

# St. John Lutheran Church

✠ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ✠

DECEMBER 10th, 2023, 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM



"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" - Numbers 21:5 (Public domain image; licensed under CC0)

## Welcome To Worship

*Entering a church for the first time can be confusing and intimidating. We are so glad you've come.*

*Welcome! Here are a few things to know...*

**Bathrooms** are located out the side doors. A handicap bathroom (with a changing table) is located across from the nursery. An usher can direct you.

**Children** are full participants in a life of faith at St. John, welcome to sing, pray, and take Holy Communion. Worship activity bags are in the entryway when kids need extra activity. The nursery is open but not staffed.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at each worship service. The table is open to all who believe in the redeeming power of Christ's love. Ask the server if you need a gluten-free wafer.



### Hearing Amplification

1. Connect to St. John Goes Wifi using password: welcome!
2. Download Listen Everywhere app.
3. Click either of the two channels to connect directly to the sound system.

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*If you are worshipping online, we are so glad you are here. You may find it helpful to prepare a worship space around you. Silence your phone. Light a candle and gather bread and wine (or juice).*

## Centering Song

*Slow down. No need to hurry to the next place or worry what to do. You are safe here.  
What word or words come to mind when you slow down today?*

## Call to Worship

PM: We await the coming of Christ,

**Assembly: We will prepare the way of our God.**

PM: We await the coming of Christ,

**A: With love in our hearts, we wait.**

## Confession & Forgiveness

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

PM: Blessed be the holy Trinity, (†) one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

**A: Amen.**

PM: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

PM: Everlasting God,

**A: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

PM: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of (†) Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

**A: Amen.**

## 'ad-vent

*"The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."*

*Frederick Buechner*

*Whistling in the Dark: Doubter's Dictionary*

*People, Look East*

ELW #248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

**Greeting**

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

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

ELW #241 (verse 2)



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
\* 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

- One: Isaiah speaks of our God as a shepherd.  
Two: God will feed us and gather us in God's arms.  
Three: *(light candle 1)* This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates God's promise.  
Four: *(light candle 2)* This is the candle of love, and its light leads us in God's way.

***Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah***  
*(verse 2)*

**Prayer of the Day**

- PM: Let us pray. God of love, you comfort us in our worry and sorrows. You promise to restore us now and eternally. Sustain us in our waiting during this Advent season and always. In Jesus' name we pray.  
A: **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

*God speaks to us in Scripture, reading, preaching and song.*

**Stepping into**

***Advent II: Isaiah of the Exile***

**Acclamation of the Word**

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***  
*ELW #257 (verse 1)*

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | O come, O come, Emmanuel,<br>and ransom captive Israel,<br>that mourns in lonely exile here<br>until the Son of God appear. | <i>Refrain</i><br><br>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br>shall come to you, O Israel. |
|---|---|--|

**Scripture Reading:**  
**Isaiah 40: 1-4, 11**

Mike Housel,  
tenor



**Recitative: *Comfort Ye, My People* from Handel's Messiah**

<sup>1</sup>*Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.*  
<sup>2</sup>*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.*  
<sup>3</sup>*A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

**Air: *Every Valley Shall Be Exalted* from Handel's Messiah**

<sup>4</sup>*Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.*

Amanda Housel,  
alto

**Air: *He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd*** from Handel's Messiah

*<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.*

**Sermon**  
Pastor Dorothy Stein



**Hymn of the Day**

***All Earth is Hopeful***

ELW #266



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor

- 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*  
*"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"*  
*será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,*  
*con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.*
- 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*  
*nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.*  
*Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,*  
*y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.*

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*  
*pero en el mundo está presente hoy.*  
*Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;*  
*y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.*

**Nicene Creed**

**A: We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the  
People**

**L: ...Lord in your mercy.  
A: Hear our prayer.**

**The Sharing of the  
Peace**

**PM: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
A: And also with you.**



*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**Offering**

## Offertory Hymn



SCAN ME

To make an  
electronic  
Contribution.

### *Wait For the Lord* *ELW #262 (repeat 2x)*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The musical score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef) in G major (one sharp). The first system contains the first line of the hymn, and the second system contains the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Offertory Prayer

AM: Let us pray. God our provider, by your merciful hand, abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

A: Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving & Holy

*The communion liturgy  
begins with the Great  
Thanksgiving when,  
together, we offer thanks  
for God's saving acts.*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

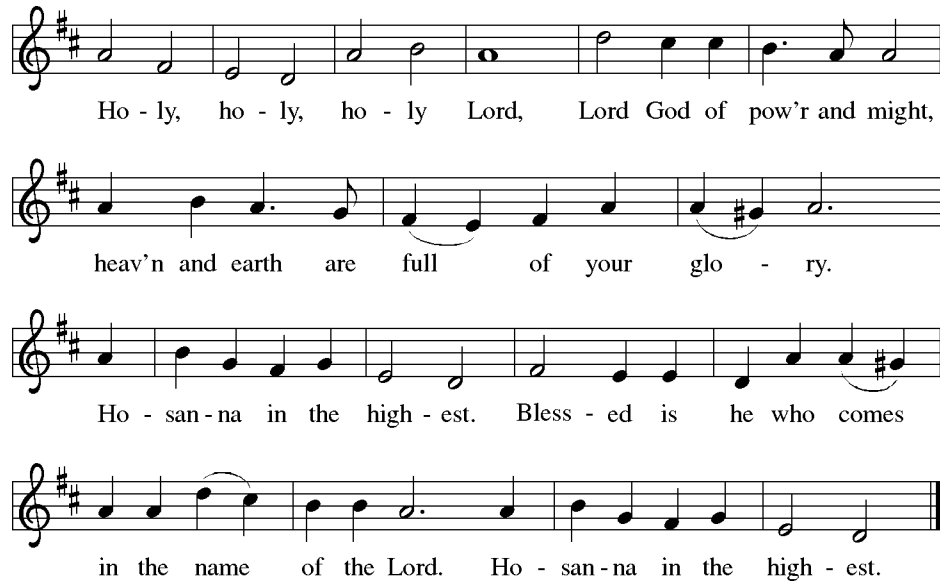
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written for a single staff in G major (one sharp). It consists of four lines of music, each with lyrics printed below. The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes.

PM: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

*The Sanctus (meaning Holy) gives us the opportunity to join together with the heavenly chorus in praising God, who is wondrous yet calls us into relationship.*



## Words of Institution



### Lord's Prayer

*"We continue our thanksgiving by remembering especially what Jesus said and did when he ate with his friends before his death. We hear of his love for us—a love so great that he died on the cross. He gave his life so that we might receive his life."*

*Holy Communion Narrative for Children. 1989.*

**A: 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**

## ✠ DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD & WINE ✠

### Distribution

*Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, feeds us, his flock, on his own holy body and blood. Come to the feast of life, for all is prepared.*



### Lamb of God

*"It is time for us to gather at the Lord's Table to receive Jesus and all the blessings he has for us because of his death and resurrection. As we eat the bread and wine, he becomes part of us, forgives us, and makes us new."*

*Holy Communion Narrative for Children. 1989.*





**Distribution  
Hymn**

**In Silence We Wait**  
*ACS #998 (repeat 4x)*



Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957  
Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters  
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

**Distribution  
Hymn**

**Comfort, Comfort Now My People**  
*ELW #256*

Four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the subsequent staves contain the melody for the second, third, and fourth lines. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

**Post-Communion  
Blessing**

PM: Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others.

A: **Amen.**

## Prayer After Communion

*Having been strengthened with Jesus's body and blood, we ask for help to live fully as God's children.*

AM: Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.



## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Announcements



## Blessing

PM: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and (†) give you peace.

A: Amen.

## Sending Hymn

### *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

*ELW #239*

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751  
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

## Dismissal

*The assembly is sent out to do the work that God has entrusted to us.*

AM: Go in peace. Keep awake!

A: Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*You are free to leave during the Postlude or remain to enjoy the offering of music & praise.*



**Preaching Minister**—Pastor Dorothy Stein

**Pastoral Assistant**—Ellie Papineau

**Organist**—Cheryl Hewson

**Assisting Minister**—Dave Gabbert (8:00), Chris Hertler (9:30)

**Deacon**—Shelby Dvorak (8:00), Candace Stanton (9:30)

**Acolytes**—Frost Mackey, Jetta Brown (8:00), Rae Espinoza, Matthew Lauf (9:30)

**Ushers**—JD Thatcher, Colton Brown (8:00), Curt Glasoe, Rich Smith (9:30)

**Sacristans**—Peggy Fadness, Paula Loegering, Darlene Pelton, Marie Anderson

**Projector Tech**—Richard Benz (8:00), Audrey McMacken (9:30)

**Camera**—Ethan McMacken (9:30)



If you are worshipping from home and would like to receive a home Communion visit,  
or if you know someone worshipping from home who would like a visit,  
please contact the church office at 701-225-6747 or email Pastor Lisa at [lewton@stjohnelc.org](mailto:lewton@stjohnelc.org).

### **ADVENT HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER · Thursdays through Dec. 21st @ 7:00 pm (also via Livestream)**

The season of Advent is the dawn of the new church year and is regarded as a time of great anticipation around the birth of Christ. The heralding announcement by Archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive and become the mother of Jesus is at the heart of the Christmas narrative and beautifully set to music in the Holden Evening Prayer. (M. Haugen)



### **~ CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE ~**

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th:**

**9:30 am** · available on Facebook Livestream & broadcast on KDIX radio

**3:00 pm** · available on Facebook Livestream & broadcast on KDIX radio

**9:00 pm** · Candlelight service

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th:**

**9:30 am** · available on Facebook Livestream



### **~ GIVE AN ELCA GOOD GIFT IN DECEMBER! ~**

#### ***Honor or memorialized someone special with a POINSETTIA MEMORIAL!***

Funds given for a memorial pay for a few poinsettias that will adorn the sanctuary for Christmas. The majority of the money will go to purchase GOOD GIFTS that help families around the world.

This year we hope to raise enough funds to gift a

- **WATER WELL (\$2500) and**
- **a FAMILY FARM (\$715)!**

Forms are available at the sanctuary entrance tables or on our website.

A list of memorials given by December 17th will be available at Christmas Worship services.

#### ***Church School students are filling their barns to purchase additional animals!***

Empty your change jars and give a gift of a pig, cow, goat, chickens, etc. that will feed families with eggs, milk and meat.

Banks are available in the Commons area & the basement. Anyone is welcome to take a bank home to fill!

There will be a collection basket for these banks on Wed., Dec. 13th & Sun., Dec. 17th.

You can also drop them off at the church office during office hours.

#### ***Pick an ornament from the GOOD GIFTS tree!***

The tree of GOOD GIFTS is located in the Commons area. Choose an ornament that depicts a gift you would like to give.

Complete a check to St. John with info in the memo line—"Good Gifts & your gift (ex. cow)".

Take your ornament home and hang it on your own tree. Pray for the families that will be receiving these gifts.



## OFFICE HOURS

Monday — Friday  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Phone: 701-225-6747  
Fax: 701-225-3069



## STAFF INFORMATION

Pastor Lisa Lewton  
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## Badlands Opera Project invites you to "A NIGHT OF MUSIC" · December 10th @ 7:00 pm

This concert is a celebration of the season with a community of singers joining together to sing your Christmas favorites and some new selections to embrace the season. *This event will be held at the Dickinson High School Auditorium* Purchase tickets in advance at [badlandsopera.org](http://badlandsopera.org) or click on the St. John homepage banner.



## SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS · December 17th @ 4:00 pm

The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told through nine short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and hymns. Brought to you by the **St. John Choir, Handbell Choir & Church School students**. Join us for treats & fellowship afterward—it's sure to warm your heart (& tummy)!

## EXCITING THINGS ARE COMING IN 2024!



### WELCOMING ASSOCIATE PASTOR MARY WIGGINS

In mid-January, Pastor Mary Wiggins will join St. John as our Associate Pastor!

***We can encourage & support Pastor Mary in prayer and care for her as she makes her transition and in her new role at St. John.***

Pastor Mary will be moving items during these winter months to make her new home in the parsonage.

### Mark your calendars ....

There will be a special service and  
**Pastor Installation on  
Sunday, February 11th.**



### DID YOU KNOW you can "pre-pay" your 2024 pledge in 2023?

Write on the memo line of your check and/or your offering envelope: "prepaid pledge" or use the last envelope in your contribution packet that is labeled as Prepay. This will indicate that the funds are to be listed as a contribution toward your commitment for next year, but it will be posted for tax purposes as a contribution during the current year. If doing this online, be sure to select the "Prepay" field when making your contribution.

### MAKING SENSE OF THE WORLD THROUGH GOD'S WORD

We will begin the work on the Ministry Initiatives that were introduced during the Fall Stewardship Campaign:

1. Expand Intergenerational Ministry and Community Partnerships
2. Sustain Ministry Excellence
3. Enhance Worship Ministry and Visual Arts in the Sanctuary



Have you completed an **INTENT CARD** to **EQUIP** St. John to complete these initiatives **and ENGAGE** in showing God's love to our neighbors near and far?

Information on the initiatives and intent cards are located in the Mission Corner and online (GIVE \ Make my Commitment). Complete your card today!

***Every gift matters.***

Visit us at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org) to learn more about St. John, programs and Worship schedules. Click on "**Subscribe to E-News**" from the homepage to receive weekly updates and information on how St. John continues its mission of "**Living in Service to Christ.**"

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