

*[John said] <sup>16</sup>“I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

*Luke 3:16*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Third Sunday of Advent – December 16, 2018**

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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 if you are able when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **Third Sunday of Advent – December 16, 2018**

*The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

*Today we commemorate Las Posadas (LLC). This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.*

**PRELUDE:** *Advent Wreath II* – Paul Hamill

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

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

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 3 – 8:00 am – Bob & Sherry Davidson**  
**10:30 am – Cardinal Family**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom  
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.  
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.  
Strengthen our hearts  
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.  
May he give water to all who thirst,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**

*Light the first, second and third candles during the singing of the hymn.*

**ADVENT SONG #240: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, stanzas 1, 2 & 3**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,  
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,  
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

**Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,  
**We lift up our souls.**  
**You know us through and through;**  
**we confess our sins to you.**  
**Remember not our sins;**  
**remember us with your steadfast love.**  
**show us your ways;**

**teach us your paths;  
and lead us in justice and truth,  
for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy  
and draw water from the well of salvation.  
Remember the gift of baptism:  
your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus;  
you belong to Christ;  
you are anointed to serve.  
Stand up and raise your heads!  
The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

**\* GATHERING SONG #242: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

**\*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.**

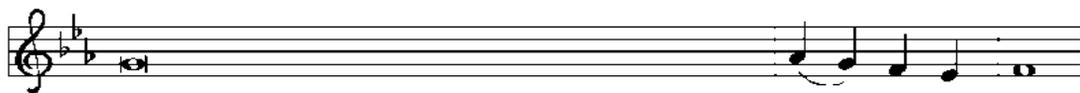
**\*KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



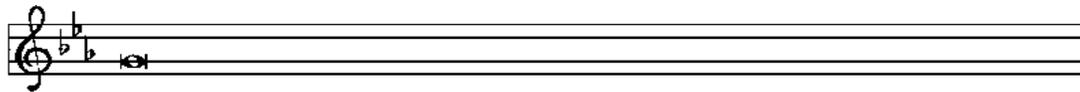
Lord, have mer - cy.



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**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

A reading from Zephaniah.

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
 shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
 O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
 he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
 you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
 Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
 a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.  
 I will remove disaster from you,  
 so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
 at that time.  
 And I will save the lame  
 and gather the outcast,  
 and I will change their shame into praise  
 and renown in all the earth.  
<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
 at the time when I gather you;  
 for I will make you renowned and praised  
 among all the peoples of the earth,  
 when I restore your fortunes  
 before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM – ISAIAH 12:2-6**



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,  
 for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.  
<sup>3</sup>**With joy you | will draw water  
 from the wells | of salvation. R**  
<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;  
 make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name | is exalted.  
<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;  
 let this be known in | all the earth.**  
<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,  
 for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. **R**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

A reading from Philippians.

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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.  
*Repeat alleluia*

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one “who is coming.” John teaches that preparation for God’s reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”

<sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\* HYMN OF THE DAY #249: *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry***

**\*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

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums. Increase our love for the land. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and all who are sick especially Bob, Karen, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Frieda, Kim, Bill, Francis & Grace, David & Ellen; those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our heart. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory. Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light, and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY HYMN #262** – *Wait for the Lord* Please stand.

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,  
God of abundance,  
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.  
Teach us patience and hope  
as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

**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 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'S PRAYER

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

Hunger no more. Thirst no more.

Come to the banquet of life

*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. Gluten free wafers are available.*

## COMMUNION

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

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 melodic line on a treble clef staff. 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 -'. The fourth staff contains: 'way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.'

## \* COMMUNION SONG #519: *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*

**\*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,  
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day  
when the hungry will be fed with good things.  
Send us forth to make known your deeds  
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

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

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Advent Wreath III* – Paul Hamill

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Christine Dishong

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:** Robert Dishong

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:** Denise Hager

Keith Cardinal

Dominic Cardinal

Jim Ward

**Attendance Last Week:** 57

**Weekly Budgeted Expense:** \$ 3,088.92

**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$ 151,357.23

**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 166,884.88

**Attendance Last Year:** 61

**Last Week's General Giving:** \$ 3,173.53

**Last Week's Designated Giving:** \$ 294.29

**2018 YTD General Giving:** \$ 136,561.36

**2018 YTD Designated Giving:** \$ 100,525.73

**2018 YTD Receipts:** \$ 237,087.09