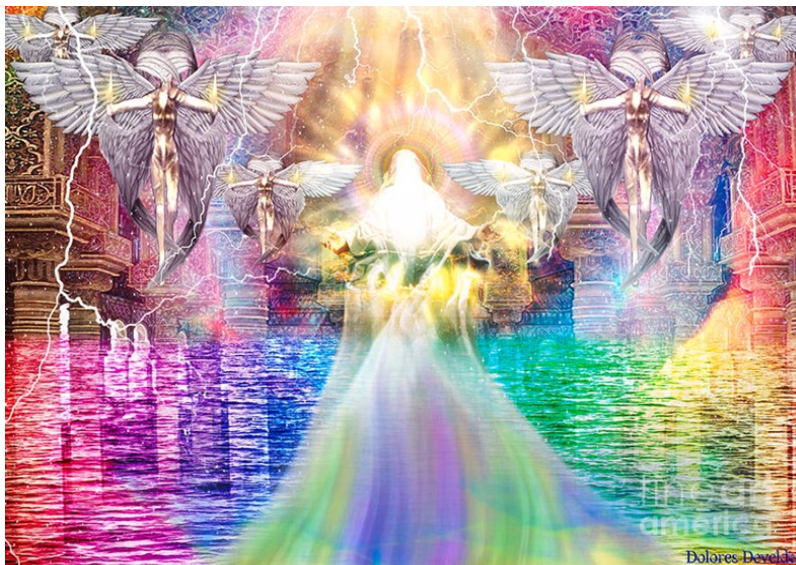




St. John Lutheran Church

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



December 15, 2024

Welcome

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.

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'***

9:00 - Traditional

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

Third Sunday in Advent

Divine Service Three (pp 184ff)

Prelude

A Time of Preparation

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" LSB 334 vs 1,4,5,6

O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.
Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.
Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing

Eternal life in heav'n.

He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Text: Public domain

Invocation

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ 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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

P Rejoice in the Lord always;

C again I will say, Rejoice.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C whose hope is in the Lord his God,

P who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

C who keeps faith forever;

P who executes justice for the oppressed,

C who gives food to the hungry.

P The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

C The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Gloria be to the Father *(Sung)*

LSB 186

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *(Sung)*

LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray together...

C Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *(Sung)*

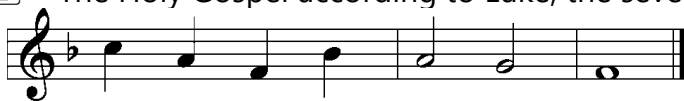
LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 7:18-28

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the seventh chapter.



C **Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed

sight. ²² And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus^[a] began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \times of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Message Song "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" (not in Hymnal)

Joyful, joyful we adore You, God of glory, Lord of light;
Angels lifting praise before You Sing thro'out this holy night.

In a manger lies a Baby – Child of Mary, Son of God.

Voices joined in joyful chorus
Praise You for Your gift of love.

All Your works declare Your glory; All creation joins to sing.
Praise resounds as earth rejoices In the birth of Christ, the King.
Shepherds kneel before the Infant; Trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted,
Joined in wonder, love, and praise.

Message

"Look no Further"

Offering

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



Offering Song - Sung

LSB 192

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up unto the Lord.
P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
P It is truly good, right, and proper ... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy *(Sung)*

LSB 195

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray: LSB 196

- C** 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.



- C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



- glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

The Peace of the Lord

LSB 197

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



- C** A - men.

Lamb of God *(Sung)*

LSB 198

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

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 Hymn "When All the World Was Cursed" LSB 346

When all the world was cursed
By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.
Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:
Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Song

“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice” *LSB 390*

Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav’n’s fair homes
We may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Text: German, 17th cent.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, 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**.

