

# St. John's Lutheran Church & School



The Second Sunday in Advent

10 December 2023

## As We Gather

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

## Bell

### Prelude

### "Rorate Caeli"

*Jeanne Demessieux*

### Stand Hymn



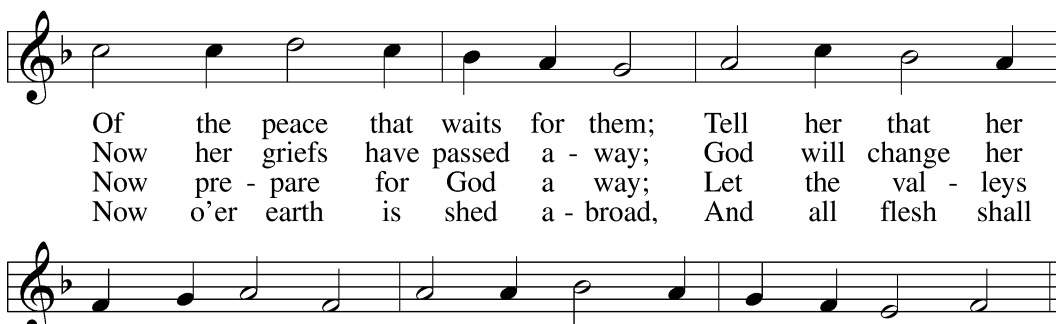
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall

sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Opening Versicles

### Advent

LSB 260

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;  
 C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
 C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- L Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
 C **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**
- L Prepare the way of the Lord.  
 C **Make His paths straight.**
- L Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down  
 righteousness.  
 C **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
 C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Kneel/Sit*

## Confession and Absolution

- P With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.
- C **Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!**
- P Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!
- C **If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.**
- P But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.
- C **Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.**
- P Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.
- C **Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.**
- P As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our home in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

*Stand*

## Old Testament Canticle

*LSB 261*

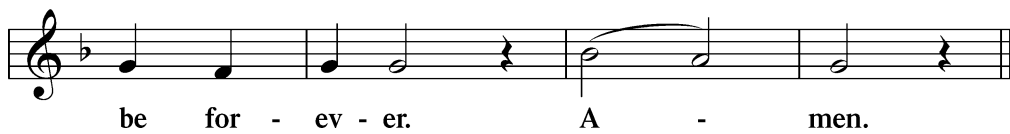
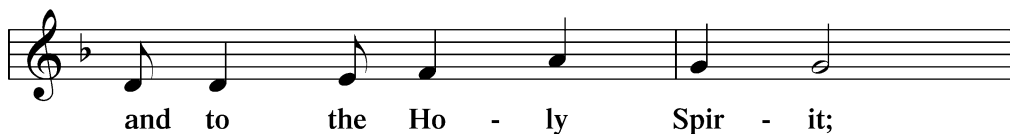
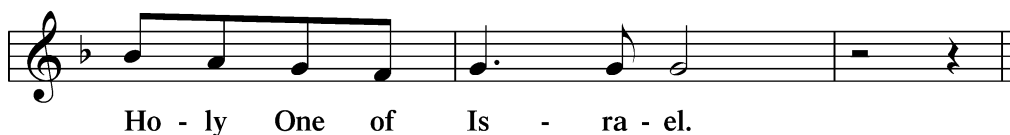
*Refrain*

■ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

With joy will you draw wa - ter from the  
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that  
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,  
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -  
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

*Refrain*  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - - tion.  
Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done  
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the  
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -



*Sit*

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Reading

*Isaiah 40:1–11*

⌌ A reading from Isaiah, the fortieth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<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.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
     O Zion, herald of good news;  
 lift up your voice with strength,  
     O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
     lift it up, fear not;  
 say to the cities of Judah,  
     “Behold your God!”  
<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
     and his arm rules for him;  
 behold, his reward is with him,  
     and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
     he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
 he will carry them in his bosom,  
     and gently lead those that are with young.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 85

A <sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
     you restored the fortunes of Jacob.  
<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
     you covered all their sin.  
<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;  
     you turned from your hot anger.  
 C <sup>4</sup>**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,**  
     **and put away your indignation toward us!**  
<sup>5</sup>**Will you be angry with us forever?**  
     **Will you prolong your anger to all generations?**  
<sup>6</sup>**Will you not revive us again,**  
     **that your people may rejoice in you?**  
<sup>7</sup>**Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,**  
     **and grant us your salvation.**



- A <sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.
- <sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C <sup>10</sup>**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- <sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.**
- <sup>12</sup>**Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**
- <sup>13</sup>**Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.**

## Reading

*2 Peter 3:8–14*

- A The Epistle is from 2 Peter, chapter 3.

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

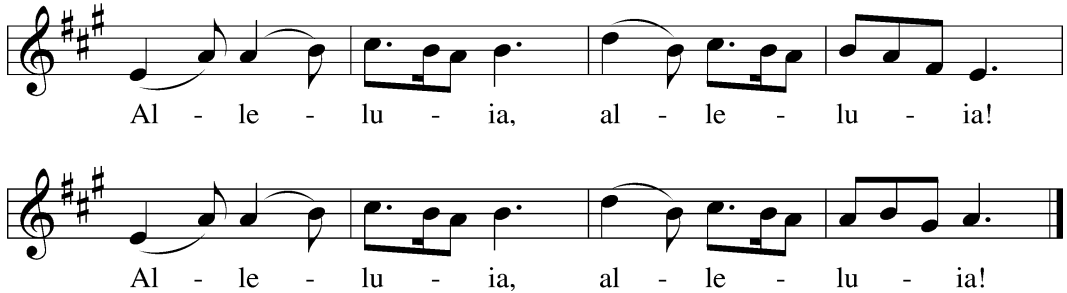
<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## 952 Alleluia – II



Text: Traditional

Tune: Fintan O'Carroll, d. 1977

Text: Public domain

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### Reading

*Mark 1:1–8*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Responsory  
Advent**

*LSB 263*

- L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**Baptism (10:45)  
Apostles' Creed (8:00)**

**The Cosich Family**

- C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## Lord's Prayer (8:00)

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.

*Sit*

## Children's Message

### 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*Rise on 5th verse*



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 Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
sets Thy peo - ple free, 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.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## "Angels of God"

*Pastor Weidler*

## Exchange of Peace

*All may share a sign of God's peace*

## Offering

*Stand*

## 934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

Text: Luke 1:46–55; adapt. Stephanie K. Frey, 1952  
Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug  
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708390  
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**Prayer**

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## Collect of the Day

- L Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

## Collect for the Word

- L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

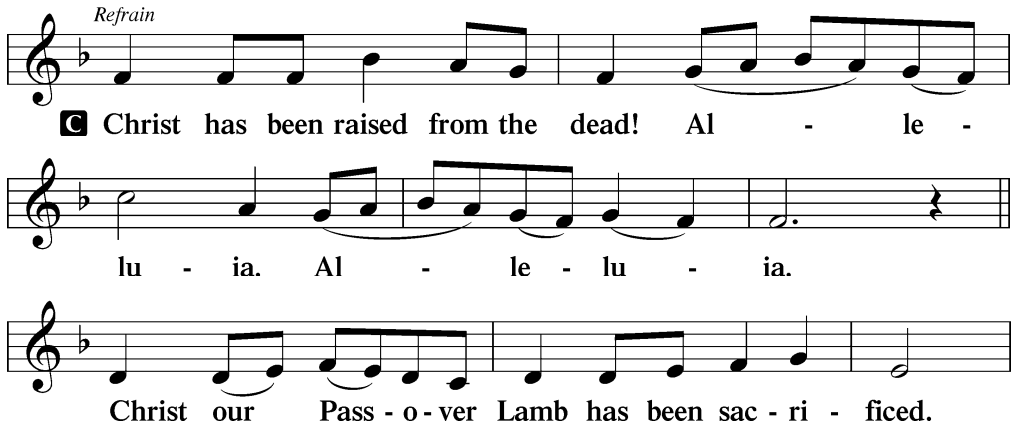
## Morning Prayer

- C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.**

## New Testament Canticle

LSB 266

*Refrain*



Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.

Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.

Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.

*Refrain*  
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He

lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to

sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

*Refrain*  
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



## Blessing

### Benedicamus

*LSB 267*

- L Let us bless the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

### Benediction

*LSB 267*

- L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.  
C **Amen.**

*Sit*

## Announcements

### Postlude

***"Ricarcare"***

*J. Pachelbel*

## Acknowledgments

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## Serving in Worship

**Homilist: Rev. Ronald Weidler**

**Liturgist: Rev. Mark Stapleton**

**Readers: 8am, The Campagna Family, 10:45, The Cosich Family**

**Director of Music: Mr. Gregory Ceurvorst**

**Flowers** are given in thanks and praise to our God for His magnificent gift of love to us.



## Mission Notes

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
TRUTH TRAVELERS (JR HIGH)  
ADULT BIBLE STUDY  
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP  
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP  
WOMENS' SMALL GROUP  
GRIEFSHARE  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY  
CHOIR PRACTICE  
CONFIRMATION CLASS  
PICKLEBALL  
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP  
TRIP ORDER

December 13, 20, 7pm  
Sundays, 9:25, Music Rm (Second Floor)  
Sundays, 9:25AM, Youth Rm (Basement)  
Sundays, 9:25AM, Heritage Rm  
Sundays, 6PM, Offsite  
Mondays, 7PM, Zoom  
Tuesdays, 8:45AM, Heritage Rm  
Tuesdays beginning September 26, 1:00 – 2:30PM, Heritage Rm  
Wednesdays, 9AM, Heritage Rm  
Wednesdays following 7pm Advent Midweek Services 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Music/Choir Rm  
Wednesdays, 6:00PM, Heritage Rm  
Thursdays, 6:30PM, Gym  
Thursday, 7PM, Offsite  
December 11, by 7:45am



## Behold the Child!

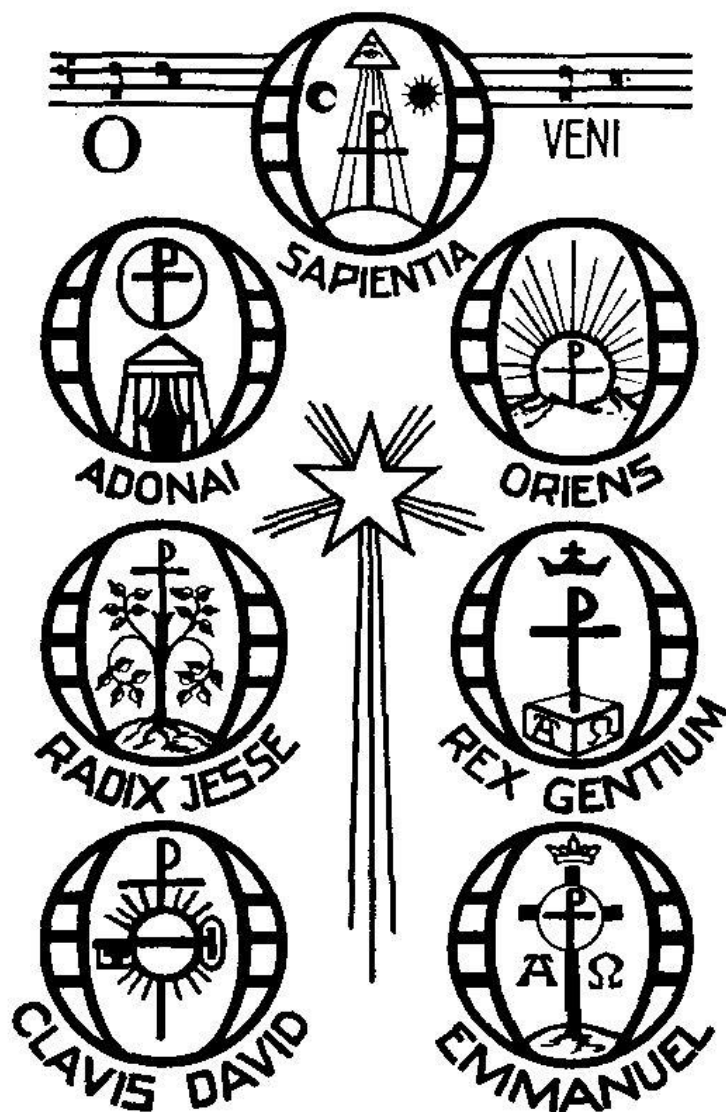
An evening of  
Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 10th, 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church and School  
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