



*"<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the  
wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"*

*Mark 1:2-3*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Second Sunday of Advent – December 10, 2017**

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The Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor  
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*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? 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**

#### **Second Sunday of Advent – December 10, 2017**

*John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

**PRELUDE:** *Prelude in 'F' –J.S. Bach*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The Greb Family will light the wreath this week for the 8:00 am service.  
Marcia Shepard and Viktoria & Makenna Lydon will light the wreath this week for the 10:30 am service.*

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 2**

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be light shining in the darkness.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

*Light two candles during the singing of the hymn.*

### **ADVENT SONG #240: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, stanza 1&2**

### **GATHERING**

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

### **\*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 HYMN #264: *Prepare the Royal Highway***

**\*GREETING**

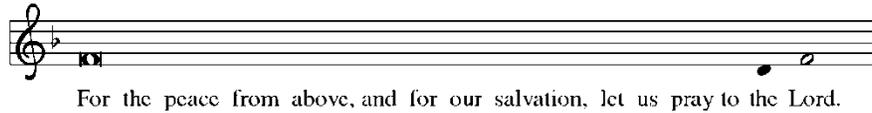
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

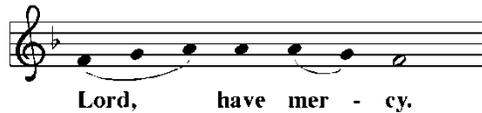
**\*KYRIE**



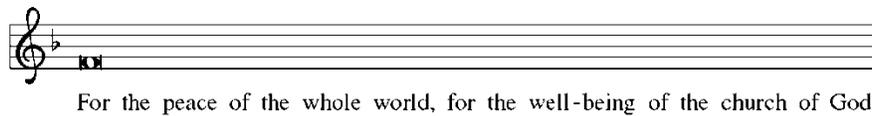
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



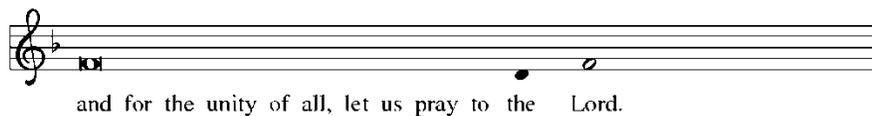
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



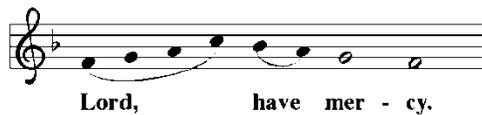
Lord, have mer - cy.



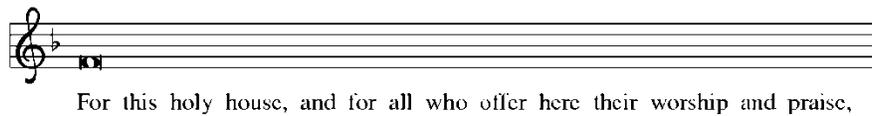
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God.



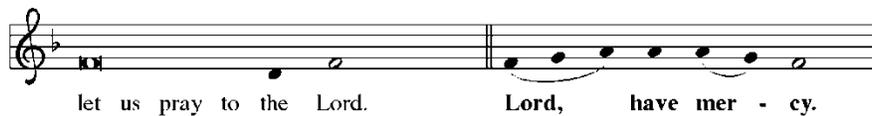
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



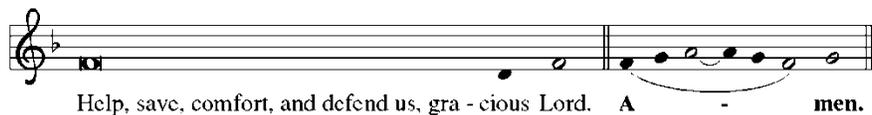
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 40: 1-11**

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.*

<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.

<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>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

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

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

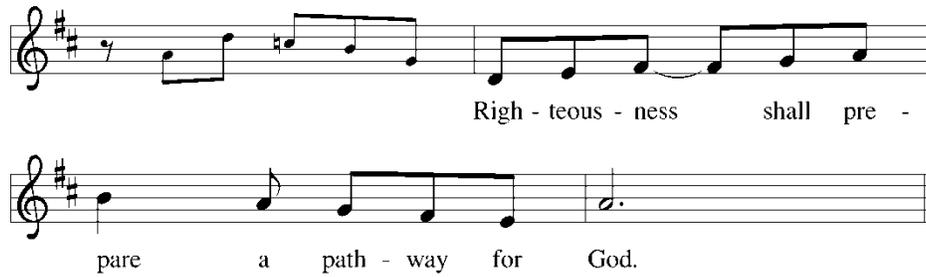
<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<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. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 85



<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people  
and blotted out | all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land. R**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look |down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R**

### SECOND READING: 2 Peter: 3: 8-15a

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading 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 ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**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**

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Carol, Amy, Carol, Jeff, Jim, Dan, Bill, Francis & Grace, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who are ready to help in times of crisis. Give courage to disaster and emergency response teams, police officers, nurses, doctors, surgeons, chaplains, and all who work for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 ANTHEM:** *He's Everything to Me* – Ralph Carmichael

### **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.**

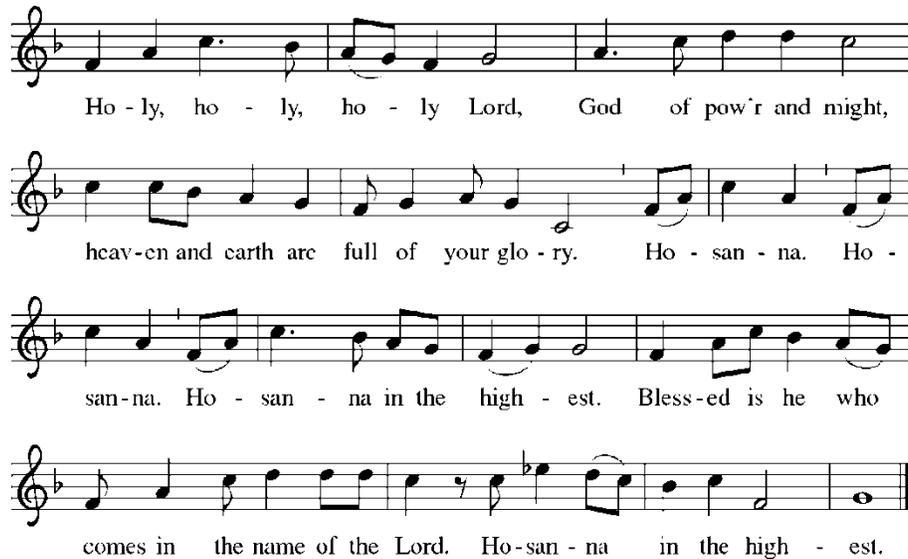
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 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.

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

**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.

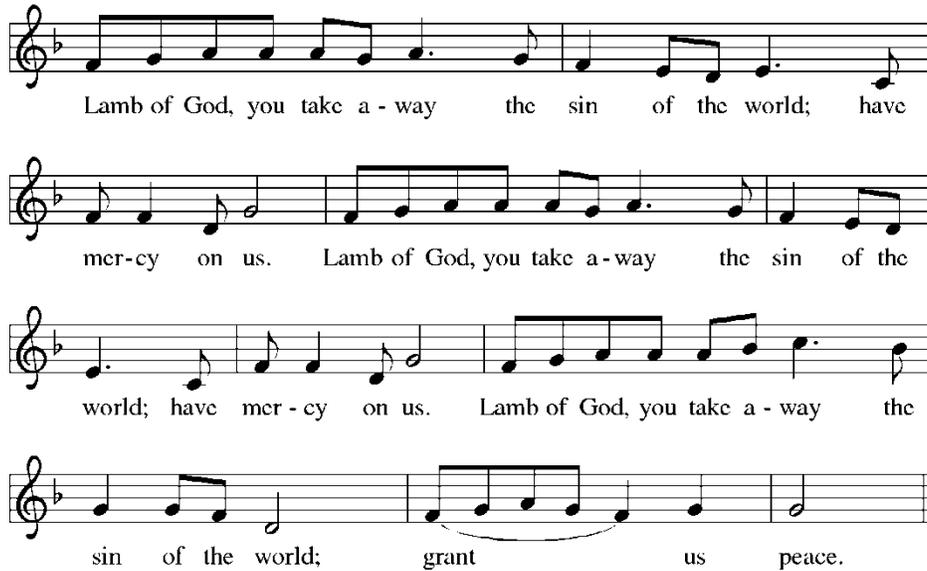
Share in the feast of salvation.

#### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.

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

**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.

**COMMUNION HYMN #266: *All Earth is Hopeful***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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 in mission to the world.*

**\*BLESSING**

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you  
and scatter the darkness from before your path.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #239: *Hark, the Glad Sound***

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace

Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *Fugue in 'F'* – J.S. Bach**

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The flowers this week are given by Larry & Amy Werner to the glory of God and in memory of their son, Charles, and their parents.

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Christine Dishong  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:** Danielle Dishong  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** Robert Dishong  
**Attendance Last Week:** 76  
**Weekly Budgeted Expense:** \$ 3,185.02  
**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$ 152,880.87  
**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 148,152.07

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Sally Foster  
**Communion Assistant:** Denise Hager  
**Acolyte:**  
**Lector:**  
**Usher:** John Fritz  
**Attendance Last Year:** 58  
**Last Week's General Giving:** \$ 1,029.66  
**Last Week's Designated Giving:** \$ 5,873.44  
**YTD Receipts:** \$ 147,330.24

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