



## St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod  
2888 W Houghton  
Lake Dr  
Houghton Lake, MI  
48629  
989-366-5164  
[www.stjohnhl.com](http://www.stjohnhl.com)  
[office@stjohnhl.com](mailto:office@stjohnhl.com)

5:00 - Contemporary



***December 23, 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](mailto:paul@stjohnhl.com)

Mobile: 989-992-6030

***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'*

## **Fourth Sunday in Advent Preludes**

## **A Time of Preparation "Adore"**

You stepped down from heaven. Humbly You came.  
God of all creation Here with us.  
In a starlit manger, Emmanuel, Light of the world here to save.  
Adore, come let us adore, O come let us adore Him!  
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.  
Wise men bring their treasures, shepherds bow low,  
Angel voices sing of peace on earth.  
What have I to offer to heaven's King?  
I will bring my life, my love, my all.  
Adore, come let us adore, O come let us adore Him!  
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.  
Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth here with us, joy awakening.  
At Your feet, we fall.  
Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth here with us, joy awakening.  
At Your feet, we fall.  
Adore, come let us adore, O come let us adore Him!  
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.

CCLI Song # 7050417 Graham Kendrick | Martin Chalk For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 2801469

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

### **Opening Song**

### **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

### **Song of Praise**

### **“The First Noel”**

The First Noel, the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!  
They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!  
Then let us all in one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought  
And with his blood mankind has bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!

### **First Reading**

2 Samuel 7:1-11 & 16

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” <sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” <sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, I am the

servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

📖 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Message

### Message Song

### “What Child is This?”

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 of high, The virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

### Message

### “Single Family Dwelling”

### 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

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

🗣️ **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

#### "What A Beautiful Name"

You were the Word at the beginning, One with God the Lord Most High.

Your hidden glory in creation, Now revealed in You our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is!

What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus Christ, my King!

What a beautiful Name it is, Nothing compares to this!

What a beautiful Name it is The Name of Jesus!

You didn't want heaven without us. Jesus, You brought heaven down.  
My sin was great, Your love was greater, What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is!

What a wonderful Name it is, The Name of Jesus Christ, my King!

What a wonderful Name it is, Nothing compares to this!

What a wonderful Name it is The Name of Jesus!

What a wonderful Name it is The Name of Jesus!

Death could not hold You, The veil tore before You.

You silence the boast of sin and grave.

The heavens are roaring The praise of Your glory,

For You are raised to life again!

You have no rival, You have no equal.

Now and forever God, You reign!

Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory,

Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is!

What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus Christ my King!

What a powerful Name it is, Nothing can stand against.

What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus!

What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus!

What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus!

CCLI Song # 7068424 Ben Fielding | Brooke Ligertwood © 2016 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 2801469

## 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.

**C** Amen.

**Sending Song**

**“Emmanuel God With Us”**

Go tell it on the mountain  
The one that we've been waiting for  
The King of our salvation  
Born on this day our Savior Christ the Lord

Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
That we can be forgiven  
The weight of all our sin He came to bear

Emmanuel God with us Emmanuel King Jesus  
The Savior of the world is born  
Emmanuel God with us Emmanuel King Jesus  
The Savior of the world is born

Go tell it on the mountain  
Humbly in a manger lay  
Mercy sent from heaven  
Angels fill the sky with highest praise

Emmanuel God with us Emmanuel King Jesus  
The Savior of the world is born  
Emmanuel God with us Emmanuel King Jesus  
The Savior of the world is born

Go tell it on the mountain  
This baby born of virgin birth  
The ruler of all nations  
The glory of our God has come to earth

Emmanuel God with us Emmanuel King Jesus  
The Savior of the world is born  
Emmanuel God with us Emmanuel King Jesus  
The Savior of the world is born

The Savior of the world is born  
The Savior of the world is born