

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Liturgy: WS p. 22

The background of the central section is a photograph. It features a lit candle in a brass holder in the foreground, with a warm glow. In the background, an open book of hymns is visible, showing musical notation and lyrics. The overall lighting is soft and atmospheric.

Songs & SILENCE



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #66

"Hark the Glad Sound"

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

Confession of Our Sins

P Pastor

C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
P Let us pray.
C **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

- P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response

TLH 68:1, 6

C **♪ The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.**

**All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One, Through all eternity.**

The Introit

Ps. 135:1-5, 13

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD,
- C** **Who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!**
- P** Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to His name, for it is pleasant!
- C** **For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel as His own possession.**
- P** For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.
- C** **Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.**
- P** Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**



Genesis 18:1-15

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on-- since you have

come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰ The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵ But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."



2 Timothy 1:1-7

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.



Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ 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.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

✠ The Sermon ✠



Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰

and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

“Elizabeth, How did You Know?”

- I. That Mary had been blessed?
- II. That Mary’s Child was the Blessed One?
- III. That God’s promises would be fulfilled?



The Offertory

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✪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: TLH #52

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

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Election Meeting – St. John’s voting members are invited and encouraged to attend our annual Election Meeting immediately after church on Sunday, December 8. Agenda items should be given to Chairman Phil Strike as soon as possible. Nominees for the election meeting are on the next page of the bulletin.

Christmas Card Bulletin Board – In the next week, there will be a bulletin board set up downstairs where you are welcome to share your family Christmas card with the congregation.

Mission Society – The group has decided to do a holiday drive for the Helping Hand Pregnancy Center in Worthington and for our Christian Day School. Please stay tuned for details on how you can participate this Christmas season.

Grade School Basketball Practice will be held after church.

Ushers	12/1	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	12/8	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	12/15	Kendall B, Larry B
Cleaning	This Week – Fogelman, Ahrens (Wk. 3)	
	Up Next – D. & J. Voit, N. & K. Voit	

Nomination Committee Proposal

Election Meeting December 8, 2024

(Nominations also welcomed from the floor.)

Office	Term	Current	Tenure	Nominees
Elder	3 yrs	Allen Jensen*	19-24	Ron Strike
		Jim Kazemba	20-25	Brandt Wendland
		Regan Lueck	24-26	
Trustee	3 yrs	Josh Zuehlke*	19-24	Monte Rosen
		Nathan Voit	20-25	Duane Voit
		Les Ruthenbeck III	24-26	
Chairman	1 yr	Phil Strike	23-24	Phil Strike
				Ron Strike
Secretary	1 yr	Bruce Eigenberg*	19-24	Joseph Albrecht
				Christian Kazemba
Treasurer	1 yr	Nathan Albrecht	23-24	Nathan Albrecht
				David Schmidt
Education	3 yrs	Steve Winters	22-24	Mike Fogelman
		Rick Gustaf	20-25	Steve Winters
		Lloyd Kalfs	21-26	
Finance	2 yrs	Anthony Fogelman	23-24	Lance Baumann
		Mike Fogelman	23-24	Allen Jensen
		Duane Voit	23-24	Joey Jensen
		Larry Boernsen	24-25	Don Lueck
		David Schmidt	24-25	Duane Voit
		Ron Strike	24-25	Josh Zuehlke
Cemetery	3 yrs	Joe Liepold	22-24	James Albrecht
		Steve DeWall	20-25	Joe Liepold
		Craig Ahrens	24-26	

Name = present term is completed

*Six years completed or does not wish to hold the same office in the next term

** Appointed to fulfill another's term

"Only such members as have been voting members of the congregation for at least one year shall be eligible for election to a regular office in the congregation."
(St. John's Constitution, Section 5.07)