



*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall
rejoice and blossom; like the crocus.*

~Isaiah 35:1

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
3rd Sunday of Advent – December 14, 2025

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Mars, PA 16046-0411

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.

Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

You are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms as desired. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

***GATHERING HYMN** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (ELW 242)*



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

***GREETING**

Peace to you and welcome,
from the God who blossoms arid ground,
who rejuvenates barren relationships,
who fills empty cups.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God is here, and God sees through every defense that fools the world.
Since we cannot hide from God, there is nothing left to do
but to be honest with each other and humble before God.
So, in humility, we confess our sins.

**God, we have acted helpless,
even when you called us to action.
We have resisted your truth,
even when our lies were exhausting.
We have behaved as though we were alone,
even when you were beside us.
God, we have believed we were dying,
even when you helped us grow.**

God knows we can never undo the sins of this world.
The stories of a painful past still echo here today.

Yet before our first mistakes, God perfected the plan for salvation.
God forgives your sins, all of them.
Even when signs of our old lives remain,
God's forgiveness is still at work.
God sets us free to chart a new path.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

These Advent candles remind us God's generous goodness, the coming of Jesus, the Spirit's fluttering joy. The growing light of the wreath represents our growing familiarity with God's purpose, where the stories we have heard and the traditions we have inherited help us recognize the signs of life around us. As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.



The first, second, and third candles are lit as we sing:

ADVENT SONG *We Light a Candle*

Music notation for the Advent Song "We Light a Candle". The song is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music with corresponding lyrics below each staff.

Staff 1:
We light a can-dle for hope___ and our world that's long-ing for hope
We light a can-dle for peace___ and our world that's long-ing for peace
We light a can-dle for joy___ and our world that's long-ing for joy

Staff 2:
We light a can-dle for hope___ and our world that's long-ing for hope Ho - ly One,
We light a can-dle for peace___ and our world that's long-ing for peace Ho - ly One,
We light a can-dle for joy___ and our world that's long-ing for joy Ho - ly One,

Staff 3:
___ shine___ with the fire of our lives oh We light a can-dle for
___ shine___ with the fire of our lives oh We light a can-dle for
___ shine___ with the fire of our lives oh We light a can-dle for

Staff 4:
hope___ and our world that's long-ing for hope
peace___ and our world that's long-ing for peace
joy___ and our world that's long-ing for joy

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

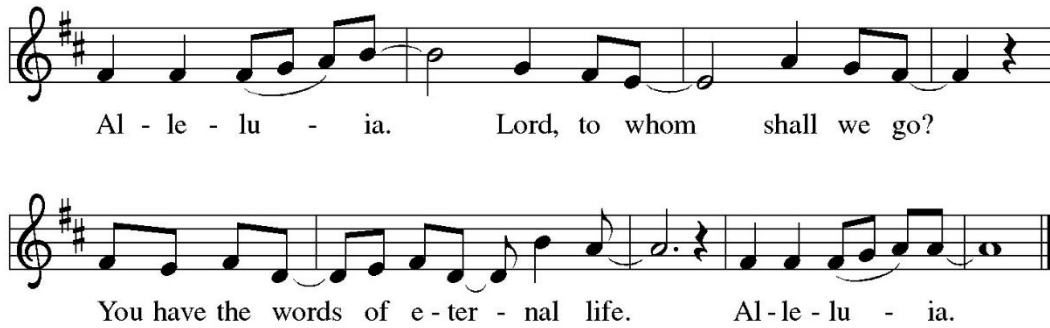
⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: THE MAGNIFICAT (Luke 1:46-55)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)

All

1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -

spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum-ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind-ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom-ised to

D.C.
weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

We now welcome these persons who wish to join with this body of Christ, the people of St. John Lutheran Church. I introduce to you Jim, Nadine, Rose, and Taryn.

Jim, Nadine, Rose, and Taryn, is it your wish to make this community of faith the people with whom you will share your journey of faith?

Is this the community with whom you wish to seek to make sense of your faith, the issues of your life, and who God calls you to be?

Is this the community where you wish to continue listening to the story of God's salvation and the Good News of Jesus Christ, and being nourished at the table of new life?

Response: It is.

The presiding minister continues with prayer.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these people
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism,
you have called them to yourself,
enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: We renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: We renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: We renounce them.

**The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.
The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

***AFFIRMATION**

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

Will you who are witnessing these promises, share the joys and sorrows, and do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ: Will you welcome these individuals into this faith family, embrace their gifts, their needs, and their dreams? Will you recognize that their presence and participation will change the shape of the body and help it grow in new ways? Will you support them in their journeys, and assist them in their ministries?

We will and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Jim, Nadine, Rose, and Taryn the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with our siblings in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. Hear us, O God.



When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, Mike, and all those on our prayer list. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. Hear us, O God.

Sung Refrain:

**O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside we yearn for you.**

God of life, you always hear our cry. Draw near o us, O God, and receive the prayer gathered before you now with the prayers on the hearts of this congregation today (*blue prayer cards are read*). Into your precious keeping we entrust our prayer. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *All Earth Is Hopeful* (ELW 266)



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell;
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co - a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad, dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Please pray with me.

**God, we cherished what we thought belonged only to us:
our money, our time, our families, and our freedom.**

Yet in this moment, we recognize that every truly good thing
is a gift given from your open hand.

**You bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that
promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and
unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. 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'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, as soon as you made humankind, you loved them.
From the first human mistake, you planned the path to salvation.
Yet even when you set clear signs of promise in sky or stars,
in the mouths of prophets, or the faces of newborns,
people still felt astonished to receive your goodness.

Jesus, at your birth your parents greeted you with wonder.
On the cross, your enemies crushed you, then marveled as you exuded grace.
And on the night in which you were betrayed, Jesus, you took bread and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to your disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, you 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.

And so we gather around this bread and cup, your body and blood
As disciples gathering to be in your community,
to be fed and nourished, filled with your grace.

Holy Spirit, pour yourself out upon this bread and this cup.
And fill those gathered here with your holiness so we may be
crumbs of your mercy and drops of your goodness.

Make us your people, who can never separate from you again.
Gather us into one 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

Listen to the promise prepared for you in this moment:

Even when you feel dead, you are alive;
even when you have done wrong, God forgives you.
And even when you feel unwelcome or unworthy,
Jesus brings you to the table where you can find new community.

Come and take your place at the feast that never ends.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN *Lost in the Night* (ELW 243)



1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
 4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
 riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.
 bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon?	Will not day come soon?
Will you help us soon?	Will you help us soon?
Christ is com - ing soon!	Christ is com - ing soon!
Come and save us soon!	Come and save us soon!

COMMUNION HYMN *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (ELW 726)

1 Light dawns on a weary world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a weary world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a weary world when crea - tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
 the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
 as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

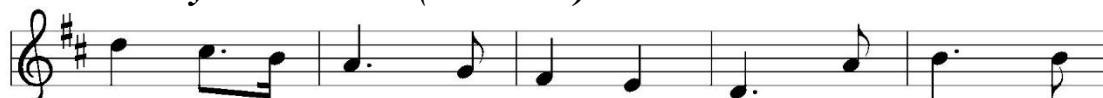
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

May God who comes among us, the blessed and holy Trinity, God the Sovereign, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

*DISMISSAL

“Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent me, I also send you.”

John 20:21

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Denise H

Acolyte: Cate S

Offering: Lydia M and Carissa M

Greeters:

Attendance from last week: 62 + 2 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Today's Music

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc..

We Light a Candle. Text and Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, Arr. Sherri Hansen. © 2016 Worldmaking.net (ASCAP) Used by permission. Licensed via CCLA, OneLicense.net and Worldmaking.net.

Magnificat. Words: Marty Haugen, © 1990 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

All Earth Is Hopeful. Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946, Music: Alberto Taulé. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press).

Lost in the Night. Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859-1943, alt., Music: Finnish folk tune. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

Light Dawns on a Weary World. Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953, Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951. GIA Publications, Inc.

Joy to the World. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16 *The sign of Immanuel*

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*

Romans 1:1-7 *Paul's greeting to the church at Rome*

Matthew 1:18-25 *A God near at hand*