



St. John Lutheran Church

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

9:00 - Traditional



November 30, 2025

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.

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

Mobile: 989-992-6030

***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Joyfully 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'*

First Sunday in Advent

Prelude

Divine Service Four (pp 203ff)

"Counting My Blessings"

It's like it was yesterday I was praying for a miracle
Scared to have a little hope And now looking back today
Seeing all the things you've done I can't even add them up
One two three Up to infinity
I'd run out of numbers
Before I could thank you for everything
God I'm still counting my blessings All that you've done in my life
The more that I look in the details The more of your goodness I'll find
Father on this side of heaven I know that I'll run out of time
But I will keep counting my blessings Knowing I can't count that high
And I know that seasons Never last forever
So God I will remember All of the reasons
My heart has to be grateful
All the times you've been faithful to me
God I'm still counting my blessings All that you've done in my life
The more that I look in the details The more of your goodness I'll find
Father on this side of heaven I know that I'll run out of time
But I will keep counting my blessings Knowing I can't count that high
Oh I can't count that high ... High
One two three Up to infinity
I'd run out of numbers
Before I could thank you for everything
God I'm still counting my blessings All that you've done in my life
The more that I look in the details The more of your goodness I'll find
Father on this side of heaven I know that I'll run out of time
But I will keep counting my blessings Knowing I can't count that high
I will keep counting my blessings
Knowing I can't count that high

Jonathan Conrad Gamble, Jordan Sapp, Seph Schlueter CCLI Song #7202276

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Sharing of the Peace and Welcome

Opening 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

Invocation

LSB 203

L 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

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

G who made heaven and earth.

L 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.

L Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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 self-examination

L Almighty God,

G Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

L 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.

Service of the Word

L Behold, your king is coming to you;

G righteous and having salvation.

L Save us, we pray, O Lord!

G O Lord, we pray, give us success!

L Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

G We bless you from the house of the Lord.

- L** The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.
- C** **Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!**
- L** You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
- C** **you are my God; I will extol you.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy *(Sung)*

LSB 204

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

Prayer of the Day

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Let us pray together...
- C** **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not

murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (*Sung*)

LSB 205

G Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-first chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹ And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

☑ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Message Song

"God So Loved"

Come all you weary, Come all you thirsty.

Come to the well that never runs dry.

Drink of the water, Come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners, Come find His mercy.

Come to the table; He will satisfy.

Taste of His goodness, Find what you're looking for.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.

Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

Bring all your failures, Bring your addictions.

Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.

Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.

Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

The power of hell forever defeated.
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.
For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him For the wonders of His love.
Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him For the wonders of His love.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save.
For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom.
For God so loved, God so loved the world.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions.
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.

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Message

"The Great Put-On"

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

Service of the Sacrament

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and proper . . . Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy *(Sung)*

LSB 208

- ☞ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- ℙ 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.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

The Peace of the Lord

LSB 209

- ℙ The peace of the Lord be with you always.**
- ☞ Amen.**

Lamb of God (sung)

LSB 210

- ☞ O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

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 week 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 present and received in, with, and under 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. Children and those who do not subscribe to these statements are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and should indicate this by keeping their hand folded.

Distribution Hymn

“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!

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Song of Simeon *(Sung)*

LSB 211

**G O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this beneficial gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Blessing

L 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.

G Amen.

Closing Song

"Battle Belongs"

When all I see is the battle You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now For I am safe with You
So when I fight I'll fight on my knees With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You

And every fear I lay at Your feet I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You

And if You are for me Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing Impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross God You see the empty tomb

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You

And every fear I lay at Your feet I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You

Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against The power of our God
You shine in the shadows You win every battle
Nothing can stand against The power of our God

An Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against The power of our God
You shine in the shadows You win every battle
Nothing can stand against The power of our God

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You

And every fear I lay at Your feet I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You
O God the battle belongs to You

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