

[JOHN THE BAPTIST] SAID, "I AM THE
VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN
THE WILDERNESS,

*'Make straight the way
of the Lord,'*

as the prophet Isaiah said."

John 1:23

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, PULASKI, WI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

AS WE GATHER: We hear John the Baptist coming to prepare the way for the Lord, whose earthly birth we are preparing to celebrate and whose coming again on the Last Day is the promise of resurrection and eternal life for all who believe. Between our coming to faith and His coming again, we are called to lives of faith that continue to rejoice, to pray, and to give thanks in every circumstance. We can do that because we have come to the light of our salvation and hope of eternal life. Now certainly it's easier to rejoice, pray, and give thanks when things are going well. It's another thing when we suffer illness or persecution, the reverses, challenges, and disappointments of life. Nevertheless, the Spirit of Christ seeks to enable us to do just that—to rejoice always, to pray always, and to give thanks to God always in all circumstances. This is holy living, constantly keeping the eyes of faith on the sure and certain Word and promises of God for His people, the God who blesses, keeps, comforts, and strengthens us every day. We rejoice with the psalmist, saying, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (*Psalms 118:24*).



OPENING HYMN **Savior of the Nations, Come**

LSB 332

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5) God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne & crown. | 7) From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the
night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides. |
| 6) For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul. | △ 8) Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity. |

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **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.
- C** **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.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

INTROIT

- P** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
- C** **and grant us Your salvation.**
- P** Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
- C** **for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
- C** **that glory may dwell in our land.**
- P** Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
- C** **and our land will yield its increase.**
- P** Righteousness will go before Him
- C** **and make His footsteps a way.**
- A** *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.*

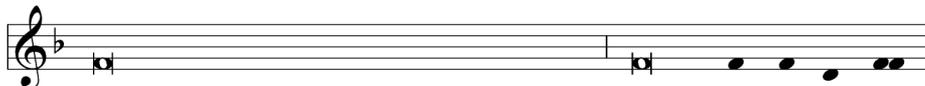




A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

A *Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.*

HOLY GOSPEL

(The testimony of John the Baptist.)

St. John 1:6–8, 19–28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



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SERMON

NICENE CREED

LSB pg. 158

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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each Prayer will end with: . . . *Lord, in Your mercy,*
 Reply with: . . . *hear our prayer.*

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

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P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

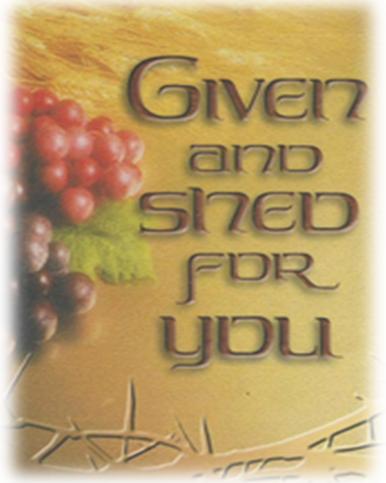
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

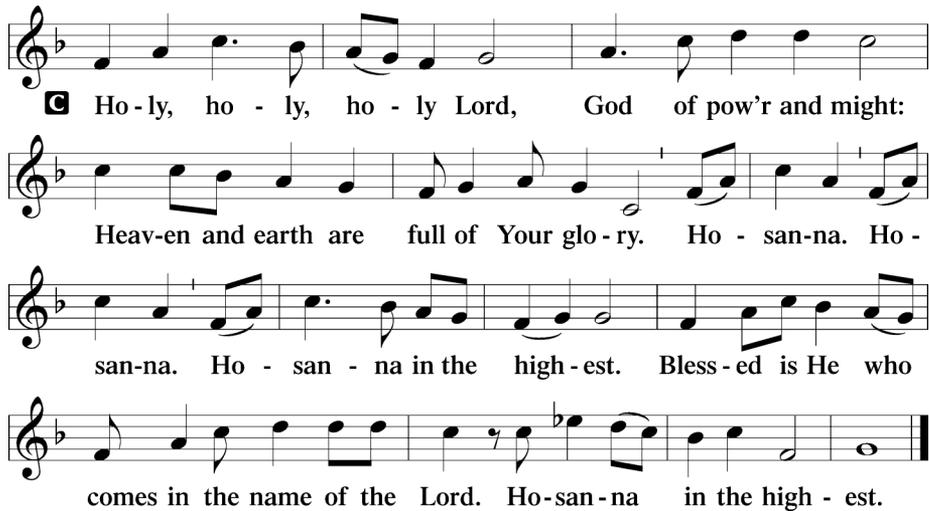
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary ...
 ... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth...one God, now and forever.
C Amen.
P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

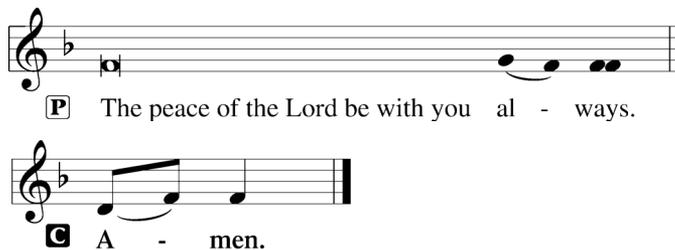
LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- A** 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

PAX DOMINI



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
C A - men.



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

Please remain in your seat until Pastor invites you forward.

If this is your first visit with us, please note our communion statement on page 14.

We also ask that you please speak with our Pastor before communing, thank you.

PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION:

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN Prepare the Royal Highway

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1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

HYMN On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Public domain **LSB 344**



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.





1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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 my 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.

THANK THE LORD

LSB pg. 164-165



G Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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.

C Amen.



CLOSING HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Public domain LSB 357



5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - jice! Re - jice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria!* ✠



REMEMBERING IN PRAYER

those in need of God's grace & mercy especially ...

Those in need of our prayers: Barb Dyer, Becky Haltaufderheid, Barb Harr Doug Kohlmeyer, Richard Lanke, Rev. Paul Pett, Jean VandenLangenberg and Bev Wagner

Our Shut-Ins: Bill & Willie Burmeister, Juliana Gerrits, Faye Hintz, Ray & Melba Stampfl, Cheryl Szccepanski, and Becky Ullmer

Special Prayers Request: We pray for peace for our nation & those effected by natural disasters, and for our world for a cure for COVID-19.

Our Military: We pray for **Jaidon Novinska** (Army), **Zach Marohnic** (Marine Reserves) and for the men & women who serve our country and for the sacrifices their families make so that we can all enjoy the blessing of freedom. May God's peace & protection be with them.

THOSE CELEBRATING...

Birthdays: Dec 14: Madalynn Maccoux, Caleb Palmer

Dec 16: Ruth Rynish, Clare White **Dec 17:** Lily Beaudoin, Randy Halverson, Jace Schroeder, Jack Schroeder, Olivia Sharkey

Dec 18: Jaylin Marohnic **Dec 19:** Laurie Wood

Anniversaries: Dec 16: Rick & Debbie Schlender



EXPLORING MOUNTAINS WITH DEACON JOHNSON

THIS ADVENT SEASON — WEDNESDAY AT 7:00PM

12/16 – Mount Zion

NOTE FOR THOSE DESIRING TO COMMUNE



Our practice of close communion is the Biblical & Historic practice of the Christian church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word & for His people since it seeks to prevent spiritual damage to those who do not recognize the true body & blood of Christ in, with, & under the bread & wine in this Holy Supper (1 Cor. 11:29).

Furthermore, it does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's deep concern for doctrinal truth (Rom. 16:17) & the Bible's witness that the Lord's Supper is the highest expression of fellowship & doctrinal unity (Acts 2:42). For this reason, guests who are not a member of a sister LCMS church are asked to please speak with our pastor or an elder before communing.

If you're not communing this morning, but still desire to come forward for a blessing; please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest so the pastor may give you a blessing.



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The Light Of The World



Light Display and Live Nativity

Join us for a drive through light display and live nativity in the parking lot of Saint John Lutheran Church

December

18th-20th

from 5-8
each night



Celebrate The Light Of The World with Christmas music on the radio, hot cocoa, lights and a live nativity, all free of charge.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Join us this Christmas Season

Rejoicing in the Hope we have in Christ our Newborn King

- * ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE: Wednesday, Dec 16th @ 7:00 pm
- * CHRISTMAS EVE
Thursday, December 24th @ 4:30 pm & 9:00 pm - Candlelight
- * CHRISTMAS DAY
Friday, December 25th @ 9:00 am w/Holy Communion