

**November 27, 2022  
9:00 a.m.  
First Sunday in Advent, Year A**

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***St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA***

**Reverend Maggie Westaby**

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**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
**First Sunday in Advent, Year A**  
Rev. Maggie Westaby

**WELCOME**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Prophecy Candle & Candle of Hope.*

God of Infinite Love,

May all see the Advent Wreath as a symbol of your never-ending love. May the Wreath be a place to acknowledge the blessings you give to us; the blessings of hope, peace, joy, and love. And on this Sunday of Advent, we pray specifically for hope. Hope for the return of Christ. Hope for our Advent journey, and the hope found in everlasting life in Christ. As it was because of Christ, birthed in Holy Darkness, that this hope was first made possible.

**Amen.**

*Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah Verse 1.*

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

God of new beginnings,

**We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths and we forget about your peace. We hurt one another and creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit, you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

## Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing,  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less,



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness,  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen  
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## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also, with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God,

Let your Word ring out from the mountains and your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear your teaching and all may do your will; through Jesus Christ our hope.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## Verses 1-4

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law;  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: Psalteriohase Cisterciensis Cathedralis, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French procession, 15th cent.  
Text nos. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Abundant God,

You make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these offerings and cultivate them into our ministry. May our offerings guide us, and inspire us to share your mercy and love for all in need. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

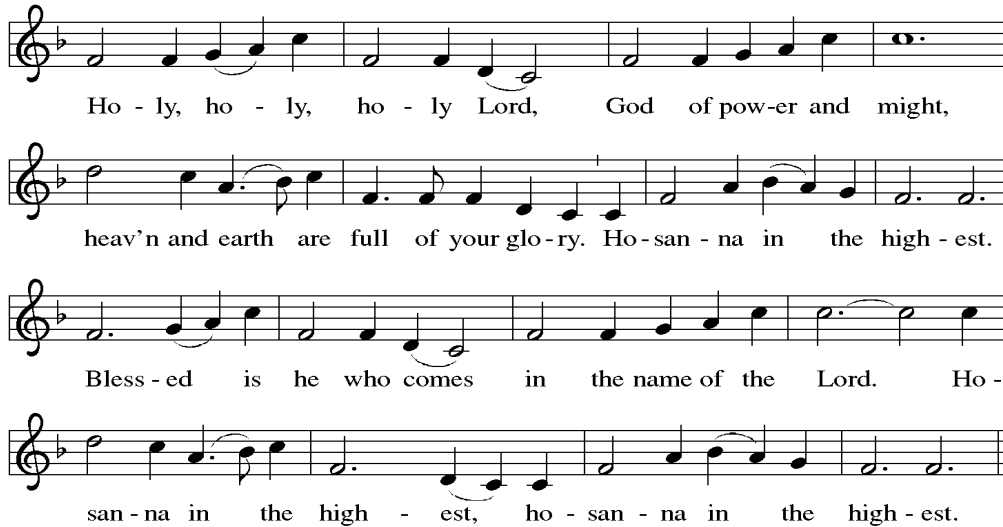
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

## 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.**


## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## COMMUNION HYMNS

## All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbia Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

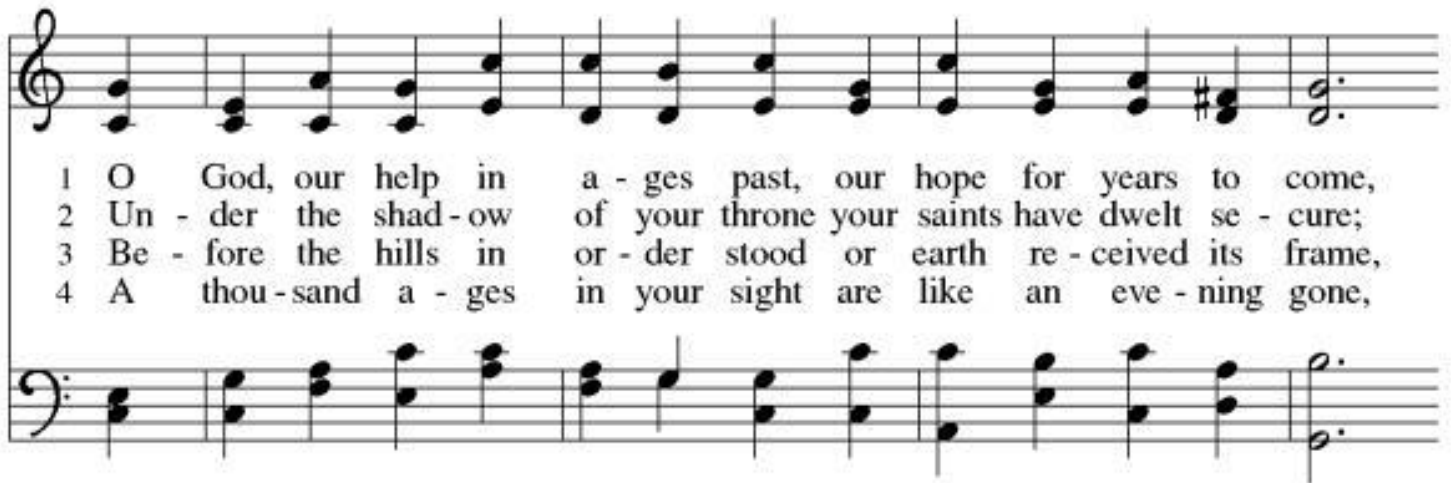
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## O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Faithful God,

In this meal you shared with us your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

May the Creator of the mountains bring you courage,

May the Light of Christ shine hope into your heart,

May the Spirit of Gentleness bring you peace as the winds swirl and blow, And may the Three in One ✝ infuse joyful blessings into each day,

So that your watching and waiting will glorify all of God's Creation. Amen

## **SENDING SONG**

## Spirit of Gentleness

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing;  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

*Refrain*



"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes,  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940  
 Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley  
 Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Welcome to all!** Today is the first Sunday of Advent and a new church year. Welcome to this rich season of worship.

A new church year, a new season, a new focus. Thank you, Creator God, for the coming weeks to prepare our hearts anew for the arrival of your Son. Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

**To those who are visiting:** Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

**Reminder!** If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John's at (715) 675-6950

**Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us.

**Food Basket.** Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Church Website!** St. John now has a new and improved website! Check it out at [stjohnwausau.org](http://stjohnwausau.org) Our website is a great way for non-congregation members to learn more about what it means to be a part of our St. John community. Please extend a HUGE thank you to Jayne Rowe, Ann Lyon-Ohrmundt, Shelley Kufahl, Lorie Anderson, Kim Landwehr, Mary Anderson, and Pastor Maggie Westaby, who all spent countless hours learning about web page design and how to develop and maintain the new webpage.

**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Pastor Maggie's Book Club will discuss the book, *Everything Happens for A Reason, And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler.

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** We will be decorating the church and the tree. Everyone is welcome to help as we beautify our sanctuary for Christmas. No need to reply, but if you have questions, please call or email Sue Harris.

**Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** This service is prayerfully cultivated for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time, and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. All are welcome.

**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Carmelo's. Sisterhood Christmas Gathering.** Happy Hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. Per tradition, the evening will end with a white elephant exchange. Donations for the Women's Community will also be collected. Please sign up in the narthex to help us plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, contact Brooke Schindler or Kelly Rosenau.

### \*\*Christmas Program & Fun Holiday Events!\*\*

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.** Christmas Program Practice during normal Sunday School hours.

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m.** Christmas Program Dress-Rehearsal.

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** Children’s Christmas Program & Worship Service. Invite your friends and family to attend and enjoy this St. John tradition! All are welcome for fellowship after! Please have children arrive to church at 9:40am that day to get into costume.

**Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** ‘The Star’ Pizza & Pajama Party. St. John members of all ages are welcome to attend this fun event! Come and watch the cartoon movie ‘The Star’ about the night Jesus was born. Enjoy pizza for dinner and make a star ornament! Wear your PJs and bring something comfy to snuggle with! Kids are welcome to bring friends if they’d like! **Pizza at 5:30pm. Movie 6:30pm-8pm.**

**Live Streaming and Photography Notice.** When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children’s sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

**Coming This Week @ St. John November 27 – December 4**

**Today**

9:00 a.m. Worship

**November 29**

8:30 a.m. Quilting

9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. meeting

1:00 p.m. Pr. Maggie @ Text Study

**November 30**

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

**December 4**

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Sunday School -- Christmas Program Practice

Evening Community Supper