



“⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Matthew 24: 44

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2016

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*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2016

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

PRELUDE: *Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying* – J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

***LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF ADVENT**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You call all nations to walk in your light
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.
Rouse us from sleep,
that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.
Amen.

***ADVENT SONG #240:** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*, stanza one

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.
Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord
by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

God of all time,
we confess that we have not prepared
for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light
and to seek the things that will endure
until Christ comes again in glory. **Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven
and all things are made new.
Rejoice in this good news!
Amen.

GATHERING SONG #259: *Fling Wide the Door

***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.

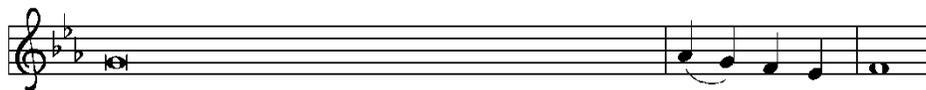
***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



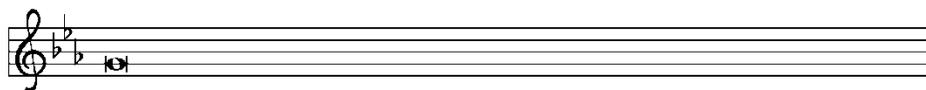
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



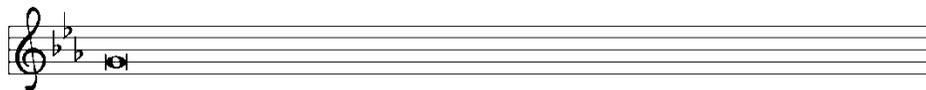
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

By your merciful protection

save us from the threatening dangers of our sins,

and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation,

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in that light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it. The congregation sings the verses in **bold**.

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

¹I was glad when they | said to me,

"Let us go to the house | of the LORD."

²**Now our | feet are standing**

within your gates, | O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.** **R**

⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:**

"May they pros- | per who love you.

⁷Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
I will seek to | do you good." **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. (Psalm 85:7)

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 24:36-44**

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON
SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY#436: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

***NICENE CREED**

**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.**

***REMEMBERING THE SAINTS**

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to eternal life,
we remember this day those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors.

O God, our help in ages past
and our hope for years to come:

**We give you thanks for all your faithful people
who have followed the light of your word
throughout the centuries into our time and place.**

God of life, we remember and give thanks for: Bob Humble, George Mendis, William & Laura Hespenheide, Clifford & Dorothy Foster, Jeffrey Foster, Wesley & Nannie Gordon, Otha & Hazel Robertson.

As we remember these your children,
strengthen us to follow Christ through this world
until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life,
where suffering and death will be no more.

**Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

For the church and its leaders, and for all who work for the unity of the gospel; that the compassion of Christ break down all divisions, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the well-being of creation, for mountains and hills, lakes and rivers, snow and sunshine, plants and animals, and for all who care for the earth; that God raise up stewards to protect this good creation, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For peace among nations, for those who lead all levels of government, for judges and magistrates, and for those who speak for the voiceless; that all are treated with equity and fairness, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are anxious and worried, for the sick and bereaved, for the homeless and imprisoned, for those in any need, especially Reed, Erin, Jim & Davena, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts; that the compassion shown by Christ be embodied in caregivers and advocates, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who gather for word and sacrament, for those who travel, and for our holiday preparations; that in all our activities we give thanks to the Lord, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the outreach ministries of this congregation, especially the upcoming Night in Bethlehem event, and for all those involved in the planning, preparation, and presentation of this program, that it may be a witness to the light of Christ among us in the community, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for those who have died and are at rest; that their witness to the gospel serve as examples of living the life of faith, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #715: *Christ, Be Our Light

All stand for the final refrain as the gifts are brought forward.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Savior of the nations, come.

Make your home here in us.

Feed us with your love,

that our faith shine ever new

and our lives reveal your light.

Amen.

***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 at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
 our Salvation and our Hope,
 we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
 When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
 you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
 At this end of the ages
 your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
 and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
 his life, death, and resurrection,
 we await his coming again
 in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
 and on this bread and wine we share:
 strengthen our faith,
 increase our hope,
 and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church,
 both now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.
Share in the feast of salvation.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN #438: *My Lord, What a Morning*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.
God for whom we wait,
you come to us
in the broken bread and the cup we share.
Make us ready always
to welcome Christ into our hearts,
and send us forth to be your people in the world,
announcing your coming among us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

***SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:
As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth.
In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those
to whom we bring this sacrament,
that through the body and blood of your Son
we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility,
sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await,
make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer,
at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son +, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG #244: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Now Let All the Heavens Adore You* – Wayne L. Wold

The flowers this week are given by Katie & Todd Niklewicz in thanksgiving for the baptism of their daughters, Emma and Ava.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Kelly Greb
Communion Assistant: Missy Kramer
Acolyte: Matt Claus
Lector:
Usher:
Attendance Last Week: 48
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$158,584.41
YTD Actual Expense: \$152,065.76

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward
Communion Assistant: Jim Ward
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:
Attendance Last Year: 74
Last Week's General Giving: \$ 2,384.74
Last Week's Designated Giving: \$ 723.26
YTD Receipts: \$ 135,024.38

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