



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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5:00 - Contemporary



December 7, 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.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service .

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

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

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

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

Second Sunday in Advent

Preludes

"Always"

I believe You gave sight to the blind
I believe that the dead came to life
I believe there were wonders and signs
And You're still the same

I believe every word that You said
I believe there are scars in Your hands
That Your goodness is good without end
And You'll never change

I will tell of Your wonders sing of Your grace
The God of creation knows me by name
The Lord is faithful yesterday now and always Always
Your mercy is mighty age after age
All generations will bow down and praise
The Lord is faithful yesterday now and always Always

I believe You will come in the clouds
I believe You are here even now
In Your presence I know there is power
Power to save oh

I will tell of Your wonders sing of Your grace
The God of creation knows me by name
The Lord is faithful yesterday now and always Always
Your mercy is mighty age after age
All generations will bow down and praise
The Lord is faithful yesterday now and always Always
You were You are You always will be God

You were You are You always will be God
Yes You always will be God

Your mercy is mighty age after age
All generations will bow down and praise
The Lord is faithful yesterday now and always

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“Prepare the Way”

Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord
Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord

Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus

Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus

You are the light of the world You are the light of the world

You are the light of the world Jesus

You are the light of the world You are the light of the world

You are the light of the world Jesus

You are the King of the earth You are the King of the earth

You are the King of the earth Jesus

You are the King of the earth You are the King of the earth

You are the King of the earth Jesus

Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord

Prepare the way prepare the way Prepare the way of the Lord

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Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship

Opening Song

“Holy Spirit, Come”

I'm coming with a heart of worship I'm bringing in a brand new song

I'm ready to see the unthinkable I'm ready for a miracle

Hearts praying for a fresh encounter Souls looking to the living God

I'm ready for a real revival O Holy Spirit

Come like a flood like a fire Holy spirit fall in this place fill our hearts
Holy Spirit come like a flood like a fire Holy Spirit come O Holy Spirit come
We're on the edge of a new beginning God we know You have so much more
We're looking to a new horizon We're praying for Your rain to pour
An overflowing of true redemption An overflowing of Your kingdom
We're ready for a real revival O Holy Spirit

Come like a flood like a fire Holy spirit fall in this place fill our hearts
Holy Spirit come like a flood like a fire Holy Spirit come O Holy Spirit come
Oh can you feel it Heaven is reaching Oh can you hear it Our God is speaking
Oh can you see it He's got your healing Oh just receive it Receive the freedom
Oh can you feel it Heaven is reaching Oh can you hear it Our God is speaking
Oh can you see it He's got your healing Oh just receive it Receive the freedom

Come like a flood like a fire Holy spirit fall in this place fill our hearts
Holy Spirit come like a flood like a fire Holy Spirit come O Holy Spirit come

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Confession and Forgiveness

Song of Praise

“Refiner’s Fire”

Purify my heart Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart Let me be as gold, pure gold

Refiner's fire My heart's one desire
Is to be holy Set apart for You, Lord
I long to be holy Set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will

Purify my heart Cleanse me from within
And make me holy Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin Deep within

Refiner's fire my heart's one desire
Is to be holy Set apart for You, Lord
I long to be holy Set apart for You, my Master

Ready to do Your will

Refiner's fire My heart's one desire
Is to be holy Set apart for You, Lord
I long to be holy Set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will Ready to do Your will

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-3

¹ "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:2-18

² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" ⁷ He said therefore 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? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹ And he answered

them, "Whoever has two tunics^[b] is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." ¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

📖 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Message Song

"Holy Water"

God, I'm on my knees again.
God I'm begging please again. I need You.
Oh, I need You.
Walking down these desert roads,
Water for my thirsty soul, I need You.
Oh, I need You.

Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips,
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears, like holy water on my skin.

Dead man walking, slave to sin,
I wanna know about being born again. I need You.
Oh God, I need You.
So, take me to the riverside. Take me under baptize. I need You.
Oh God, I need You.

Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips,
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears, like holy water on my skin.

I don't wanna abuse Your grace. God I need it ev'ry day.
It's the only thing that ever really makes me wanna change.

I don't wanna abuse Your grace. God I need it ev'ry day.
It's the only thing that ever really makes me wanna change.

Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips,
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears, like holy water.

Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips,
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears, like holy water on my skin.

Yeah, it's like holy water on my skin.

Oh, it's like holy water ...

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Message

“Fire or Finer”

Offering

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



Prayer of the Church

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.**

Sacrament

The Words of Our Lord

Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His

love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
- 2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
- 3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
- 4. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
- 5. Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
- 6. Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.

Distribution Song

"Make Room"

A family hiding from the storm found no place at the keeper's door.
It was for this a child was born: To save a world so cold and hollow.

A sleeping town, they did not know that lying in a manger low
a Savior king who had no home has come to heal our sorrows.

Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart?

Is there room in your heart for God to write His story?

Shepherds counting sheep at night. Do not fear the glory light.

You are precious in His sight. God has come to raise the lowly.

Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart?

Is there room in your heart for God to write His story?

You can come as you are. It may set you apart,
when you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for His glory.
Make room in your heart, make room in your heart.

A mother holds the promise tight. Every wrong will be made right,
the road is straight, the burden's light, for in His hands He holds tomorrow

Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart?

Is there room in your heart for God to write His story?

You can come as you are. It may set you apart,
when you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for His glory.
Make room in your heart, make room in your heart, make room in your heart.

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Blessing

P 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 T give you peace.

C Amen.

Sending Song

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Acknowledgments

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