

**Sunday Bible Class:**

9:00 am

**Sunday Worship:**

10:00 am

**Wednesday Bible Class**

9:00 am

**Holy Communion  
is celebrated on the  
First, Third, Fifth  
Sunday.**

***A member of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Proclaiming Christ 150 YEARS***



*the  
LORD  
IS GOOD  
and His love  
endures forever  
His faithfulness  
continues through  
all generations*

**Welcome**

**in the name of Jesus!**

*We're so glad to have you  
join us to worship our Lord!*

*If you are a guest with us  
for worship today, please  
introduce yourself to our  
pastor and stop by the  
registration book at the  
back of church.*

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

Olive & Gibson Streets

New Berlin, Illinois

(H) 217-488-3190

(C) 217-697-9567

**Pastor David Benning**

[pastorbenning@stjnb.org](mailto:pastorbenning@stjnb.org)

**Parsonage Hours:**

**10:00am-4:00pm m,w,st**

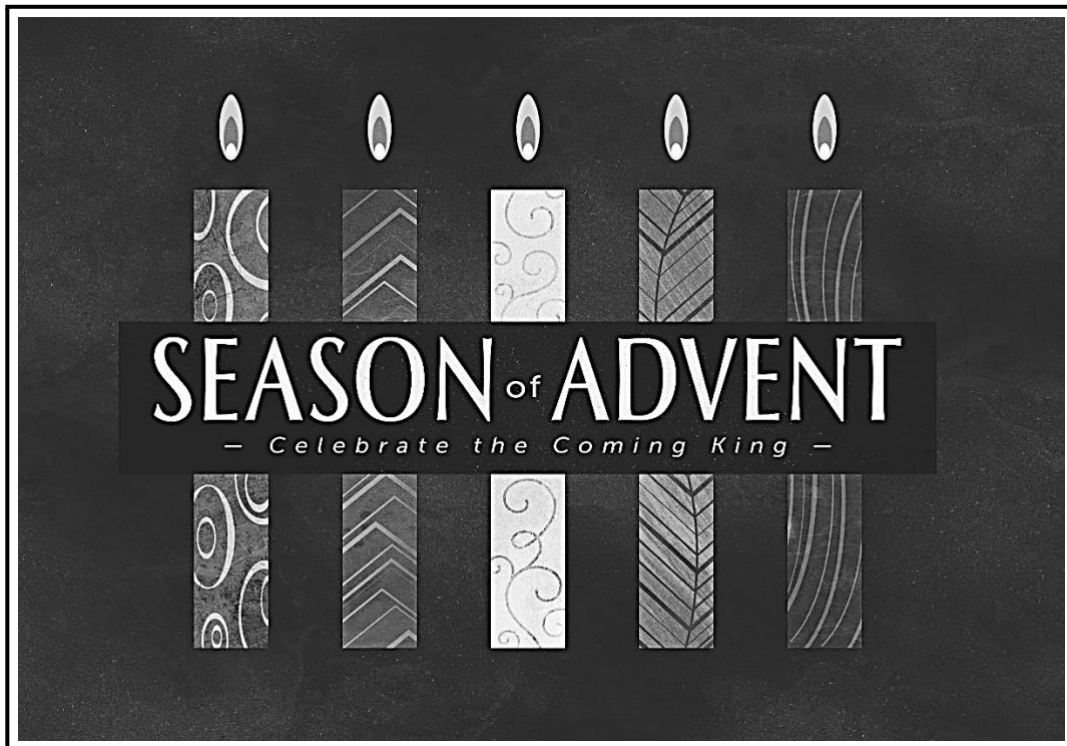
**Pastor is also available by  
appointment.**

**For Emergencies 24/7**

**Policy Regarding the Lord Supper**

Today our Family of Faith will celebrate the Lord's Supper. We believe Jesus Christ gives us not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites to His table the baptized who trust His words, repent of all sin, and forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. Any who are not yet instructed or who hold a confession of faith differing from that of The LCMS, are asked to please refrain from communing today.

✠ **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent** ✠  
**December 20, 2020**



**As We Gather...** Today we celebrate the Confirmation of Morgan Marie Bandelow, who will publicly acknowledge the faith the Holy Spirit has instilled in her at her baptism. Please join us as we confess our faith, along with her, as communicant members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. In our Old Testament lesson for today, we read about David's plan to build a temple. This plan would eventually lead to his son Solomon building a temple. It would also lead to the people of Israel ignoring God in their everyday life and only seeing Him at work in the temple.

## Opening Hymn:

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

LSB # 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

### Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalm 124:8*

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.**

*Psalm 130:3-4*

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together, as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*[Luke 18:13]*

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in his mercy has given His son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*[John 20:19-23]*

People: **Amen.**

## Introit

Shower, O heavens, from above,  
**and let the clouds rain down righteousness;**  
let the earth open,  
**that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.**

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
**and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.**

In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out  
like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
**and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its

*Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b*  
circuit to the end of them,

**and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

**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.**

Shower, O heavens, from above,

**and let the clouds rain down righteousness;**

let the earth open, that salvation

**and righteousness may bear fruit.**

**Kyrie (Sung)***Mark 10:47**LSB # 204*

**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**Gloria in Excelsis (Sung)***Luke 2:14; John 1:29**LSB # 204*

**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day***2 Timothy 4:22**LSB # 205*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading***2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as

formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure **forever** before me. Your throne shall be established **forever**.””

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle *Romans 16:25–27*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia and Verse (*Sung*)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

*John 20:31*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:26–38*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the First Chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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 of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message:

Hymn of the Day:

*For All the Faithful Women*

LSB # 855



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en Who served in days of old,  
2 We sing of Mar - y, moth - er, Fair maid - en, full of grace.  
3 O God, for saints and ser - vants, Those named and those un-known  
△ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



To You shall thanks be giv - en; To all, their sto - ry told.  
She bore the Christ, our broth - er, Who came to save our race.  
In whom through all the a - ges Your light of glo - ry shone,  
All praise the Ho - ly Spir - it, Who binds the Church in one!



They served with strength and glad - ness In tasks Your wis - dom gave.  
May we, with her, sur - ren - der Our - selves to Your com - mand  
We of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing And fer - vent prayer we raise  
With saints who went be - fore us, With saints who wit - ness still,



To You their lives bore wit - ness, Pro - claimed Your pow'r to save.  
And lay up - on Your al - tar Our gifts of heart and hand.  
That, faith - ful in Your ser - vice, Our lives may sing Your praise.  
We sing glad Al - le - lu - ias And no strive to do Your will.

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Sermon:

*Immanuel ~ "God with us"*

Pastor David Benning

**Giving Options:** There are several ways to give during this time we are not able to meet in person. One is the Give + app, which can be downloaded from your phone's app store. Our E-Giving platform can also be accessed from our website by clicking on the E-GIVING tab at the top of the page. In addition to these two options, we also have a locked drop box on the outside of church next to the bulletins.

## Rite of Confirmation:

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded You; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Pastor: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

Confirmand: **Yes, I do.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil?

Confirmand: **Yes, I renounce him.**

Pastor: Do you renounce all his works?

Confirmand: **Yes, I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you renounce all his ways?

Confirmand: **Yes, I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Confirmand: **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

Confirmand: **Yes, I believe 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.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmand: **Yes, 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.**

Pastor: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

Confirmand: **I do.**

Pastor: Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

Confirmand: **I do.**

Pastor: Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

Confirmand: **I do, by the grace of God.**

Pastor: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

Confirmand: **I do, by the grace of God.**

Pastor: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Confirmand: **I do, by the grace of God.**

People: **We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**

**Confirmation Blessing:** (The reading of Confirmand's Confirmation verse will precede the blessing.)

**Joshua 1:9** *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Pastor: **Morgan Marie Bandelow**, God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

Confirmand: **Amen.**

## Offering Prayer:

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Lord Jesus, You paid the ransom that redeemed us from the sin in our life through Your death and resurrection. Use these offerings to show others the payment You have made for us that leads to life through Your living Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of the Church

[2 Timothy 2:1-4]

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy . . .

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray . . .

Matthew 6:9-13

People: **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.**

## Preface

LSB 208

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

[2 Colossians 3:1]

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

[Psalm 136]

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord.

## Sanctus (Sung)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

LSB 208



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho- san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

People: **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei (Sung)

John 1:29

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

## Distribution Hymn

### What Child Is This

LSB # 370

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the  
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in His peace.

People: **Amen.**



## Nunc Dimittis (Sung)

Luke 2:29-32

LSB 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, The God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Lord Jesus, You took on flesh and blood, being born to give me life and hope. Thank you for giving me the gift of Your body broken and Your blood shed and for Your forgiveness and love. Use it to strengthen my confession of Your Lordship in my life, until that day when You come again in glory and with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to live and reign to all eternity. Amen.**

## Benedicamus and Benediction

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: **And with thy spirit. (Sung)**

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

People: **Thanks be to God. (Sung)**

Pastor: 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.

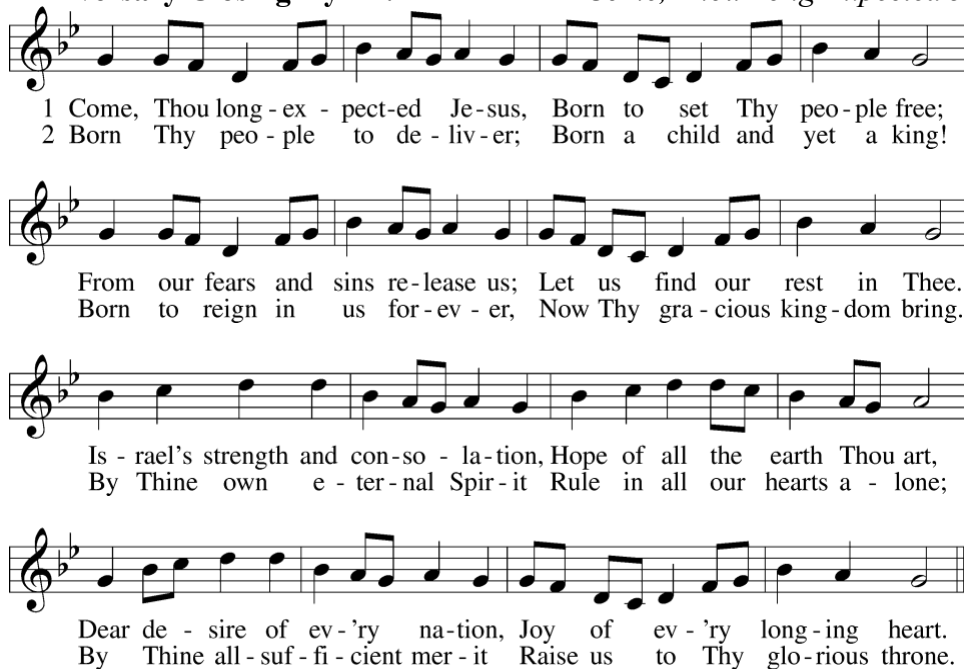
Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen, Amen, Amen. (Sung)**

## Anniversary Closing Hymn:

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

LSB # 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!  
From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

## **CHURCH NEWS**

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers are given by the Raymond Long family in celebration of Morgan's confirmation today. May this loving young woman be kept continuously in God's hands.

### **TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Today's lesson was entitled: "He Came, He Comes, He Is Coming Again" based on the birth of Jesus found in Matthew 24:30-31 and Luke 2. Don't you wish you could have been in Bethlehem that Christmas night? Just think what you would have heard and seen. Here, in the time and place we live, it's almost Christmas too. This same Jesus comes to us again. We can't see him, like Mary and the Shepherds did but he comes to us in our baptism and he is with us right now. Jesus also promised he will come again, and we will see Him face to face. In this season of Advent, we prepare for that too. ***For discussion at home this week: "The angels praised God and told the shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth. What are some ways we can follow the angels' example?"***

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the children and parents of the Sunday School who recorded the story of Jesus' birth for our upcoming online Christmas Eve Service and to those who shared their voices in song. Although we will miss the traditional service, we look forward to telling the Good News of Jesus' birth in this new way! ***The recording will be available for viewing Christmas Eve.***

### **PORTALS OF PRAYERS**

The January through March Portals of Prayer are available, on the landing, in the traditional pocket size, medium and large print. Sustain and strengthen your faith with daily devotions provided by Portals of Prayer!

### **MARY-MARTHA**

Merry Christmas to our fellow members of St. John's from your Mary Martha ladies!!! Ladies, please bring your Mites to church the next two Sundays. They are usually gathered and sent in at the December meeting. We want to submit our Mites for the 2020 year. Thank you! ***Our next meeting date is January 7!*** Devotions are by Karen and Mary is our hostess. The roll call is "I wish someone would invent..." Added to the roll call will be sharing who your Secret Pal was, and if possible, bring part or all of the gift you received as the mystery was revealed. It will be fun to share that joy! When we meet, it will be a new year to "dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have."

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Our church choir borrowed robes and were fully garbed for singing on Christmas.

### **ANNIVERSARY THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

What else could it be? Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing! Each of us, too.

### **LWML-CID Mission Grant Mite Bytes 2020**

No grants were awarded for the month of December.

### **KFUO**

**This week on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org),** we begin our special Twelve Days of Christmas programming full of sacred music, scripture, prayers, and special talk segments. Listen to this special programming for the Christmas season from December 24 to January 6!

# **For Advent 4: December 20, 2020**

A rocket took off from Cape Canaveral last month, transporting astronauts to the International Space Station. Before ignition, Mission Control called out the countdown: *Ten . . . nine . . . eight . . .*

In a passage to be read in our church on Sunday, an angel put a young girl named Mary on a countdown. He said, “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.”

The importance of any countdown lies in the event at its end. You can say *three . . . two . . . one* before you fly a kite. Still, the countdown before a rocket liftoff is more important than the same numbers being called out on a windy day in the park.

At the end of Mary’s countdown would come the birth of the One “called the Son of the Most High,” the angel said. “And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” This was important.

But how? Mary was a virgin. Answer: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Luke 1:31, 32-33, 35). A countdown takes on high significance *for you* when you have a personal stake in the event at hand. The stakes ran high for Mary. She would be the Mother of God.

Yet the Christmas countdown also anticipates the greatest of all blessings for you, and for all people. The Savior of the nations comes!

Miraculously, Mary believed. Whenever people believe this message, that is also by the Holy Spirit’s power.

God bless *your* Christmas countdown!

**Please submit bulletin information by Noon on Thursday.** Email Allicent Smith at [Sallicent@gmail.com](mailto:Sallicent@gmail.com) or call (217) 341-1757. Thank you!

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ANGEL  
MARY  
LORD  
ELIZABETH

GABRIEL  
REJOICE  
JESUS  
BARREN

JOSEPH  
SON  
CHILD  
HANDMAID

