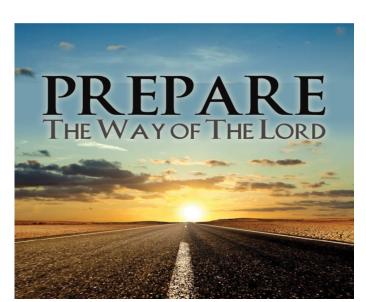


St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod 2888 W Houghton Lake Dr Houghton Lake, MI 48629 989-366-5164 www.stjohnhl.com office@stjohnhl.com



December 8, 2024



to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional 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

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

Divine Service One (pp 151ff)

A Time of Preparation

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

"Arise, O Christian People" LSB 354

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today; Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away. To us by grace alone The truth and light were given; The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best. Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav'nly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising, The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high; Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie. The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation And makes true preparation— It is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside, And help me to receive You This blessèd Adventtide. From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me; I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show. Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt Text: Public domain

Invocation

- In the name of the Father and of the Imes Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness

- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- **G** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination

- P Most merciful God,
- We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

- **P** The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
- "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."
- P Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
- O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
- **P** I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
- **Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**
- **P** But my people did not listen to my voice;
- **G** Israel would not submit to me.
- P Oh, that my people would listen to me,

- **C** that Israel would walk in my ways!
- **G** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy (Sung)

LSB 152

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- **G** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **G** Lord, have mercy.
- 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.
- **G** Lord, have mercy.
- For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mercy.

- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- G Amen.

Prayer of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray together...
- Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Sung

Luke 3:2-18

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.



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 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You. 0 Christ. **Children's Message** Message Song "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB 341 vs 1-3&5 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing. To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise. A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility, His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress. The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise. How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free. To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide! O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine. Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won. Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name. Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Message

"Fire or Finer"



LSB 159

Offering

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

Offering Song - Sung

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Apostles' Creed

G 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 **★** everlasting. Amen.

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.

Blessing

LSB 166

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 ♥ give you peace.



Closing Song

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" LSB 338

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. Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One and Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible*, *English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All Hymns from the Lutheran Service Book are used by permission and printed under the authority of LSB Hymn License.NET, no. 100011308.