

# St. John's Lutheran Church & School



The Third Sunday in Advent

17 December 2023

## **WELCOME - TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER!**

For baptized Christians (Matthew 28:19) who have been instructed in the faith (Galatians 6:6), The Lord's Supper is our participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16), as the one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17), to receive forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28) and to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

So that those who partake of the Lord's Supper do so in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27) and not to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:29), let us each examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28):

- Do you believe that you are a sinner? That you have sinned in thought, word and deed?
- Are you sorry for your sin?
- Do you trust that Jesus Christ gives forgiveness of sin through His Supper?
- Do you believe that the body and blood of Jesus are present in, with and under the bread and wine?
- Do you seek to lead godly lives by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Please speak to a pastor or usher if you have questions. Gluten-free wafers are provided upon request. Non-alcoholic grape juice is provided in the center of each communion tray. Those who are not communing may come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

### **As We Gather**

Advent is the season of waiting! As we wait, we have a special job to do. We joyfully get ready for Jesus' arrival by remembering the ministry of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to Christ, the light of the world. John himself was not the light, nor was he the centerpiece of God's plan to save the world; no, John's life was dedicated to preparing the way before the Lord and to get people ready for Jesus coming to the rescue of His people. In many ways, we are invited to be like John. Through our personal witness to Christ in our interpersonal relationships with others, God is working through us so that others will come to know His Son. Our goal is not only to trust in Jesus for ourselves but also to let the world know that He is coming to save them too. And His soon-to-come arrival will be well worth the wait!

### **Bell**

### **Prelude**

*"Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland"*

*J.S. Bach*

# 402 The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by an - cient seers,  
 2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!  
 3 O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en To know and love You more,  
 △ 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore You With God the Ho - ly Ghost



By God the Fa - ther giv - en, In hu - man form ap - pears.  
 He comes, the king a - noint - ed, The Christ, the vir - gin - born,  
 In faith to stand un - shak - en, In spir - it to a - dore,  
 And Je - sus, we a - dore You, O pride of an - gel host:



No sphere His light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly  
 Grim death to van - quish for us, To o - pen heav'n be -  
 That we, through this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en  
 Be - fore You mor - tals low - ly Cry, "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As He, our Morn - ing Star.  
 fore us And bring us life a - gain.  
 prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.  
 ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text (sts. 1-3): Elisabeth Cruciger, c. 1500–1535; (sts. 1-3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.; (st. 4): Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, 1524, Erfurt

Text and tune: Public domain

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### **Invocation**

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### **Exhortation**

*LSB 151*

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Kneel/Sit*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

### **Confession of Sins**

*LSB 151*

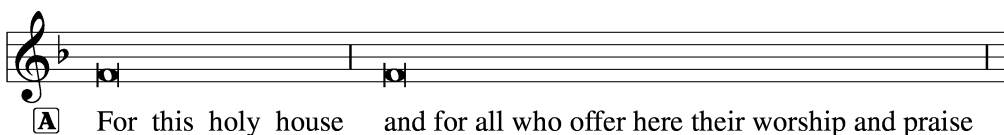
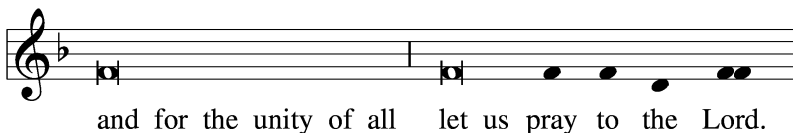
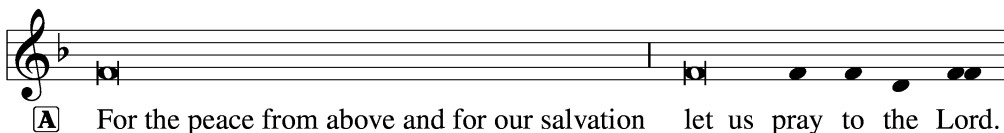
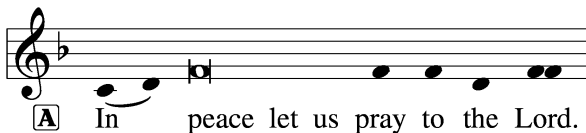
- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

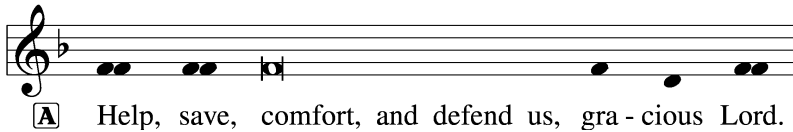
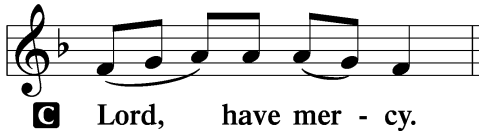
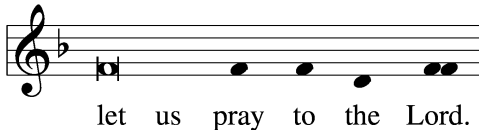
### **Absolution**

*LSB 151*

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

*Stand*





### Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*8:00, The Hemminger Family*

*10:45, The Smith Family*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 61.

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .  
<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

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

## Psalm

*Chanted at 8:00, spoken at 10:45*



- A <sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of | Zion,\*  
we were like | those who dream.
- C <sup>2</sup>Then our mouth was filled with | laughter,\*  
and our tongue with | shouts of joy;
- A then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”\*  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us; | we are glad.
- C <sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, | O LORD,\*  
like streams in the | Negeb!



A <sup>5</sup>Those who | sow in tears\*  
shall reap with | shouts of joy!

C <sup>6</sup>He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for | sowing,\*  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his | sheaves with him.

## Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

A The Epistle is from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5.

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit.  
<sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good.  
<sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may  
your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our  
Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the'. The second staff continues the melody with 'words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

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.

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

<sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## Children's Sermon



### 346 When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,  
 2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,  
 3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,  
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.  
 Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.  
 Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.  
 The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,



With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,  
 By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,  
 Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,  
 That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way



And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.  
 He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:  
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.  
 Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708390

Tune: Public domain

Sermon

*"How Straight Is Your Road These Days"*

*Pastor Stapleton*



*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

C I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Knee;/Sit*

## Prayer of the Church

*Response: Hear our prayer.*

*Sit*

## Music During Offering

## "Cries A Voice"

*John A. Behnke*

*Stand*

## 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*sts. 1, ref, 7*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

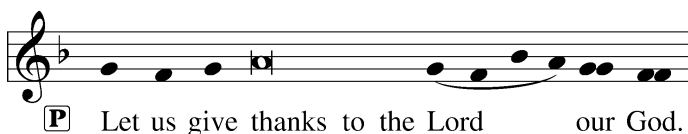
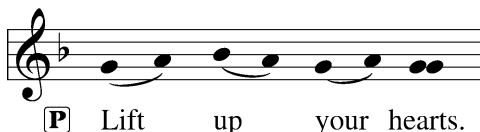
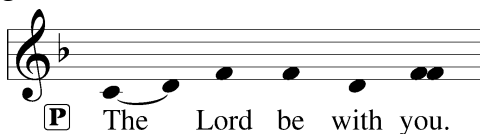
Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Preface

LSB 160

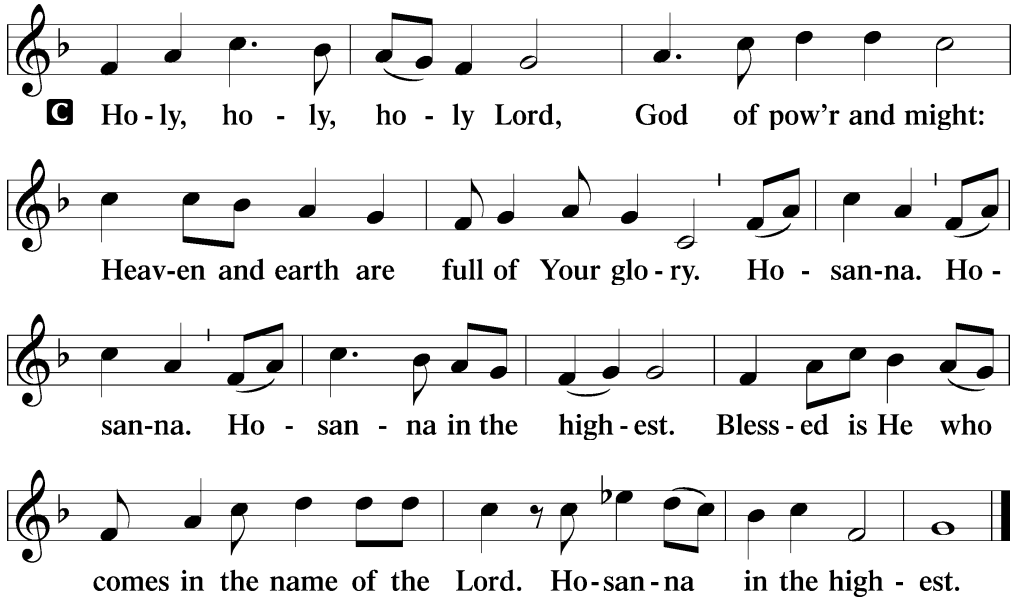


## Proper Preface (Full)

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 161



**C** 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.

### Pax Domini

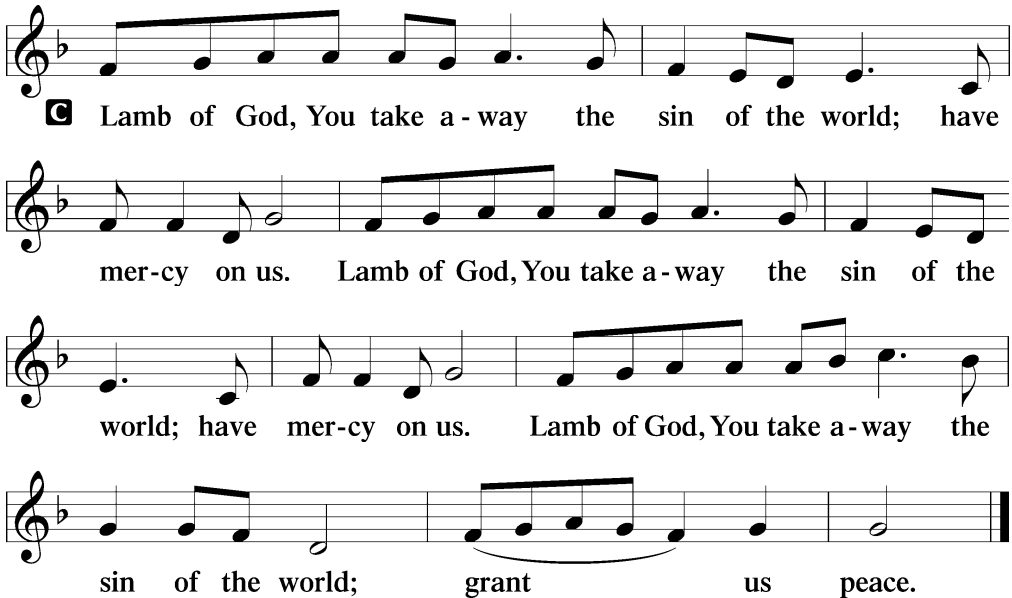
*All may share a sign of God's peace.*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

### Agnus Dei

*LSB 163*



**G** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*



### 332 Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,

That the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His  
 source, Back to God He ran  
 His course. Into hell His  
 road went down,  
 Back then to His throne  
 and crown.

6 For You are the Father's  
 Son Who in flesh the  
 vict'ry won.  
 By Your mighty pow'r  
 make whole All our ills of  
 flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn  
 light Shines in glory  
 through the night.  
 Darkness there no more  
 resides;  
 In this light faith now  
 abides.

D 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
 Glory to the Son, our king,  
 Glory to the Spirit be  
 Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973  
 Tune: Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
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 Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## The Dismissal

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve  
you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.  
C **Amen.**

## Thank the Lord

*LSB 164*



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

- A Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us  
through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You  
would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in  
fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.  
C **Amen.**

## Benediction

LSB 166

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C Amen.

## 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the  
near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -  
works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Text and tune: Public domain

## Announcements

## Postlude

## "Fugue in A Minor"

J. Pachelbel

## Acknowledgments

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## Serving in Worship

**Homilist: Rev. Mark Stapleton**

**Liturgist: Rev. Ronald Weidler**

**Readers: 8am, The Hemminger Family, 10:45, The Smith Family**

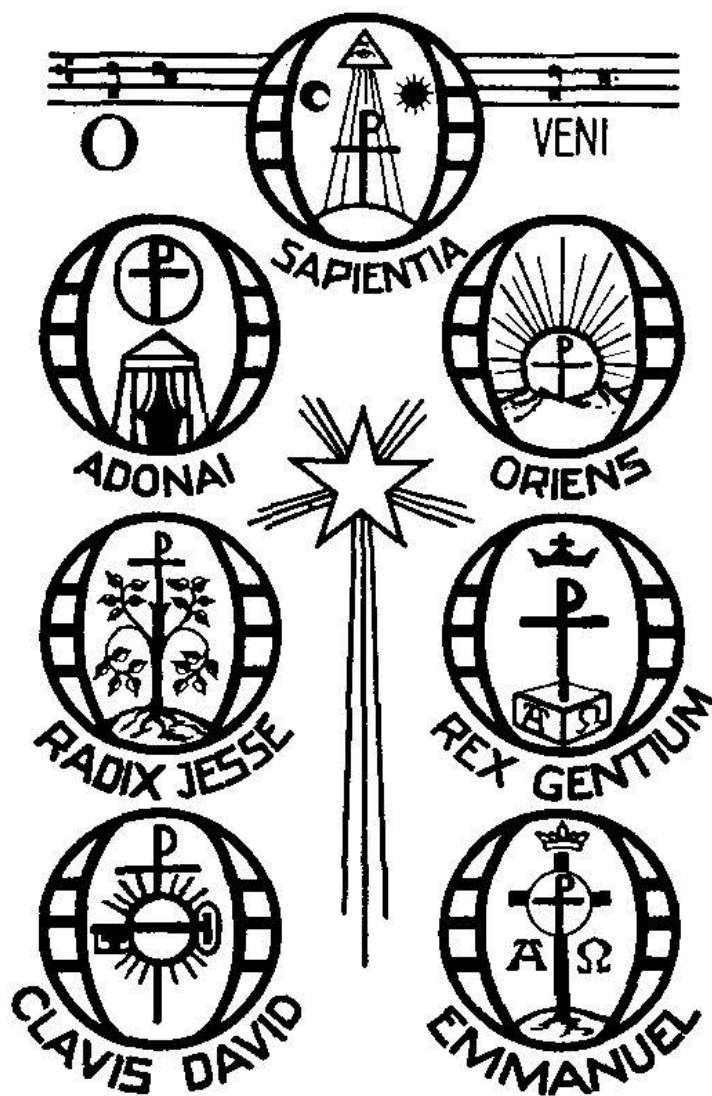
**Director of Music: Mr. Gregory Ceurvorst**

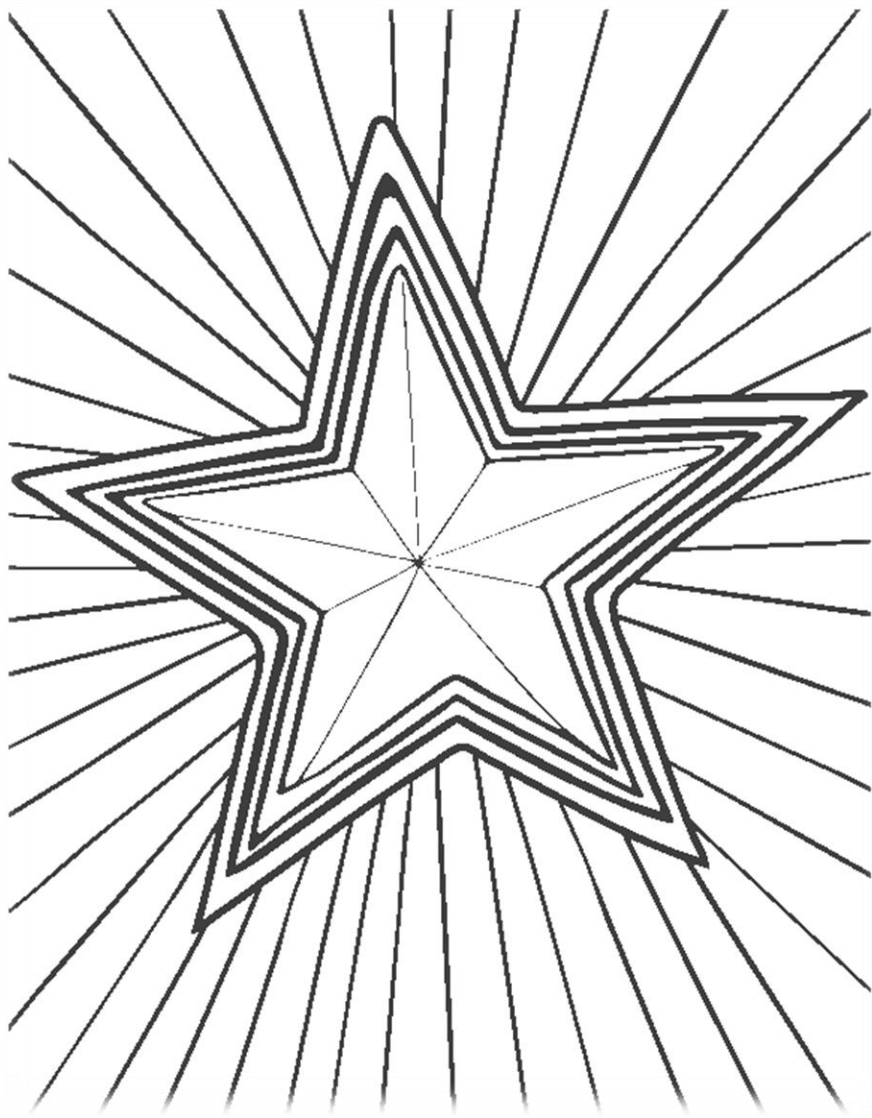
## Flowers

*given in gratitude that our Lord, Jesus Christ would become one of us, live among us,  
and ultimately sacrifice Himself to give us new life.*

## Mission Notes

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES	December 20, 7pm
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Sundays, 9:25, Music Rm (Second Floor)
TRUTH TRAVELERS (JR HIGH)	Sundays, 9:25AM, Youth Rm (Basement)
ADULT BIBLE STUDY	Sundays, 9:25AM, Heritage Rm
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP	Sundays, 6PM, Offsite
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP	Mondays, 7PM, Zoom
WOMENS' SMALL GROUP	Tuesdays, 8:45AM, Heritage Rm
GRIEFSHARE	Tuesdays beginning September 26, 1:00 – 2:30PM, Heritage Rm
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	Wednesdays, 9AM, Heritage Rm
CHOIR PRACTICE	Wednesdays following 7pm Advent Midweek Services 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Music/Choir Rm
CONFIRMATION CLASS	Wednesdays, 6:00PM, Heritage Rm
PICKLEBALL	Thursdays, 6:30PM, Gym
BIBLE STUDY/SMALL GROUP	Thursday, 7PM, Offsite
TRIP ORDER	January 8 and 22







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St. John's Lutheran Church and School

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