



St. John Lutheran Church

2888 W Houghton
Lake Dr
Houghton Lake,
MI 48629
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5:00 pm — Mid Week Advent Service



December 3, 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.

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

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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'*

Service Setting for Today

Divine Service Four (pp 203ff)

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound” LSB 349

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.

He comes the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 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.

- P** Almighty God,
- C** **Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** 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.**

Service of the Word

Introit

- L** Rejoice in the Lord always;
- C** **again I will say, Rejoice.**
- L** I will hope continually
- C** **and will praise you yet more and more.**
- L** My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,
- C** **for their number is past my knowledge.**
- L** With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;
- C** **I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.**
- L** O God, from my youth you have taught me,
- C** **and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.**
- L** So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
- C** **until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.**
- 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 Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 3:6-15

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (sung)

LSB 205



Gospel Reading

John 1:1-14

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **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 Hymn

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring” *LSB 353*

Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;

Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are worn with care;

Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv’n;

Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav’n.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hope to all the world is giv’n.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;

Jesus comes, whate’er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Comforts us in failing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Text: Public domain

Message

"God With Us in the Garden"

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]** Let us bless the Lord
- [C]** **Thanks be to God.**
- [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 Hymn

"Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing" *LSB 421*

Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning
Keep me from its first beginning.

Should some lust or sharp temptation Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion,
And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,

Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"
That the tempter flee confounded.

If the world my heart entices With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices,
Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure.
Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation,
Calm in prayer and meditation.

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.

O my God, my rock and tower, Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power
Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony
Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection,
Light and life and resurrection.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite, alt.

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Acknowledgments

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