



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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November 30, 2024

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Contemporary Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

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***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live,
Learn, Share, and Serve'***

5:00 - Contemporary

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of
Christian faith in our community, to all
generations, wherever they may be'*

First Sunday In Advent

AS WE GATHER

Though a full month remains before we turn our calendars to 2025, today we can wish a "happy new year" in the life of the church. The Advent season begins a new church year and is a time of preparation, as the Latin "Adventus" means an arrival or coming of someone. More than preparing for the coming of just anyone, here we prepare for our Savior. As we get hearts and minds ready for the Christmas crescendo to come celebrating Christ's humble birth, we also remain prepared in this season and always as He promises to come again.

Prelude

"Hope Has a Name"

Breaking through the silence With glory in the highest
The hope of all creation Resting in his mother's arms

A song on the horizon Ringing through the heavens

The long-awaited Savior

Come to set the captives free

Come to set the captives free

Come set us free

Hope has a name Emmanuel

The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness

All hail the King Emmanuel

The Light of the World The Glory of Heaven

We didn't see it coming The story of redemption

What started in a manger Ended in an empty grave

Oh I know that

Hope has a name Emmanuel

The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness

All hail the King Emmanuel

The Light of the World The Glory of Heaven
Come if you're broken Come if you're searching
If you need healing He's where you find it
Lay down your burdens And breathe in forgiveness
If you need freedom Yeah He's where you find it
Oh if you need freedom Yeah He's where you find it
Yeah He's where you find it oh

Hope has a name Emmanuel
The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness
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CCLI Song # 7163645 Jacob Sooter | Kristian Stanfill | Sean Curran
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Welcome, Sharing of the Peace

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. We hear again the first promise and prophecy made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin: ***"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*** The Lord has kept His Word through the

mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come.

G The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

P Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist: "Our soul waits for the LORD;

G He is our help and our shield.

P For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

G Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You."

The first Advent candle is lit.

Opening Song

"Gratitude"

All my words fall short I got nothing new
How could I express All my gratitude

I could sing these songs As I often do
But every song must end And You never do

So I throw up my hands And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah
And I know it's not much But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing Hallelujah hallelujah

I've got one response I've got just one move
With my arms stretched wide I will worship You

So I throw up my hands And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah
And I know it's not much But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing Hallelujah hallelujah

Come on my soul oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song 'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord

Come on my soul oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song 'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord

Come on my soul oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song 'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
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So I throw up my hands And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah
And I know it's not much But I've nothing else fit for a king
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Confession and Absolution

- P** As we begin the Advent season—a time of preparation for the coming of our Savior and a time of pondering God's great love for us given in His Son—we also prepare ourselves to come before Him in humility and with honesty. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** The prophet Jeremiah proclaims, "The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made. . . . And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"
- C** **We confess we have not rightly rejoiced in the promises that the Lord made and fulfilled and have instead found our fulfillment in the temporal things of our lives and this world. We have sought our own rightness instead of the Lord's righteousness. Forgive us.**
- P** Paul prays, "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, . . . so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus."
- C** **We confess our hearts are full of blame and unholiness. Our love has been misguided and our actions have been self-serving. We have not loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.**

- Ⓟ As Jesus speaks of the time of His return, He calls His followers to “straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”
- Ⓞ **We confess we have not remained ready for Your return, nor realized time is short for the work You’ve called us to do. We have prioritized other matters instead of Your Word, relied on other things instead of Your presence, and in our thoughts, words, and actions have chosen to live our way instead of by Your commands. Forgive us.**
- Ⓟ The Lord is our righteousness. He alone establishes hearts blameless in holiness at His coming. Redemption draws near. We are declared righteous, blameless, and redeemed because of the living, dying, and rising of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Ⓞ **Amen.**

Song of Praise

“King of Kings”

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,
'till from Heaven You came running. There was mercy in Your eyes.

To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,
to redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross.

For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died.

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath
'till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death.

And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe,
for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame.

Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel shall not faint.

By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free,
for the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me.

Praise the Father, praise the Son. Praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of Glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings.
Praise forever to the King of Kings.

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- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. From everlasting to everlasting You are our God, and You come to Your people. In Your Word and in the flesh of Your only-begotten Son, You come that we may know forgiveness, righteousness, and redemption.
- C** **Prepare us to receive You in this season and always, that our hearts may be made blameless and filled with holiness;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the

Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Message Song

"Even So Come"

All of creation, all of the earth
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord;

Jesus is coming soon.

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint,
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame.
Jesus is coming soon.,

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing.
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so come, Lord Jesus come.

There will be justice, all will be new.
Your name forever, faithful and true.
Jesus is coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing.
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so come, Lord Jesus come.

So we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait; You're coming soon.
So we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait, You're coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing.
Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing.
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so come, Lord Jesus come.
Even so come, Lord Jesus come. Even so come, Lord Jesus come.

Message

“A Season of Preparation” *Luke 21:25-36*

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



Lord's Prayer

☩ 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.

Blessing

☩ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

☩ Amen.

Sending Song

“The Lion and The Lamb”

He's coming on the clouds Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break As broken hearts declare His praise

For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Our God is the Lion The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him

Our God is the Lamb The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

So open up the gates Make way before the King of kings
The God who comes to save Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord Almighty

Our God is the Lion The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him

Our God is the Lamb The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

Who can stop the Lord Almighty Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty Who can stop the Lord?

Our God is the Lion The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him

Our God is the Lamb The Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before Him

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