



December 11, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Third Sunday in Advent, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Sunday, December 11th 2022
Third 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

Shepherd's Candle & Candle of Joy.

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 Third Sunday of Advent, we pray specifically for joy. Joy that comes when the desert blooms, and joy found even in the deserts of our lives. May your joy blossom inside all of us, and may creation rejoice in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah Verse 3.

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.

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

Abundant God,

In the places of our lives, and in the places of the world that are dry and dusty, we ask that you pour out the power of your Spirit. May it be a soaking rain, permeating every inch of creation, so that your Word may blossom in our lives and in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our way in the wilderness.

Amen.

WORD

READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and

the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name 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 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Hark, the Glad Sound!

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, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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 of creation.

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

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing. and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

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 God, our Creator blossom joy within you,

May the Holy Spirit bloom peace in your midst,

May Christ open up courage in your heart,

And may the Three in One ✝ always lead you on God's Holy Way

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Prepare the Royal Highway

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 may 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 will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing;
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Frånén, 1772–1847; in *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! The third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. “Rejoice in the Lord always,” says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship.

“Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear” (“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”). Your coming gives hope to this troubled world, and to my heart, O Lord.

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.

THANK YOU, FROM DUANE ASKEW AND FAMILY

We are humbled by the amazing out pouring of love and support the entire congregation has shown us during this difficult time. As our family grieves the loss of Patsy, all the wonderful memories, laughter and joy she provided will bring us comfort and peace. We are truly blessed to know and love her.

Thank you for every kind word, donations in her name and the support to our family during this time.

God’s peace and grace,
Duane Askew and Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PIE AUCTION SUCCESS! On November 20th, St. John held its annual pie auction. We sold 25 delicious pies with plenty of generous bidders and lots of laughter and fun. We are proud to announce that we raised \$1,077.00!! All of the money will be donated to two (2) deserving local charities. Half will go to Share Your Holidays and the other half to the Wausau Warming Center. Thank you to all of the bakers and buyers for a job well done. Generosity and kindness is alive and well at St. John.

Monday, December 12th 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 13th at 5:30 p.m. at 2510. 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!****

Saturday, December 17th 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m. Christmas Program Dress-Rehearsal.

Sunday, December 18th 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 22nd 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 December 11 – December 18

	<u>Today</u>
9:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School – Christmas Program Practice
	<u>December 12</u>
6:30 p.m.	Blue Christmas Worship Service
	<u>December 13</u>
8:30 a.m.	Quilting
9:00 a.m.	Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting
1:00 p.m.	Pr. Maggie @ Text Study
5:30 p.m.	Sisterhood Christmas Dinner
	<u>December 14</u>
6:30 p.m.	Confirmation
	<u>December 17</u>
9:30 a.m.	Christmas Program Practice
	<u>December 18</u>
10:00 a.m.	Christmas Program Worship! Note 10:00 a.m. start time!

