the King of the earth Jesus
You are the King of the earth You are the King of the earth
You are the King of the earth Jesus
Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord
Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord

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Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

“God is In This Story”

There's torn up pages in this book Words that tell me I'm no good
Chapters that defined me for so long But the hands of grace and endless love
Dusted off and picked me up Told my heart that hope is never gone
God is in this story God is in the details
Even in the broken parts He holds my heart
He never fails When I'm at my weakest
I will trust in Jesus Always in the highs and lows
The One who goes before me God is in this story
So if the storm you're walking through Feels like it's too much and you
Wonder if He even cares at all
Hold on tight to what you know He promised He won't let you go
The song of healing's written in His scars
God is in this story God is in the details
Even in the broken parts He holds my heart
He never fails When I'm at my weakest
I will trust in Jesus Always in the highs and lows
The One who goes before me God is in this story
If it reads like addiction If it reads like disease
He's the One who frees the prisoner He's the healer of all things

If it reads like depression If it reads broken home
He's the One who holds your sorrow He won't leave you here alone

God is in this story God is in the details
Even in the broken parts He holds my heart
He never fails When I'm at my weakest
I will trust in Jesus Always in the highs and lows
The One who goes before me

Always in the highs and lows The One who goes before me
God is in this story

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First Reading

Isaiah 40:3-11

³ A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶ A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” ⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem

were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Message Song

"Here's My Heart"

Here's my heart Lord Here's my heart Lord Here's my heart Lord

Speak what is true

'Cause I am found I am Yours I am loved I'm made pure

I have life I can breathe I am healed I am free

Here's my heart Lord Here's my heart Lord Here's my heart Lord

Speak what is true

'Cause I am found I am Yours I am loved I'm made pure

I have life I can breathe I am healed I am free

'Cause You are strong You are sure You are life You endure

You are good always true You are light breaking through

Here's my heart Lord Here's my heart Lord Here's my heart Lord

Speak what is true

Here's my life Lord Here's my life Lord Here's my life Lord

Speak what is true Speak what is true Speak what is true

'Cause I am found I am Yours I am loved I'm made pure

I have life I can breathe I am healed I am free

'Cause You are strong You are sure You are life You endure

You are good always true You are light breaking through

You are more than enough You are here You are love

You are hope You are grace You're all I have You're everything

Here's my life Lord Here's my life Lord Here's my life Lord

Your're everything

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Message

“Preparation”

Offering

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



Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

G **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.**

Sacrament

The Words of Our Lord

Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor.11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
- 2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
- 3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
- 4. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
- 5. Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
- 6. Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

*If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer **“yes”** to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the*

blessings Scripture promises.

Distribution Song

“Even So, Come”

All of creation, all of the earth
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord;
Jesus is coming soon.

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint,
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame.
Jesus is coming soon.,

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing.
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so come, Lord Jesus come.

There will be justice, all will be new.
Your name forever, faithful and true.
Jesus is coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing.
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so come, Lord Jesus come.

So we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait; You're coming soon.
So we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait, You're coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing.

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing.
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so come, Lord Jesus come.
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so come, Lord Jesus come.

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Blessing

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 T give you peace.

G Amen.

Sending Song

“How Great is Our God”

The splendor of a King, Clothed in majesty.
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide.
It trembles at His voice, trembles at His voice.

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands.
Beginning and the end, Beginning and the End.
The God-head, Three in One, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing: How great is our God!

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

Acknowledgments

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