

"²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven."

Mark 13:26-27

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Advent – December 3, 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

First Sunday of Advent – December 3, 2017

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

*Today we commemorate **Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552.** A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).*

PRELUDE: *Rigaudon* – Andre Campra

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Niklewicz Family will light the wreath this week for the 8:00 am service.
The Julio Family will light the wreath this week for the 10:30 am service.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 1

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

Light the first candle during the singing of the hymn.

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

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 #436: *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

***GREETING**

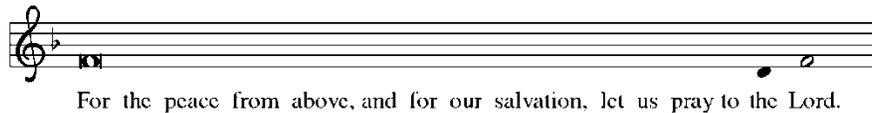
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

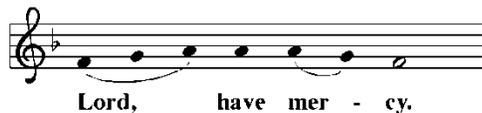
***KYRIE**



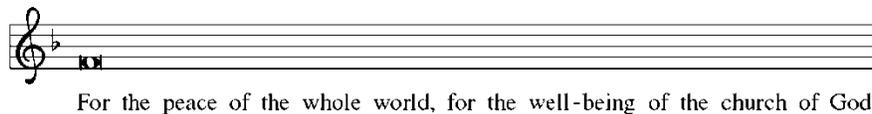
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



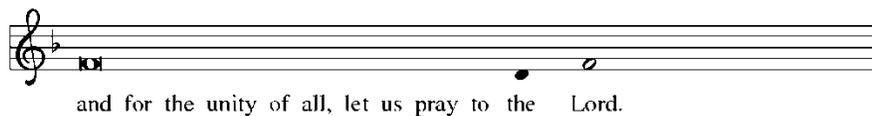
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



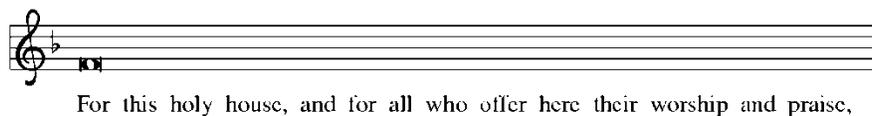
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God.



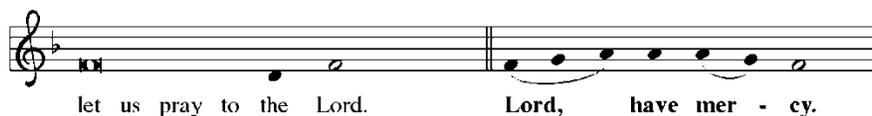
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



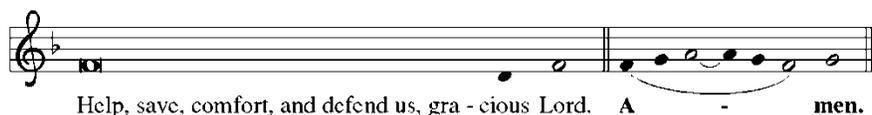
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, 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 64: 1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80



- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
- ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**
- ³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ⁴**O LORD| God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R**
- ⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
- ⁶**You have made us the derision| of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**
- ⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**
- ¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
- ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians: 1: 3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

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

*GOSPEL READING: Mark 13: 24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:]²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #435: *Lo! He comes with Clouds Descending

BLESSING OF ADVENT BANNERS

Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart these Advent banners to the glory of God.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe,
for you have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift;
you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children;
and you have invited us to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.
Send your blessing on these banners, which we set apart today;
may they adorn this house, show us the beauty of holiness,
and so proclaim the glory of your majesty.

To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

***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 Whitey Richards, JoAnn Richards, Duane "Duke" Richards, Fred & Rose Heinz, John & Myra Igersheim, Dennis Igersheim, Roy Page, Josh Rausch, Phil Riemer, Faith Naughton.

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

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

Give light to your people, Lord. As the darkness grows and we await the return of daylight, give new life to your church. Shape our communities to be faithful vessels of the gospel for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Restore your creation, Lord. You give the earth opportunities for both sleep and awakening. Thank you for the gift of restful seasons so new life may grow according to your appointed time. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace to the nations, Lord. Keep us alert to injustice and oppression, give us courage to cry out for what is right, and guide world leaders toward fairness and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for you. Be near to those whose lives are shaken, those who are experiencing loss, those who long for healing and wholeness, those who live with HIV and AIDS, and those who are in any kind of need especially 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 pray for child care workers, teachers, Sunday school leaders, and all who nurture and educate children. We give you thanks for their diligence and devotion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From ages past, your faithfulness has never failed. Shine your face upon us and bring us into the company of all your saints in light especially Charles Davidson, and the missionary Frances Xavier. 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 HYMN #253: He Came Down**

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'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*

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. The music is written in a single treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have'. The second staff contains: 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The third staff contains: 'world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the'. The fourth staff contains: 'sin of the world; grant us peace.' The word 'grant' is underlined with a curved line.

COMMUNION HYMN #715: *Christ, Be Our Light*

***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 #260: *The King Shall Come

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Pavane* – William Byrd

The flowers this week are given by Larry & Amy Werner for the glory of God and in honor of their children and grandchildren.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister:	Christine Dishong
Communion Assistant:	
Acolyte:	Emma Niklewicz
Lector:	
Usher:	Robert Dishong & Danielle Dishong
Attendance Last Week:	50
Weekly Budgeted Expense:	\$ 3,185.02
YTD Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 149,695.85
YTD Actual Expense:	\$ 146,970.18

10:30 am

Assisting Minister:	Sally Foster
Communion Assistant:	Denise Hager
Acolyte:	
Lector:	
Usher:	John Fritz
Attendance Last Year:	59
Last Week's General Giving:	\$ 1,029.66
Last Week's Designated Giving:	\$ 72.35
YTD Receipts:	\$ 140,870.77

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