



## St. John Lutheran Church

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The light that  
shines in  
darkness!



***December 16, 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.

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 - Contemporary

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

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**A Time of Preparation**

**Prelude**

**"Christmas Day"**

Joy to the world On a night like no other  
Emmanuel God is with us

Beggars and kings Let us come and adore Him  
Rest in His peace And bow before Him

Sing all you people The Lord almighty reigns  
Sing ev'ry creature of God Come bless His name  
For He is good for He is good

He was born to conquer the grave  
Light of the world The reason for Christmas Day

Stars we have seen Over deserts and oceans  
The darkness was deep But never hopeless  
Redemption came And His name is Jesus

Sing all you people The Lord almighty reigns  
Sing ev'ry creature of God Come bless His name  
For He is good for He is good He was born to conquer the grave  
Light of the world The reason for Christmas Day

From the mountains We will shout it out  
For the Lord our God almighty reigns  
He is with us He is with us now  
For the Lord our God almighty reigns

From the mountains We will shout it out  
For the Lord our God almighty reigns  
He is with us He is with us now

For the Lord our God almighty reigns

Sing all you people The Lord almighty reigns

Sing ev'ry creature of God Come bless His name  
For He is good for He is good  
He was born to conquer the grave  
Light of the world The reason for Christmas  
Sing all you people The Lord almighty reigns  
Sing ev'ry creature of God Come bless His name  
For He is good for He is good  
He was born to conquer the grave  
Light of the world The reason for Christmas Day  
Light of the world The reason for Christmas Day

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## **Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship**

### **Opening Song**

### **“Way Maker”**

You are here, moving in our midst; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are here, working in this place; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.

You are here, touching ev'ry heart; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are here, healing ev'ry heart; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are here, turning lives around; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are here, mending ev'ry heart; I worship You, I worship You.

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are. That is who You are.  
That is who You are. That is who You are. That is who You are.

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.

Even when I don't see it, You're working. Even when I don't feel it, You're working.  
You never stop, You never stop working. You never stop, You never stop working.  
Even when I don't see it, You're working. Even when I don't feel it, You're working.  
You never stop, You never stop working. You never stop, You never stop working.

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are. That is who You are.  
That is who You are. That is who You are. That is who You are.

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.  
That is who You are. That is who You are.  
That is who You are. That is who You are.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

### **Song of Praise**

### **“King of Kings”**

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,  
'till from Heaven You came running. There was mercy in Your eyes.

To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word  
from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,  
to redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross.

For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side.  
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died.

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath  
'till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death.  
And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe,  
for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame.

Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel shall not faint.

By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free,  
for the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me.

Praise the Father, praise the Son. Praise the Spirit, three in one.

God of Glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings.

Praise forever to the King of Kings.

## First Reading

Isaiah 61:8-9

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

John 1:6-8

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

<sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

John 1:19-27

<sup>19</sup> And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” <sup>24</sup> (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup> They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup> John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Message

### Message Song

### “Light of The World (Sing Hallelujah)”

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven  
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky  
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness  
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight

Light of the World from the beginning  
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love  
From great heights of glory You saw my story  
God You entered in and became one of us

Sing hallelujah Sing hallelujah  
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done  
Come and adore Him Bow down before Him  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Light of the world crown in a manger  
Born for the cross to suffer to save  
High King of Heaven death is the poorer  
We are the richer by the price that He paid

Sing hallelujah Sing hallelujah  
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done  
Come and adore Him Bow down before Him  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Light of the World soon will be coming  
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own  
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory  
And there He shall reign forevermore

Sing hallelujah Sing hallelujah  
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done  
Come and adore Him Bow down before Him  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

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## Message

## "Reality Check"

## 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:
- 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.**

### 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 ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

### Sending Song

### "Hope Has A Name"

Breaking through the silence With glory in the highest  
The hope of all creation Resting in his mother's arms

A song on the horizon Ringing through the heavens

The long-awaited Savior

Come to set the captives free

Come to set the captives free

Come set us free

Hope has a name Emmanuel

The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness

All hail the King Emmanuel

The Light of the World The Glory of Heaven

We didn't see it coming The story of redemption  
What started in a manger Ended in an empty grave  
Oh I know that

Hope has a name Emmanuel  
The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness  
All hail the King Emmanuel  
The Light of the World The Glory of Heaven  
Come if you're broken Come if you're searching  
If you need healing He's where you find it  
Lay down your burdens And breathe in forgiveness  
If you need freedom Yeah He's where you find it  
Oh if you need freedom Yeah He's where you find it  
Yeah He's where you find it oh

Hope has a name Emmanuel  
The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness  
All hail the King Emmanuel  
The Light of the World The Glory of Heaven

Hope has a name Emmanuel  
The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness  
All hail the King Emmanuel  
The Light of the World The Glory of Heaven

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