



## 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)

# 9:00 - Traditional

## REPENTANCE



***December 7, 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](mailto: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'*

## **Second Sunday in Advent**

**Divine Service One** (pp 151ff)

### **Preludes**

### **"Prepare The Way"**

Prepare the way of the Lord Prepare the way of the Lord  
Prepare the way of the Lord Come and worship Him  
Let His Kingdom in

Make straight in the desert A highway for God  
Each mountain made low Each valley raised up  
The Lord God Almighty Will never be stopped  
His glory will be revealed

Jesus Christ is the Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord  
Jesus Christ is the Lord Come and worship Him  
Let His Kingdom in

Make straight in the desert A highway for God  
Each mountain made low Each valley raised up  
The Lord God Almighty Will never be stopped  
His glory will be revealed

Come see the Lamb of God lifted high  
Make room in your heart the King is alive  
Come see the Lamb of God lifted high  
Make room in your heart the King is alive

Make straight in the desert A highway for God  
Each mountain made low Each valley raised up  
The Lord God Almighty Will never be stopped  
His glory will be revealed  
His glory will be revealed

Prepare the way of the Lord Prepare the way of the Lord  
Prepare the way of the Lord Come and worship Him

## Prepare the way of the Lord

Jonny Bird, Nick Herbert

CCLI Song #7249064 © Capitol CMG Genesis; Safe and Sound Music; Remaining portion is unaffiliated  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

### **“Mary, Did You Know”**

Mary did you know That your baby boy Would one day walk on water  
Mary did you know That your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters  
Did you know That your baby boy  
Has come to make you new  
This Child that you delivered  
Will soon deliver you

Mary did you know That your baby boy Would give sight to the blind man  
Mary did you know That your baby boy  
Would calm a storm with His hand  
Did you know That your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God  
Oh Mary did you know

The blind will see The deaf will hear  
The dead will live again The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak The praises of the Lamb

Mary did you know That your baby boy Is Lord of all creation Mary did you know  
That your baby boy Will one day rule the nations  
Did you know That your baby boy  
Is heaven's perfect Lamb  
And the sleeping Child you're holding  
Is the great I Am

CCLI Song # 839225 Buddy Greene | Mark Lowry © 1991, 1993 Rufus Music  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 2801469

## **Welcome and Sharing of the Peace**

### **Opening 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

CCLI Song # 7163734 We The Kingdom Music CCLI License # 2801469

## Invocation

LSB 151

**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** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**G** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**L** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination*

**L** Most merciful God,

**G** **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**L** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**G** Amen.

## Service of the Word

**L** In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

**G** **make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

**L** Seek the Lord and his strength;

**G** **seek his presence continually!**

**L** Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

**G** **his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

**L** O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

**G** **children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

**L** He is the Lord our God;

- C** his judgments are in all the earth.
- L** He remembers his covenant forever,
- C** the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.
- 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 152*

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let  
us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- L** Let us pray together...
- C** 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.  
Amen.

## First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for

the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup> And again it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

**C** Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 3:1-12

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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



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



## Nicene Creed

**☐ 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

### “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;

## Message

**“No Excuses”**

## Offering

*Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.*



## Offering Song - Sung

LSB 159

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

## 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 Lord – (Sung)

LSB 161

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- 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.

## **The Words of Our Lord**

LSB 162

## **The Peace of the Lord**

LSB 163

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

**C** Amen.

## **Lamb of God - Sung**

LSB 163

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **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 Song

**"Just As I Am"**

Just as I am without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God I come I come

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God I come I come

I come broken to be mended I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued I come empty to be filled  
I come guilty to be pardoned By the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise God  
Just as I am

Just as I am I would be lost But mercy and grace my freedom bought  
And now to glory in Your cross O Lamb of God I come I come

I come broken to be mended I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued I come empty to be filled  
I come guilty to be pardoned By the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise God  
Just as I am

I come broken to be mended I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued I come empty to be filled  
I come guilty to be pardoned By the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise God  
Just as I am

Charlotte Elliott, David Moffitt, Sue C. Smith, Travis Cottrell, William Batchelder Bradbury CCLI Song #5635850  
© 2009 CCTB Music; First Hand Revelation Music; Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License #2801469

## Post-Communion Song *Sung*

*LSB 164*

**☞ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls  
His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of  
thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## 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.



## Blessing

LSB 166

- 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.



## Closing Song

### "Glory (Let There Be Peace)"

One star burns in the darkness, shines with the promise, Emmanuel.  
One child born in the stillness, living within us, Emmanuel.

We're singing: Glory, Glory.

Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

One voice speaks for the voiceless, hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel.  
One love brings us together, now and forever, Emmanuel.

We're singing: Glory, Glory.

Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

Do not be afraid. His love is strong enough to save us.  
Nothing stands in the way. His love is strong enough to lead us.

Do not be afraid. His love is strong enough to save us.  
Nothing stands in the way. His love is strong enough to lead us.

Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let there be peace.

Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let it start with me.  
Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let there be peace.  
Singing: Glory, Glory. Let there be peace. Let it start in me.  
Let there be peace. Let it start in me.

CCLI Song # 7071972 Chris Stevens | Matt Maher | Rachel Taylor  
. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 2801469

**Acknowledgments** Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All Hymns from the Lutheran Service Book are used by permission and printed under the authority of **LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100011308.**

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

