

St. John
Lutheran Church

destination

Joy

Sunday, December 5, 2021
8:30am

A Bump in the Road

St. John

Advent 2 Edition

Worship & Events



Sunday, 4pm

Sunday School Christmas Program

Our Sunday School children have been working hard learning lines and songs to tell the story of Christ's birth. They are excited to share *God's Greatest Gift* with you.

Livestream Information:



- Begins at 3:55pm on YouTube only, no Facebook showing
- The link for this broadcast is not public
- Sunday School families received the link from Pastor Robin earlier this week
- If you do not have the link and would like to watch it, see Pastor Robin or Dawn MacGregor, or call the church office.

Participant Reminder:

- 3pm - K-6th grade Teachers arrive
- 3:15pm - K-6th grade Students arrive, go to classroom
- 3:30pm - Beginners & Pre-K Teachers arrive
- 3:45pm - Beginners & Pre-K arrive, go to classroom

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.

The altar flowers today are given by the Rimmke family in memory of father & grandfather, Arthur A. Rimmke, and by Susanne Repavich in memory of family members who passed away. To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at stjohnjoliet.org or call the church office.

Additional seating is available in the Trinity Room.

Worship Leaders – Sunday 8:30 am

Deacon	Glenn Smith
Communion Assistant	Lynne Smith
Greeter	Sam Riggi
Ushers	Joe Aincham, Ron Crabb, Judy Mihavics-Dachman
Organ	Janet Blomquist
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Accompanist	Susan Fick
Audio Board	Keith Markwell
Livestream Team	Elliott Liss, Dawn MacGregor
Counters	Jan Drish, Nancy Kautz
Altar Guild	Cheryl Lovell, Sharon Sullivan

Contact Information

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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

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

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

Opening Hymn

#264, Vs. 1 & 2

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Text by: Frans Mikael Franzen. Music by: Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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Verse 1 Prepare the royal highway; the Kings of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Refrain Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word!

Verse 2 God’s people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!

Repeat Refrain

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Prince of Peace,
C **Keep our eyes fixed on your coming.**

P We gather together, resisting what threatens hope.
O Prince of Peace,
C **Keep our eyes fixed on your coming.**

P We stay present by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future,
awakening joy within us.
O Prince of Peace,
C **Keep our eyes fixed on your coming.**

P Christ, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle,
whose flame brings warmth to winter, and fills this place with the glow
of hope.
C **Amen!**

*Advent Song

“Advent Processional”

Words and Music by: Daniel Greig. © 2015 Hal Leonard Corporation.
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We will keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
Till He comes again.

We will dry the tears of one another,
Dry the tears of one another,
Dry the tears of one another,
Till He comes again.

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. Out of dry bones, you call us to new life. Out of lifelessness you
can create vibrant abundance. Take our humble offerings and make
of them an overflowing blessing from which the thirsty may drink and the
dead may find new life. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

Psalm 126

D A responsive reading from Psalm 126. Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,**

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

**Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

“O Come to Us, Emmanuel”
St. John Chorale

Martin

Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

D A reading from the book of Ezekiel, the thirty-seventh chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up,

and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And

you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act.”

D Word of God, Word of Life!
C **Thanks be to God!**

***Gospel Acclamation**

#253 Vs. 2

“He Came Down”

Text by: Cameroon Traditional. Music by: arr. John L. Bell. © 1986 Iona Community. Gia Publications, Inc.
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Verse 2 He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
Hallelujah, forevermore.

***Gospel**

John 11:25-26

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

P The gospel of our Lord.
C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Evan Mayhew

“Hark! The Glad Sound”

Text by: Philip Doddridge. Music by: Thomas Haweis. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

Verse 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.

***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.**

Joys and Concerns of our Faith Community

*Prayer request cards are available in your pews.
You may place the card in the offering plate or give to a pastor.*

Prayers of the Church

Text and Music by: Steven Inverson. © Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

P With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church,
the world, and those in need.

Response (sing):

**Peace, be still. Peace, be still.
The storm rages. Peace, be still.**

The prayers conclude:

P Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your peace,
we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. Those who move to greet others may choose their greeting at the discretion of the person you are greeting.

Please be mindful of the non-verbal cue you are receiving, and ask what the person is comfortable with before greeting.

Offertory

“Coventry Carol”

arr. Martin

Commitment to Community

In this past year, you’ve faithfully tended to the ministry of our church. You encouraged one another when times were difficult, cared for the vulnerable in our community, and walked alongside youth and families during their highs and lows.

You are signs of God’s hope for our world.

Just as you have committed to love this church, this church commits to love as God loves-- with generous hearts full of mercy and hope. The sharing of our resources makes this possible.

Let us give with grateful hearts.

*Offertory Response

836, Vs. 3

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Text by: Henry van Dyke. Music by: Ludwig van Beethoven. Public Domain.
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Verse 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

*Offertory Prayer

D Let us pray. **God of our waiting and watching, 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

S 144b



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



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*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 God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

C Thanks be to God!

Lamb of God

Music by: Ellen Goodwin © 2008 used by permission.

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

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

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

grant us peace. Grant us peace.

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.*
- *You may bring your offering/attendance slip forward and place in the offering basket or place in the offering plates by the doors as you leave.*
- *Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.*
- *Wear your masks as you come forward; lift your mask when receiving the elements of bread and then again with the grape juice or the wine.*
- *The deep purple wine is on the outer rings of the tray; the golden grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.*
- *After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket, and return to your pew via the side aisle.*

Communion Music

487, Vs. 1, 2, 3

“What Feast of Love”

Text by: Delores Dufner. Music by: English ballad, 16th Cent. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications.
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Verse 1 What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

Verse 2 What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The word of God is given!

Verse 3 What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The son of God is given!

“Abide With Me”

Curry

*Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

D Let us pray. Holy God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your joy, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C **Amen.**

*Benediction

C *Sing* **AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

*Sending Song

439, Vs. 4

“People, Look East”

Text by: Eleanor Farjeon. Music by: French Carol. Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates. Arr. © 1999 Novello & Co. Ltd., London. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

Verse 1 People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today –
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Verse 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today –
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

*Sending

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

Postlude

“O What Their Joy and Their Glory Must Be”

Hillert

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St. John

Advent 2 Edition

Worship & Events

DEC

We are halfway through giving away 600 holiday dinner kits to our hungry neighbors. If you'd like to donate, each one is \$18 and includes turkey or ham, fresh potatoes, sides, & a dessert. Visit stjohnfood.org to donate.

**DEC
9**

Advent Evening Prayer

Find quiet in the sanctuary and ready your heart for Christmas. Thursdays in December at 7pm. Livestream begins at 6:55pm.

**DEC
12**

The Gift of Time with your Plus 1

3pm - 5pm Relax. Shop. Rest. St. John's Youth Service Team welcomes 4 - 10-year-olds for a few hours of activities and crafts while you get a break. Sign up at stjohnjoliet.org.

Light Up the Night

6:15pm Parking lot opens

7pm Program and lighting

Find light in the darkness as we light up St. John and the tree in the parking lot. More details to come. Livestream begins at 7pm on Facebook only.

**DEC
19**


Longest Night Service* 7pm

Our pastors offer healing words of comfort to you when "the most wonderful time of the year" isn't quite so wonderful.

Livestream begins at 6:55pm. * *Only pastors will be seen on camera.*

**DEC
24**

Christmas Eve Worship 3pm, 5pm, 11pm

Worship with candle lighting and singing *Silent Night* at all services. We are looking forward to welcoming the Christ child with you in the Sanctuary and online. All services Livestream on YouTube and FaceBook.  

**DEC
25**

Merry Christmas!
Building Closed

**DEC
26**

10am worship
with Livestream  

IT'S THE LAST WEEKEND TO PICK UP AN



angel
TAG



stjohnjoliet.org or Narthex

Bring your *unwrapped* gift to St. John next weekend on Saturday, 12/11 from 3pm-5pm or Sunday, 12/12 from 8:30am-Noon.



AVAILABLE IN: NARTHEX

giving tree
TAGS



\$10 increments for Target, Shell, Walmart, Speedway, McDonald's & Goodwill work best

Christmas Poinsettias



\$17 per plant - Please bring payment to church office.

Order plants at

stjohnjoliet.org

You may also order plants at the church office.