



HARK!

Listen, God is With Us •

December 18, 2022

8:30am, 11am

Advent IV

Arranged by
HEATHER SORENSON

Incorporates "Sing \n"God Rest
a

Tr. 1 With excitement! (♩ = ca. 96)

Piano

mp

mf

9

rit.

mp

a tempo

St. John

Little Lion, Little Lamb

Christmas Cantata



St. John

December 19 - January 2

Monday 12/19*

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 Al-Anon: WW 3&4

**Last day to order poinsettias with
 bulletin mention*

Tuesday 12/20

9:30 – 11:30am PDO
 7 – 8:30pm Boy Scouts: KJH

Wednesday 12/21 Food Pantry Closed

8am – 2pm PDO
 6 – 7pm Youth Choir: SA
 7 – 9pm Senior Choir: CR/SA

Thursday 12/22 Food Pantry Closed

7 – 8pm AA Men: Zoom
 7 – 8pm Praise Team: SA

Friday 12/23 Food Pantry Closed

9 – 11am Quilters: WW5

Saturday 12/24 Christmas Eve Food Pantry Closed

3 – 4pm Worship: SA
 5 – 6pm Worship: SA
 11 pm – Midnight Worship: SA

Sunday 12/25 Christmas Day

10 – 11am Worship: SA



Advent IV: Listen, God is With Us

Monday 12/26 Office Closed

7 – 8pm A.A. Women: KJ Hall
 7 – 8pm Al-Anon: WW 3&4

Tuesday 12/27 Office 9am – Noon

7 – 8:30pm Boy Scouts: KJH

Wednesday 12/28 Office 9am – Noon Food Pantry Closed

Thursday 12/29 Office 9am – Noon Food Pantry Closed

7 – 8pm AA Men: Zoom

Friday 12/30 Office 9am – Noon Food Pantry Closed

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

Saturday 12/31 New Year's Eve Food Pantry Closed

5:30 – 6:30pm Worship: SA

Sunday 1/1 New Year's Day

10 – 11am Worship: SA

Monday 1/2 Office Closed

7 – 8pm A.A. Women: KJ Hall
 7 – 8pm Al-Anon: WW 3&4
 7 – 8 pm Cub Scouts Cmte: Zoom



STJOHNJOLIET.ORG/CALENDAR

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

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 her mother, Charlene Olsen's birthday, and by Linda Evans in memory of her brother, Rick Russ on his heavenly birthday.

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

Thank you to Mike & Sandy Smith for coffee hour today.



Worship Leaders – Sunday, December 18, 2022 (8:30 & 11:00)

Deacon	Jim Bartz (8:30), Eddy Crews (11:00)
Communion Assistant	Linda Koerner (8:30), Don Clark (11:00)
Acolytes	Ella Cortese, Emmett Doyle (8:30) Chace Alvarado, Sydney Basham (11:00)
Ushers	Joan Fry, Erik Hoffman, Frank Summer (8:30) Rick Franzen, Roger Wyss (11:00)
Greeters	Rob Crabb (8:30) Barb Riegler, Carol Wortel (11:00)
Piano & Organ	Janet Blomquist
Keyboard	Julia Krizmanic
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Audio Board	Mike Pragit (8:30 & 11:00)
Livestream Team	Dawn MacGregor
Counters	Frank Norem, Norm Roland
Altar Guild	Maricay Miller, Sharon Sullivan

Contact Information

Pastor Robin Caldwell	robincaldwell@stjohnjoliet.org	630-408-1402
Pastor Evan Mayhew	evanmayhew@stjohnjoliet.org	262-366-3132
Tori Hicks	torihicks@stjohnjoliet.org	815-355-3205
Dawn MacGregor	dawnmacgregor@stjohnjoliet.org	815-557-9702
Nicole Adams	nicoleadams@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
Pam Kornaus	pamkornaus@stjohnjoliet.org	815-439-2320
David Luecht, Council President	council@stjohnjoliet.org	815-954-9368

St. John Lutheran Church
2650 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL 60435
815-439-2320 contact@stjohnjoliet.org stjohnjoliet.org

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

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Prelude

“Bring the Torch Jeanette Isabella”

Hayes

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 fourth week of Advent, we light the candle of joy because of all the good news this season brings. May the light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy draw us closer to one another, and closer to God.
C Amen.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

257, Vs. 6

Text by: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite. Music by: French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6,7 © Augsburg Fortress.
Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 6

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

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

815, Vs. 1 & 3

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Text & Music by: Kathleen Thomerson. © 1970, 1975 Celebration.
Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Verse 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

*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 promise, you made a commitment to Joseph that you
would make Jesus a savior to all. Renew your commitment with us, so that
all may know the saving grace of your son, Jesus. We pray these things in
the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

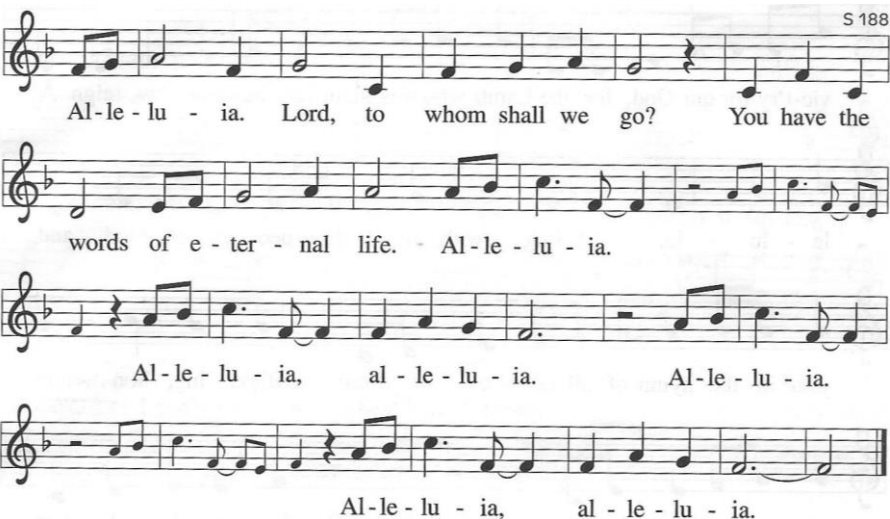
- D A reading from Isaiah the fortieth chapter. Listen for the Word of the Lord.
 C **Our ears are open.**

Comfort, O comfort my people,
 says your God.
 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
 and cry to her
 that she has served her term,
 that her penalty is paid,
 that she has received from the Lord's hand
 double for all her sins.
 A voice cries out:
 "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
 Every valley shall be filled in,
 and every mountain and hill be made low;
 the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
 and all humankind shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
 A voice says, "Cry out!"
 And I said, "What shall I cry?"
 All flesh is grass;
 their constancy is like the flower of the field.
 The grass withers; the flower fades,
 but the word of our God will stand forever.
 Go up on a high mountain,
 You who bring good news to Zion!
 Shout with a loud voice,
 you who bring good news to Jerusalem!
 Shout without fear,
 say to the towns of Judah,
 "Here is your God!"
 See, the Lord God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him
 and his reparation before him.
 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms
 and hold them close
 and gently lead the mother sheep.

- 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 1:18-25

P The gospel according to Matthew, the first chapter.

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

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. When Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, of the lineage of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus—'Salvation'—because he will save the people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by God through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Immanuel,"

—a name that means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth; she had a son, and they named him Jesus.

P The gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

St. John Chorale Cantata (see insert)

*Hymn of the Day

267, Vs. 1, 2, 4

“Joy to the World”

Text by: Isaac Watts. Music by: English melody, 18th cent; arr. Lowell Mason. Public Domain.
Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

*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); Taizé Community. Music by: Jacques Berthier. Text and Music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, 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

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Hayes

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.
Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

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 8:30) (spoken 11:00)*

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**

413, Vs. 1

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

Text by: Reginald Heber, alt. Music by: John B. Dykes. Public Domain.
Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

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.

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

Text by: Wayne L. Wold. Music by: Yiddish folk tune. Text © 1984 Fortress Press.
Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

- Verse 1** Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish the darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.
- Verse 2** Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish the darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
Gently lead them home ward.
- Verse 3** Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish the darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
For the King of glory.
- Verse 4** Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish the darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining.

265, Vs. 1-4

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Text by: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould. Music: Basque Carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman, and John Wickham. Arr. © 1955, 1983 E. H. Freeman, Ltd, admin. Glenwood Music Corp. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

- Verse 1** The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- Verse 2** For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- Verse 3** Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- Verse 4** Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

“The First Noel”

Text by: English traditional. Music by: English traditional; arr. John Stainer. Public Domain.
Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1 The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

Verse 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **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. (8:30)**

C Amen. (*spoken*) **(11:00)**

“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 with us,
To the word inviting,
Offering forgiveness,
Comfort and joy **Repeat**

***Sending**

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“No. 4 Postlude”

Boellmann

All St. John Lutheran Church services may contain liturgy and songs with permission from the following: Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006677. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2021 Clergy Stuff™, published by Clergy Stuff, 8621 Poplar Bridge Curve, Bloomington, MN 55437. Gospel Verse, Holy, and Amen from Now the Feast and Celebration. Text & Tune by: Marty Haugen. © 1990 GIA Publications. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved. Variations of words and prayer Copyright © 2022, Teri Peterson. Credit for bulletins and livestream: Liturgy adapted from Words for Worship for Advent-Epiphany by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org. Liturgy adapted from Words for Worship for Advent-Epiphany by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org