



**St. John  
Lutheran  
Church**

2888 W Houghton  
Lake Dr  
Houghton Lake,  
MI 48629  
989-366-5164

**5:00 pm - Advent**



**December 20, 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'***

*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)

### Reverend Timothy Sheridan, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Harrison

*Rev. Timothy Sheridan has served as the Pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Harrison since 2020. He is married to Kaitlin; they have four children: Thomas (age 4), Macrina (3), Gloria (1.5), and a third baby girl due in April.*

## Prelude

## Welcome, and Sharing of the Peace

### Opening Song

**"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!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.

Text: Public domain

## Invocation

LSB 203

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C 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,  
**C who made heaven and earth.**  
**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C 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.*

Almighty God,

- C 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.  
**C Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy - Sung

LSB 204

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

## Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C 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.  
**C Amen.**

## First Reading

Genesis 1:24-31

<sup>24</sup> And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. <sup>25</sup> And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." <sup>29</sup> And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup> For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup> There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup> There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs

from star in glory. <sup>42</sup> So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia

*LSB 205*

**C** **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading

John 1:1-5 & 14-18

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

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

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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

**C** **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

**“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”** *LSB 359*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory,  
Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven,  
And to the endless day.

Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948

Text: Public domain

## Message

## “What Are You Waiting For? – A New Life”

## 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** 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**

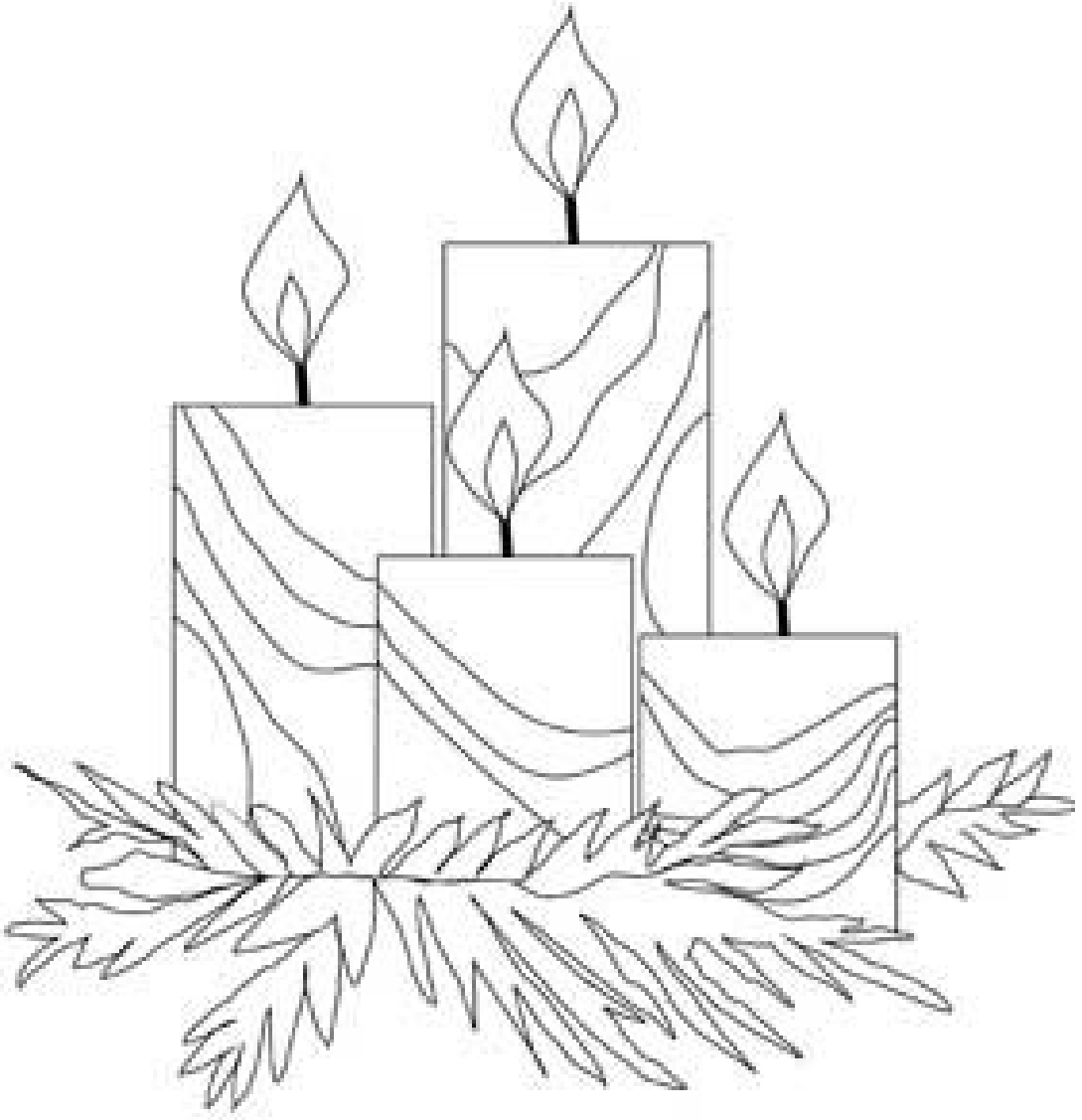
**“What Child Is This”** *LSB 370*

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!





ADVENT