



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021 | 10:30am

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

The prelude signals a time for silent prayer and meditation.

PRELUDE

Benedictus

REGER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***HYMN AT THE PROCESSION**

Prepare the royal highway



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Walk gently in the way of peace.

“Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.”

Walk gently in the way of peace.

“The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth.”

Walk gently in the way of peace.

“All flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Walk gently in the way of peace.

As we light the second Advent candle, the candle of peace, we remember that the Prince of Peace is coming, and we join in the work of preparing the way.

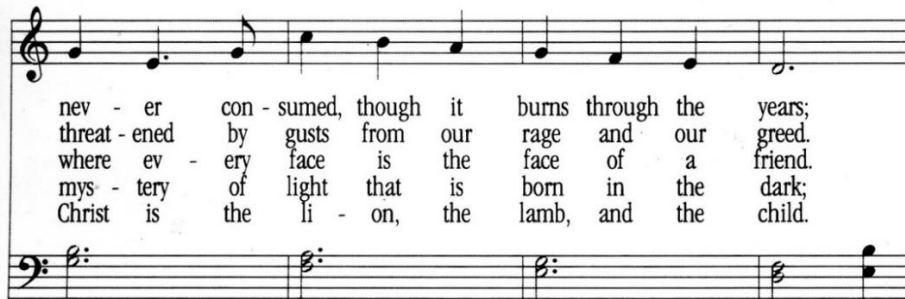
We walk gently in the way of peace. Amen.

Based on Luke 3:1-6 and Isaiah 40:3-5

*Sing **Verse 2** of “Hope Is a Candle” as the first candle is lit.*



1 Hope is a can - dle, once lit by the proph - ets,
 2 Peace is a can - dle to show us a path - way,
 3 Love is a can - dle whose light makes a cir - cle,
 4 Joy is a can - dle of mys - tery and laugh - ter,
 5 Christ is the light that the pro - phets a - wait - ed,



nev - er con - sumed, though it burns through the years;
 threat - ened by gusts from our rage and our greed.
 where ev - ery face is the face of a friend.
 mys - tery of light that is born in the dark;
 Christ is the li - on, the lamb, and the child.



dim in the day - light of pow - er and priv - ilege—
 Friend, feel no en - vy for those in the shad - ows—
 Wid - en the cir - cle by shar - ing and giv - ing—
 laugh - ter at hear - ing the voice of an an - gel,
 Christ is the love and the mys - tery and laugh - ter—



when they are gone, hope will shine on.
 vi - olence and force, their dead end course.
 God's ho - ly dare: love ev - ery - where.
 ev - er so near, cast - ing out fear.
 can - dles, make way! Christ is the day.

Words by Richard Leach, music by Rusty Edwards. © 1996 by Selah Publishing Co. Inc.
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*GREETING

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

*KYRIE

The Kyrie is presented in three staves of musical notation. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff has the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy." for both the Cantor and the All. The second staff has the lyrics "Christ, have mer - cy." for both. The third staff has the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy." for both. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Cantor: All: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: All: Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Cantor: All: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

MALACHI 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

SEE, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

LUKE 1:68-79



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
 2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
 3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,

who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

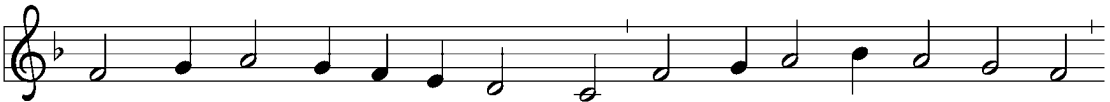
Thanks be to God.

***GRADUAL**

verses 1 & 2



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

***GOSPEL**

LUKE 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

IN the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

***SEQUENCE**

Sing verse 3.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION**

After each intercession:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

PUER NOBIS

All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.


Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should . . . *the pastor concludes the Preface* . . . with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



mp
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.
mp
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
mp
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION


Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.

Receiving Communion

All who have been baptized, believe in Jesus as Lord, and in his real presence in this holy sacrament are invited to commune. Gluten-free Hosts are available if requested.


LAMB OF GOD

Cantor:
mp



1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you
3. Key of Da - vid and Day-spring from on high:
4. De-sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

1.2.3. All:



take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us, have



MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

Anthem

*This is the record of John
Corey Shotwell, tenor*

GIBBONS

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

SENDING

*BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***SANTA LUCIA PROCESSION**

Narration

Children process and sing “Ritsch, Ratsch”

The Santa Lucia Court Processes and all sing.

1.Santa Lucia,
Thy light is glowing,
Through darkest winter night
Comfort bestowing.
Dreams float on wings bedight,
Comes then the morning light,
Santa Lucia!
Santa Lucia!

2.Through silent winter gloom,
Thy song comes winging
To waken earth anew
Glad carols bringing.
Come, thou, O Queen of Light,
Wearing thy crown so bright.
Santa Lucia!
Santa Lucia!

3.Santa Lucia,
Christmas foretelling
Fill hearts with hope and cheer
Dark fears dispelling.
Bring to the world again
Peace, and good will to men.
Santa Lucia!
Santa Lucia!

All join in singing:

1.Goder afton, goder afton
Både herre och fru!
Vi önskar eder alla
En fröjdefull jul!

Goo-der aftahn, gooder aftahn
Boh-de hair-reh oak fruh!
Vee oonskar aider ah-la
En froeh-de-full Yule

2.Good morning, good morning
All here in this house!
We greet you and wish you a blessed Yuletide!

Repeat verse one.

All join in singing:

Candles are shining bright, here in the darkness
When you come in the night, bringer of gladness.
Now is Lucia's day; Let us all celebrate!
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia!
Now is Lucia's day; Let us all celebrate!
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia!

Santa Lucia lights the tree and all are invited to join the procession to the Welcome Room for a Swedish reception!

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Advent Liturgy from *The Uncluttered Heart* by Beth A. Richardson. Copyright © 2009 by Upper Room Books. Used by permission.

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Duane C. Pederson
Organists	Nathan K. Lively
Worship Assistant	Lois Coffin
Reader	Max Leffers
Acolytes	Abigail D'Orta, Jake Bartlett
Communion Assistants	Charlene Pederson, Shirley Schulz
Ushers	Eleanor Bocuzzo, David Hendrickson
Counters	J. Geils, Janet Halpin, Shirley Schulz
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Little Free Pantry	Michele Effren, Cathy Mahler

Coffee/Fellowship Time

Our thanks to *Carla Haugen & Friends* for hosting the fellowship time following worship today in the Welcome Room. This time of hospitality is important as we connect with one another over coffee and treats. The Welcome Room is located directly beneath the sanctuary.

Livestream Sponsors

Today we thank *Mary Maitland, Cathy & Michael Mahler, and Anna & Seth Mayo* for sponsoring the Sunday livestream of our worship by their gifts to the Media Fund.

E-giving

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. John's this past year with their time, talent, and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offers or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit www.stjohnelca.org or contact Jody Van Houten in the church office for more information at 203.322.0066, ext. 111.

Delivery Instructions for Securities:

Charles Schwab

DTC # 0164

Reference: St. John's Lutheran Church

Account: # 9976-8364

For further information please contact our bookkeeper

Jody Van Houten at 203-322-0066 x111

December dates to remember

Dec 5: Lucia procession following 10:30 am service

Dec 5: Handel's Messiah Sing-A-Long - 5:00 pm

Dec 16: Senior Christmas Luncheon

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 pm – Family service

7:00 pm – Prelude begins

7:30 pm – Traditional candlelight Service

Dec 26: 9:30 am Lessons & Carols

The Lucia Legend

In Sweden, the real beginning of Christmas observance is December 13th, the day set aside in honor of Lucia, the Queen of Light. By that day in thrifty households, the year's threshing, spinning, and weaving are finished, and Christmas preparation is completed. Lucia symbolizes the light which will return after weeks of long winter darkness and brings tidings of Christmas joy to come.

Fable has it that in the early days of Christianity, a lovely golden-haired girl named Lucia, who lived in Sicily, was betrothed at the age of 17. She was a devout Christian at a time when the people attempted to stamp out Christianity. Just before the wedding day, Lucia's mother became desperately ill. Lucia went to her church and promised God that she would donate her entire dowry if her mother were to become well again.

Her mother's health was restored, and Lucia's dowry was given to the poor. Her fiancé's resentment was so great that in revenge, he turned her over to the soldiers who were persecuting the Christians. Without trial, young, lovely Lucia was burned at the stake.

Not long afterward, stories of Lucia were told though out all Europe. She "appeared" in many places bringing food to hungry people. The story of her goodness and kindness to the people in her community was brought from Italy to Scandinavia by early Christian missionaries.

In Swedish lore, Lucia she appeared on a bitterly cold night to feed those who were starving because of famine. The old people said that Lucia, dressed in white with a crimson sash and crowned with light, appeared each December 13th between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning, carrying food to people in need.

This legend is the basis of the Lucia celebration. The celebration of the Day of Saint Lucia has been a tradition at St. John's Lutheran for many years. Lucia, the Queen of Light, is accompanied by attendants, star girls, and baker boys, who will assist her in singing the traditional Lucia songs.

We welcome Lucia! May she inspire us once again to consider the influence of the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ as it is lived through the lives of the faithful, such as Lucia of old. Welcome! Welcome Lucia!

Music and Choir Robes at St. John's

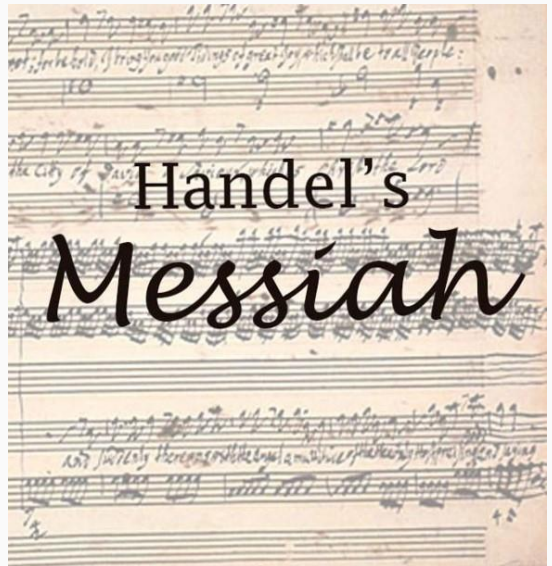
The St. John's Choir is making plans to obtain new choir robes – see photo below. The robes they've selected are of good quality and light enough that they won't be too warm to wear. The choir members are invited to purchase a robe, but we will need to obtain additional robes of various sizes for guest singers and future choir members. Thus, extras are needed.

If you would like to purchase one or more choir robes to support our singers, the cost is \$144 per robe. Gifts should be made out to "St. John's Lutheran Church" and designed "Choir Robes."

Thank you for your gift consideration, and thanks to the musicians of the congregation who bring so much life and beauty to our worship.



These are the new choir robes we wish to purchase for our musicians



Bring your neighbors and friends to Handel's *Messiah* sing-along today at 5 pm. This beloved piece is performed by our own St. John's Choir, and we will have opportunity to join in. Let's give praise to the "Lord of lords and King of kings!"



2021 Christmas Decorations & Music Contributions Form

Help decorate the church and let the sanctuary walls ring with joyous carols of Christmas by making a financial contribution. Use this form to order poinsettias or to make a gift to the Special Music Fund. Indicate if your gift is in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Quantity _____ 10-inch, red poinsettia(s) @ (\$20 each). Total for poinsettia(s) \$ _____

_____ Please “check” if you will be taking home your poinsettia(s)

Poinsettias may be taken home following the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

\$ _____ Contribution to the Worship & Music Fund

All contributions may be designated in memory or in honor of a loved one.

~ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ~

Circle One: In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Name:

Name:

Given by:

This form, along with your contribution, must be placed in the offering plate or returned to the office no later than Sunday, December 19. Thank you!

Amount Enclosed: _____ Envelope Number: _____