



# St. John's Lutheran Church

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## **Second Sunday of Advent**

**Welcome to all**, especially visitors and guests.

**Visitors...**we warmly welcome you in the name of Christ, and we pray that your worship with us will be spiritually refreshing and renewing. In order that we might be able to properly thank you for your presence, please take the time to leave your name and address in the black covered "Welcome to Worship" folder passed in your seating row, and introduce yourself to Pastor Roys and/or Vicar Kari Lee. **We are glad that you are here!**

**Nursery available** - We encourage children to be in worship, and understand that children will not always be quiet☺. If, however, you as a parent need to step out of the sanctuary to the nursery for a period of time, St John's nursery is located on the lower level of the education wing. It is not currently staffed, but is rather a space where one may still hear worship while your little one takes a break. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**Kids' packets** are located in the Narthex (entry) cabinet.

**Christian Education classes** meet every Sunday (Sept-May) from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. for all children 4 years of age – fifth grade. All classes meet on the lower level of the Education Wing.



**T-coil Hearing Loop** is available inside our sanctuary. This allows people who wear hearing aids to directly receive the sound from the sound system in their own hearing aids without having to use a separate device. For more information, see the inside back cover of the hymnal.

**Hearing assists** and **larger print bulletins** are also available in the entry. **An usher** can assist you with any questions or in finding what you need!

**Seeking a Spiritual Home?** Make a note on the "Welcome to Worship" folder or call Pastor Roys at 641-236-4946. She will be glad to address your questions or concerns.

**Restrooms** are located in the lower level off the Fellowship Hall. An usher can guide you to their location.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated. All who embrace the real presence of Christ are invited to share it, regardless of age (if the young person communes in their home church) or denomination. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. The center glasses contain white grape juice. Please tell your communing child to extend open hands in order to receive the elements.

**Accessibility note:** If you wish to receive Holy Communion where you are seated, simply hand the yellow card in the pew to the usher. Our side aisles are not wide enough to accommodate a walker.

† Denotes to please stand as you are able.

## PRELUDE

### GATHERING

† **OPENING HYMN**                      *Christ, Be Our Light*                      #715 vs 2

**ADVENT READING**                      Peace (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

The poet, Wendell Berry wrote:

“When despair for the world grows in me...

I come into the peace of wild things

who do not tax their lives with forethought

of grief. I come into the presence of still water.”

We think of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm,

“He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.”

When everything feels hopeless, when we feel as dead as the dry

bones in Ezekiel’s valley, God calls us away from the workday world.

God calls us to breathe in the holy breath of peace.

When we light the candle of Peace, we breathe in the One who restores us.

**Whatever we face in life, God’s Spirit of peace will dwell within us.**

### LIGHTING OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ADVENT CANDLE

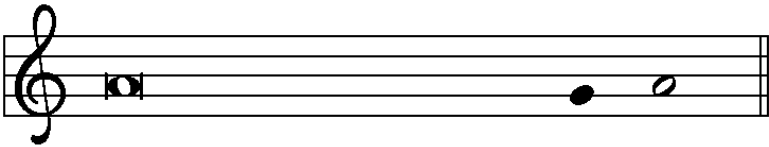
**ADVENT HYMN**                      *Christ, Be Our Light*                      #715 vs 5

### GREETING

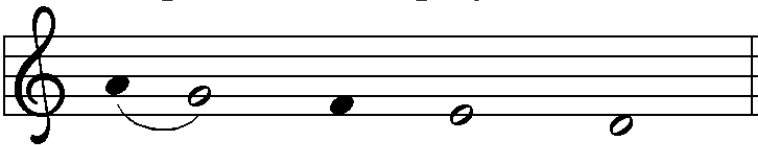
The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all.

**And also with you.**

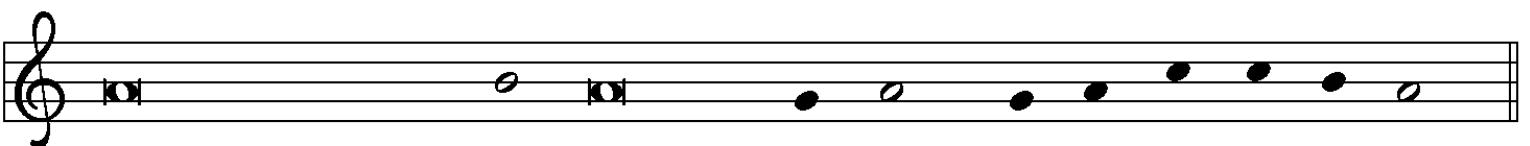
### KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



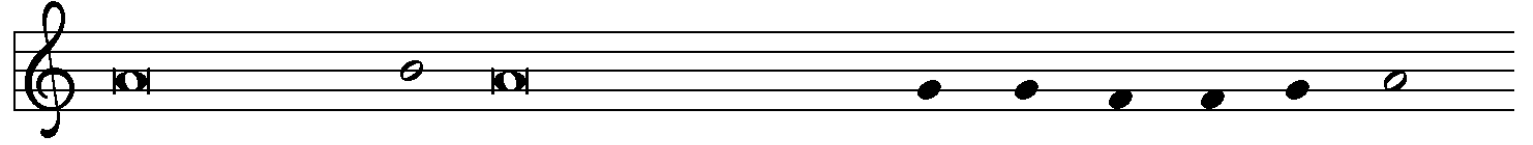
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*This is the Feast*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**God of promise, you have never abandoned us. Strengthen our resolve and fortify our faith in the face of despair, that we might live to sing your praises another day. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### GOD'S WORD FOR US Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." <sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may

live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

†**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOD'S WORD FOR US** John 11:25-26

The Holy Gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

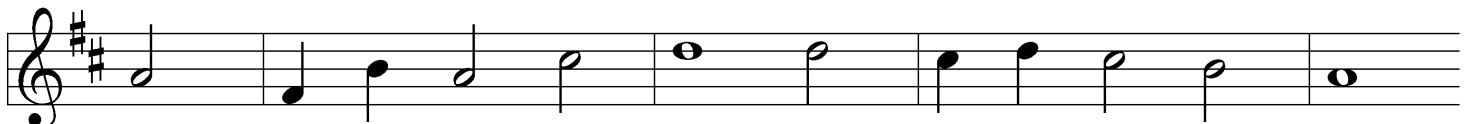
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**MESSAGE** *Raised to New Life*

†**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*



1 Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life a - new,  
 2 Breathe on me, breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
 3 Breathe on me, breath of God; so shall I nev - er die,



that I may love all that you love and do what you would do.  
 un - til with you I will one will to do and to en - dure.  
 but live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

**APOSTLES' 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 THE CHURCH**

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.  
*A brief silence.*

*Each petition ends with: Life-giving God,  
 Hear our prayer.*

*... we thank you for your faithfulness to us.  
 Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

*Please fill out the Welcome to Worship  
 sheet in the black folder and place in offering plate.*

**MEAL**

**OFFERING**

Choir Anthem

Sunday

*As a guest or visitor, we acknowledge your  
 presence as the only offering expected today.*

**†OFFERTORY**

*Let the Vineyards*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that

we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
 with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF**

Let us pray.

Savior of the nations, come.  
 Make your home here in us.  
 Feed us with your love,  
 that our faith shine ever new  
 and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

**THANKS AT THE TABLE/WORDS OF INSTITUTION**



**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

**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**

Arise, come, and be renewed!

*Please be seated.*

*Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, instituted by Christ for us to eat and drink. Baptized Christians trusting this gracious presence of the Lord in Holy Communion are welcome to commune.*

*Anyone who does not commune is welcome to come forward with arms crossed to receive a blessing. For those who do not drink wine, white grape juice is provided.*

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*Lamb of God*

*Sunday*



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, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*You Are Holy*  
*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait,  
 you come to us  
 in the broken bread and the cup we share.

Make us ready always  
 to welcome Christ into our hearts,  
 and send us forth to be your people in the world,  
 announcing your coming among us  
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING****ANNOUNCEMENTS****†BLESSING**

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you  
 and scatter the darkness from before your path.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DEPARTING HYMN**      *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*      #255

**DISMISSAL AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Begin sharing Christ by greeting one another with the peace of Christ.

*Please share the peace of Christ with a handshake, a word  
 of greeting or a gesture of praying hands.*

**POSTLUDE**

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**PASTOR**  
 Kathryn Roys

**VICAR**  
 Kari Lee

***SERVING IN WORSHIP***

	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
<b>Music</b>	Carolyn Bosse	Carolyn Bosse
<b>Choir Director</b>	Natalie Pavey	Roger Henderson
<b>Cantor</b>	Natalie Pavey	Roger & Lisa Henderson
<b>Acolyte</b>		Olivia Olson
<b>Greeters</b>	Brian & Nancy Heineman	Fred England, Warren Pick
<b>Reader</b>		Logan Lee
<b>Advent Readers</b>	Deppe family	Peart family
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Harlan Honsbruch	Warren Pick, Ron Arends
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Eugene Peart	Eli Rose
<b>Fellowship</b>		F & V Dillon, Farrah Deppe
<b>Usher Team</b>		Larry Wade, Aaron Wade, Gary Cook, Mike Anderson

**Today in Worship**

**Christmas Shares** are due at the church by 1 pm on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Adult Forum** Basics of Biblical Literacy. The ELCA is continuing its efforts to build and enhance biblical literacy. We will explore how that happens in the church and hear from Respected theologians such as, Phillis Tickle, Rachel Held Evens, Jose Morales and others. Led by Vicar Kari.

**General fund** offerings received the weekend of Dec 2-3 totaled \$7,358.

<u>Actual Spending YTD</u>	<u>Approved Budget YTD</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total YTD        \$241,788	\$258,414 (48 weeks)	
Total Giving       \$233,850		222,900
Total Expenses <u>(241,788)</u>		<u>(228,818)</u>
Shortfall            \$ ( 7,938)		\$ (5,918)

**Opportunities**

**Advent Meal** opportunity. If you are able to provide a meal for one of the Wednesday's in Advent, please sign up in Fellowship Hall. This year the youth will be providing desserts.

**Monday morning Bible study** at 11am. Our study on Monday will focus on Advent for the next 4 weeks. Our theme is "Together in Advent" and each week we will read a daily devotion, reflect and gather on Mondays to discuss what God revealed. Our 4 themes are: Be Present, Send Peace, Share Joy and Wrap in Love. Our welcome mat is out for anyone who would wish to join us.

**"So you think you can eat Pie?"** Please support our youth who will be traveling to Houston by voting for your favorite pies during the three Advent Wednesday night dinners. Members of our congregation will be making pies each Wednesday for sampling. You may place your \$ votes in the corresponding box for the pie you prefer. One winner will be announced each Wednesday with a grand prize winner announced on Dec. 20th.

**Christmas Eve** falls on Sunday this year. We will have traditional Lessons & Carols at the 9:30 am service, and a children's version of Lessons & Carols at the 4:30 pm service. There will be NO worship on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Qualified Charitable Distribution** Many seniors find it impossible to itemize taxes for several reasons, but it might still be possible to get a tax break on donations to qualifying charities. If you are 70½ or older and have an IRA, you may be able to distribute funds from an IRA(s) tax-free to a qualifying charity. In some instances, this could be used as your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). If this is something you would like to consider, please discuss it with your tax advisor.

**T.G.I.W.** You may join the fun anytime!

### **Reaching Out**

**Grocery Store Gift Cards** We are again collecting grocery store gift cards (please purchase the ones that are not valid for alcohol, tobacco or lottery items). They can be returned to the gift card box in Fellowship Hall throughout the month. This allows Pastor to help families in need both within St John's and in our community.

**MICA items needed** – Cereal & juice.