

Traditionally, Advent is a period of prayer, penance and preparation to celebrate Christ’s first coming. The Third Sunday in Advent is commonly referred to as “Rejoice Sunday”, a reference to the Epistle (1 Thess. 5:16-24: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing”) and the Old Testament Reading (Is. 61:1-4, 8-11: “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation”).

There is a Cry Room available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

Children Leaving the Sanctuary: This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you

The Lord’s Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

Bell Choir – “Angel Carols”

345

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us -
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, 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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained

servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

P Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

C **and grant us Your salvation.**

P Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

C **for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C **that glory may dwell in our land.**

P Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

C **and our land will yield its increase.**

P Righteousness will go before Him

C **and make His footsteps a way.**

All 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.

P Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

C **and grant us Your salvation.**

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



P 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.



P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray. 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.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do

not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the melody for the first line of the Alleluia and Verse. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in G major (one sharp) with a common time signature (C). It contains the melody for the Holy Gospel. The lyrics are written below the notes.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah,

nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands One you do not know, ²⁷even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."
²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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 τ of the world to come. Amen.

338

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;



Dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text – John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon – “Greater Things”

JOHN BRINGS GOD’S MESSAGE OF GREATER THINGS TO COME!

I. Is the dreadful effect of our broken relationship with God _____?

II. No, God was at work in the witness of John the Baptist to prepare people _____.

III. The greater things to come are in Jesus, _____.

IV. So “it is what it is” is not what it is, for we have greater things in _____.

Prayer of the Church

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☐ It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A short musical phrase in G major, 4/4 time, consisting of a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C, followed by a double bar line.

G A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

Musical notation for the Agnus Dei, consisting of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

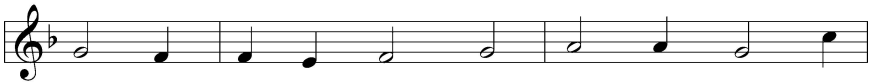
G Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

623

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

Musical notation for the hymn, consisting of a single staff of music in G major, 4/4 time.

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray That we may
 2 Give us, who share this won-drous food, Your bod - y
 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the
 4 One bread, one cup, one bod - y, we, Re - joic - ing
 5 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray: O keep us



feast on You to - day; Be - neath these forms of
 bro - ken and Your blood, The grate - ful peace of
 gift of love re - told; All that You are we
 in our u - ni - ty, Pro - claim Your love un -
 stead - fast till that day When each will be Your



bread and wine En - rich us with Your grace di - vine.
 sins for - giv'n, The cer - tain joys of heirs of heav'n.
 here re - ceive, And all we are to You we give.
 til You come To bring Your scat - tered ones home.
 wel - comed guest In heav - en's high and ho - ly feast.

Text and tune: Public domain

629

What Is This Bread



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of
live	and	He	should	Un -	der	the
Word	and	prom -	ise	clear,	In	mouth
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be -
				lieve		



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em -	brace	Of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for -	sak -	en
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	His



lease.	O taste and see—	the Lord is peace.
sing!	O taste and see—	the Lord is King.
me?	O taste and see—	the Lord is free.
meal.	O taste and see—	the Lord is real.
blood.	O taste and see—	the Lord is good.

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620

Jesus Comes Today with Healing



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing,	Knock - ing at my
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing,	Yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly,	I re - ceive the
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er,	Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing,	Of - f'ring par - don,	grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing	In this ho - ly	sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly,	Blood and bod - y,	giv'n for me,
me this hour—	In this or - di - nar - y	sign.



He Him - self makes	prep - a - ra - tion,	And I hear His
Gives the bread of	life, once bro - ken,	And the cup, the
Ver - y Lamb of	God from heav - en,	Who to bit - ter
On my tongue His	pledge re - ceiv - ing,	I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion:	“Come and taste the	bles - ed feast.”
pre - cious to - ken	Of His sa - cred	cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en,	Hung up - on the	curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing	That I taste His	love di - vine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,

Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

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Tune: Public domain

643

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
 2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,



The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.



The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
 Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,



The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
 Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
 U-nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in-voke us, His love shall u-nite us
 Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing



To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
 Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Tune: Public domain

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary 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.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166

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 A - men.

919

Abide, O Dearest Jesus



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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ALTAR FLOWERS : The flowers on the altar are given in thanksgiving for the wedding anniversary of Larry and Beth Enders, and for Christie Wonnacott's birthday.

The Board of Christian Education Needs Your Help!

The Board of Christian Education is collecting candy to fill the Christmas Goody Bags for the December 16, 2020 Children's Christmas Service. We are asking if you would like to donate individually wrapped candy to help fill up the goody bags.

There is a tub in the Narthex to place the candy. Thank you from the BCE

BUDGET INFO:

Operating budget fund balance as of December 10, 2020 - \$72,700

This amount represents over 5 weeks of normal day-to-day expenses of the Church and School ministries.

Calendar of Events

TODAY.....December 13, 2020

- Sunday School & Bible Classes.....8:30 am
- Worship Service with Communion.....9:30 am
- Worship Service with Communion.....11:15 am
- Bell Choir.....5:00 pm
- Adult Choir.....6:00 pm

TUES:

- Prayer Meeting.....7:00 pm

WED:

- Men’s Bible Study.....6:30 am
- Day School & Preschool Chapel.....11:00 am
- Children’s Christmas Service.....7:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY..... December 20, 2020

- Sunday School & Bible Classes.....8:30 am
- Worship Service.....9:30 am
- Worship Service.....11:15 am
- Men’s Group.....3:00 pm
- Bell Choir.....5:00 pm
- Adult Choir.....6:00 pm



Wondering what you can do to help the pastoral selection committee? Let’s pray together! Prayer meetings continue each Tuesday at 7:00 pm. We meet together in the Narthex for a brief time of prayer lifting up the call committee’s work and the ministries of the church. This will be a regular weekly prayer meeting as we seek God’s will for the future of

his ministries at St. Paul’s. Call Terry Miller if you have any questions 248-1770.

Thank you, friends, for your constant prayers for our nephews who serve in the military. Stephen Lord has "retired" this week as a Captain in the US Army, having served over 9 years, including his years at West Point. He is planning to work for the FBI. Air Force Captain Nathan Weiss continues his active duty status, serving in Los Angeles, for the Space Force. Jim and Linda Tinkey

For Your Spiritual Preparation for Next Sunday, Advent 4

You will want to read Psalm 89:1-5, 19-29; 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38. Our theme for the day is:

“According to Your Word,” based on the Gospel reading Luke 1:26-38, that, in the annunciation to Mary, we will see God at work “for us and for our salvation” and respond in faith, “Let it be to me according to Your Word.”

Youth News: Youth in Grades 4 through 8 are encouraged to participate in this year's Christmas Eve Service. Practices will be on the following Sundays after the second church service (we will start at approximately 12:30 pm) and last approximately an hour:

- December 13
- December 20

We also may hold an additional practice before the Service itself on December 24th. If you have any questions, please speak with Andy Wildauer.

THANK YOU to those who gave goodies for the tins for our shut-ins.

Servants for Today's Worship

Assistant Pastor: Neil Wonnacott 546-2332 or 574-301-9291

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Usher: Joe Hughes

Acolyte: Kristen Guse & Keegan Guse

Elder: Jon Rettinger/Terry Miller

Purpose of the Psalms

The Board of Christian Education invites you to go on a journey with us for the next 150 days. We are inviting you to read a psalm a day from January 1-May 31. The psalms or sometimes called the Psalter is a pray book, worship and praise book, and a songbook. In part it was written for those who do not know how to pray as we ought. The purpose of the psalms is to express hope in the Lord God for salvation using prayer and praises. Luther describes the psalms a precious and beloved book, it promises Christ death and resurrection

To help through this journey the Board of Christian Education has purchased a special book that will be available for a donation. This book has all 150 psalms along with a comment by Luther and will take you through our journey the next 150 days. Every week we will have the psalm listed for each day and possible comments in the bulletin about the psalm.

Books will be available after the Sunday School hour and between services. If you are unable to make a donation please talk to a Board of Education Member or Pastor Wonnacott

Hope you will join in reading 150 psalms in 151 days.