

St. John
Lutheran Church



HARK!

Listen, God is Coming •

Advent III
Sunday, December 11, 2022

8:30am

St. John

Next Week:
December 12-18

Monday 12/12

9:30 – 11:30am PDO
 1 - 3:30pm Staff Meeting: Zoom
 6:15 - 7pm Ensemble: SA
 6:30 - 8pm Small Group: TR
 7 - 8pm Handbells: SA
 7 - 8pm A.A. Women: KJ Hall
 7 - 8pm AI-Anon: WW 3&4

Tuesday 12/13

9:30 - 11:30am PDO
 1 - 3pm Staff Meeting (Calendar): Zoom
 7 - 8pm Beyond Diakonia: YR
 7 - 8:30pm Boy Scouts: KJH
 7 - 9pm Council Meeting: TR

Wednesday 12/14

8am - 2pm Food Bank Delivery: KJH
 9:30 - 11:30am PDO
 6 - 7:30pm Youth Choir: SA
 6:30 - 9pm Tech Rehearsal for Cantata
 7 - 8:15pm Confirmation: Building
 7 - 9pm Senior Choir: CR/SA
 8:15 - 9:15PM HS FIRE: YR

Thursday 12/15

9 - 11:30am Coffee with Friends: TR
 9:30 - 11:30am PDO
 11am - 3pm FP Delivery: KJH
 5 - 7pm FP Packing: KJH
 7 - 8pm Advent Evening Prayer
 7 - 8pm AA Men: Zoom
 8 - 9pm Praise Team: SA
 8 - 9:30pm Martha's Circle: TR

Friday 12/16

9 - 11am Quilters: WW5
 9 - 10:30am Meals on Wheels

Saturday 12/17

8 – 10am FP Distribution Drive
 Thru: NX & KJH
 5:30 – 6:30pm Worship: SA

Sunday 12/18

8:30 – 9:30am Worship/Cantata: SA
 9:45 – 10:45am Sunday School
 11am – Noon Worship/Cantata: SA
 7 - 8pm Longest Night: SA

CR - Choir Room
 KJH - Karin Johnson Hall
 NX - Narthex
 SA - Sanctuary
 TR - Trinity Room
 WW - West Wing
 YR - Youth Room

STJOHNJOLIET.ORG/CALENDAR

Available 24/7 - Subscribe and link to your personal calendar

Norman Rockwell Calendars

Available in Narthex. Free!

Christmas Poinsettia Plants

Remember your loved ones with a poinsettia plant for Christmas.

Plants cost \$15. Sign up by 12/19 to have dedications included in Christmas bulletins.



Advent III: Listen, God is Coming

We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church as we gather for this time of worship and reflection on God's love for the world.

Today the altar flowers are given by Cathy Hawkins in honor of Trisha Vega's birthday, and by Ron and Eloise Crabb in memory of our friend, Bob, and in honor of our daughter, Laura's birthday.

To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at stjohnjoliet.org or call the church office.

Worship Leaders – Sunday, December 11, 2022 (8:30 am)

Deacon	Michelle Covert
Communion Assistant	Pam Murray
Acolytes	Nathan Dybas, Jackson Joyner
Ushers	Mark Collins, Bob Makowka
Greeters	Erik, Katie, Kaylee & Kelsey Hoffman
Piano & Organ	Janet Blomquist
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Handbell Director	Sarah Wernli
Audio Board	Nick Jakusz, Mike Pragit
Livestream Team	Rob Kornaus, Matt Markwell
Counters	Cathy Hawkins, Pat Block-Hay
Altar Guild	Karen Becker, Joan Nunemaker

Contact Information

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St. John Lutheran Church
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 **St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**

 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Prelude

“How Far Is It to Bethlehem?”

Hayes, arr. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering**

P We are gathered today in the name of the Father, Son, and † Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

***Lighting of the Advent Candle**

P Today, on this third week of Advent, we light the candle of hope because God declares new things before they spring forth. May the light remind us that the Holy Spirit is giving sight, building strength, offering freedom and bringing justice.
C Amen.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

257, Vs. 7

Text by: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite. Music by: French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6,7 © Augsburg Fortress.
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Verse 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
Refresh the hearts that long for you;
Restore the broken, make us new.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

*Confession and Forgiveness

P In God's house, everyone is welcome—
those who seem like they have it all together,
and those who feel like their world is falling apart.
No matter who we are, there's room for us here.
With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer,
speaking the truth of our lives.

Let us pray:

P God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

C But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

P You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

C But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

P You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

C But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

P God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

**C Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.
Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.**

P Help us remember, today and tomorrow, there's room for everyone.

C Amen.

P Family of faith,

We who feel scattered are held together. We who have lost our way are forgiven and found. And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told, "There's room for you here." From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed. Thanks be to God!

C Amen.

*Opening Hymn

254 Vs. 1 & 2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Text by: Charles Wesley. Music by: W. Walker, Southern Harmony. Public Domain.
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(SUNG TO THE TUNE OF HYFRYDOL # 631)

Verse 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Verse 2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Prayer of the Day

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. God of light, you sent a savior into the world to bring justice
and freedom to all those trapped in prisons of body, mind, and spirit. Shine
this light upon us, and show us how to bring justice, peace, and freedom
to all who suffer alone. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Special Music

“Carillon for Advent”
St. John Handbell Choir

arr. Wagner

Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

D A reading from the book of Isaiah, the forty-second chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one, in whom I delight!
I have put my Spirit upon you;
that you may bring forth justice to the nations.
You do not cry out or raise your voice
or make yourself heard in the street;
So gentle that you do not break a bruised reed,
Or quench a wavering flame;
Faithfully you will bring forth true justice.
You will neither grow faint nor be crushed
until justice is established on earth,
for the islands await your teaching!

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who gave shape to the earth and what it produces,
who gave life to its peoples
and spirit to its inhabitants:
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have appointed you to be a covenant people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

I am the Lord! This is my name!
My glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See how former predictions have come true.
And now I declare new things!
before they spring forth, I tell them to you.

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation

S 188

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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

P The gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus prayed, "Father God, Creator of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever, you have revealed to the youngest children. Yes, Father, everything is as you want it to be."

Jesus continued, "All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal that revelation.

Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Here you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P The gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Evan Mayhew

“Christ, Be Our Light”

Text & Music by: Bernadette Farrell. © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications.
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Verse 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
 Longing for truth, we turn to you.
 Make us your own, your holy people,
 Light for the world to see.

Refrain Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
 Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
 Shine in your church gathered today.

Verse 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
 Longing for hope, many despair.
 Your word alone has pow’r to save us.
 Make us your living voice. **Refrain**

Verse 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
 Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
 Let us be servants to one another,
 Signs of your kingdom come. **Refrain**

***Apostles’ Creed**

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

P Holy God, we know that you are here, for where two or more are gathered, you are there. We bow our heads with tender spirits and ask that once more you would lean in close to hear our prayers.

Congregation sings this response:

528

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taize Community. Music by: Jacques Berthier. Text and Music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taize, admin. GIA Publications. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

The prayers conclude:

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

You may share the peace of Christ with others.

Those who choose to stay in their pew may wave or give signs of peace.

Offertory

“Still, Still, Still”

arr. Martin

All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. In response to God's generosity, we offer these gifts to our neighbors and the world through our time, possessions, and money.

The Offertory is an invitation to be a part of the mission, ministry, and outreach of Christ through St. John Lutheran Church. Together, there is enough for everyone.

Please place any financial gifts, attendance sheets, and prayer concerns in the offering plate when it comes to you and pass it on to the person next to you or behind you. Thank you for your generosity!

“We Are An Offering”

Text by: Dwight Liles. Music by: Dwight Liles. Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC.
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We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be, we give to you,
We give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.

***Offertory Prayer**

D Let us pray. **God who keeps calling, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving** *(sung)*

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 our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

Text by: Reginald Heber, alt. Music by: John B. Dykes, Public Domain.
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Verse 1

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord’s Prayer**

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.

***Invitation to Communion**

P Christ is near. Christ is here!
C **Thanks be to God!**

Distribution

We believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ in this meal and at this table.

All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

There are two ways to receive communion today:

Receiving Communion in your pew

You may receive communion in your pew with the elements contained in the communion pod. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion:

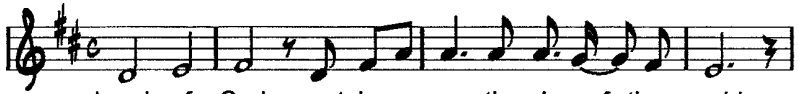
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Receiving Communion at the altar

- You will be invited forward by the usher.
- Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.
- Red wine is on the outer rings of the tray; white grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.
- After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket that the acolyte brings to you and return to your pew via the side aisle.

Lamb of God

Words and Music by: Ellen Goodwin. Reprinted and streamed with permission.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world.

5



Lamb of God, have mer - cy, mer - cy.

9



Lamb of God, you take a-way our sins. Grant us peace,

13



grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Communion Music

“All Is Well”
David Luecht - Soloist

Kirkpatrick, Smith

289, Vs. 1-3

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Text by: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*. Music by: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Verse 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? **Refrain**

Verse 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **Refrain**

*Blessing

C Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

D Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*Benediction

C *Sing* AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

*Sending Song

513, Vs. 1

“Listen, God is Calling”

Text by: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S Olson, b. 1922. Music by: Tanzania tun; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, b. 1919. Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Madumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © 1968 Austin C. Lovelace. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Refrain Listen! Listen, God is coming,
To the word inviting,
Offering forgiveness,
Comfort and joy **Repeat**

*Sending

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“Voluntary in D”

Scarlatti

Today

Tween GO!, 12:15 - 2:30pm 4th - 6th graders, meet in Karin Johnson Hall!

Giving Tree Snag a tag from Narthex tree and return gift cards to the office.

Pastors & office staff give them to neighbors in need during the year. Thank you.

2022 The Sanctified Art From Generation to Generation... devotional

Connect with your faith during Advent using this devotional. Hard copies in the Narthex, or click the link in your weekly email for a digital version.

This Week

12/15 - Advent Evening Prayer, 7pm*

Spend some time in our Sanctuary space as pastors lead prayer time designed to help you recenter, refocus, and relax.

Next Sunday, December 18th

Christmas Cantata, 8:30am* & 11am

Enjoy *Little Lamb, Little Lion*, a cantata directed by Tori Hicks. Features St. John Chorale, Praise Team, and Youth Choir.

Sunday School, 9:45am Meet in classrooms instead of Sanctuary.

Longest Night, 7pm*

What is one to do when Christmas doesn't feel Christmassy? When your heart is heavy and it's hard to find joy during "the most wonderful time of the year," join us for the Longest Night Service. No matter the loss you've experienced, there are healing words and understanding waiting for you.

Even if you aren't feeling blue, come for a little bit of silent night as we wait together for the coming of Christ. Your calm presence can comfort those whose holidays aren't everything they want them to be this year.

Coming Up...

12/24 - Christmas Eve Worship, 3pm*, 5pm*, 11pm*

Celebrate the birth of the Christ child with St. John. Invite your family and friends for this special service. Candle lighting to *Silent Night* at all services.

12/25, 1/1 - Worship on Christmas Day & New Year's Day, 10am*

One service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. *Note: Download a bulletin, there will not be on-screen words for these two livestream worship services.*

12/30 - Last day for 2022 Giving

Ensure your offerings and gifts post to your 2022 Giving Statement by bringing them to the church office on/before noon on 12/30. Thank you!

* Livestream on YouTube

Feeling under the weather?



We appreciate all who stay home with illness of any kind. Staying home gives you the gift of healing, and reduces the chances of spreading illness to friends, worship leaders, and immunocompromised people in our building. Remember you can livestream worship on our YouTube Channel, *St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet*. Thanks!