

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023 | 10:30 AM



Hear God's Word. Reflect God's Grace.
Share Christ's Love.

All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor	pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org
Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music	charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org
Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator	crothman@stjohnssummit.org
Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator	jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org
Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation	wk154linda@gmail.com
Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton	

We're delighted you're worshipping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ELW *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

ACS *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

PRELUDE Wachtet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who was and is and is to come. **Amen.**

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

A voice is crying in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Surely God is our salvation. Have faith and do not be afraid.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

The assembly stands or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you † in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 436 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

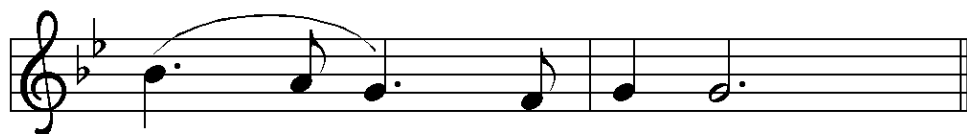
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

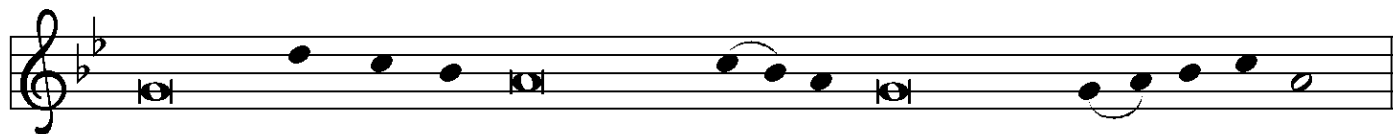
KYRIE



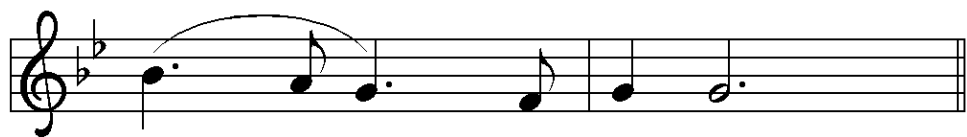
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



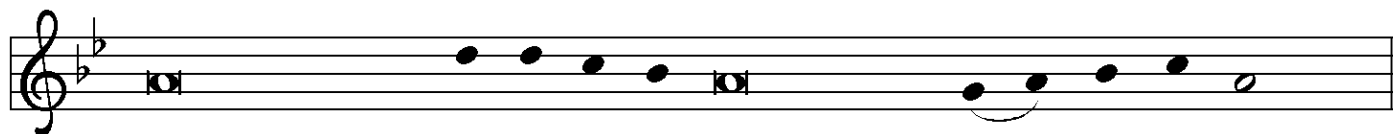
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



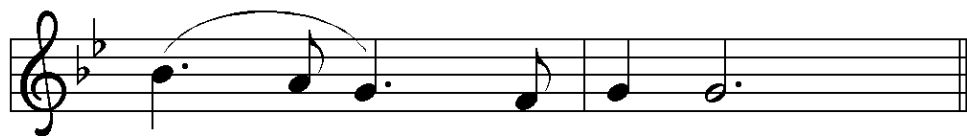
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



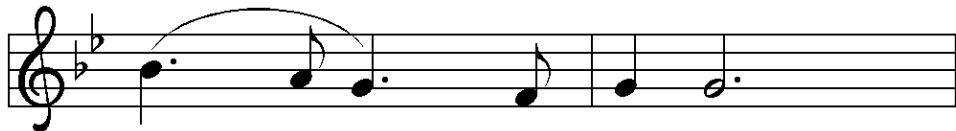
Lord, have mer - cy.



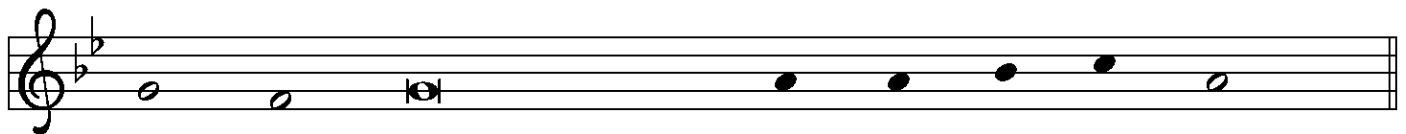
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



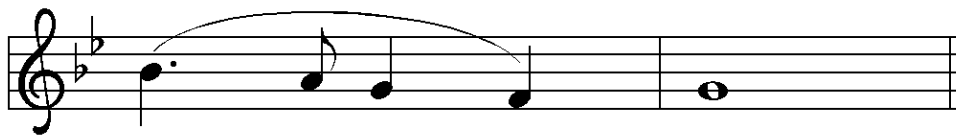
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1–9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

Children's Choir

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus.
Amen, come Lord Jesus.
O come quickly, come Lord Jesus.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness
prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

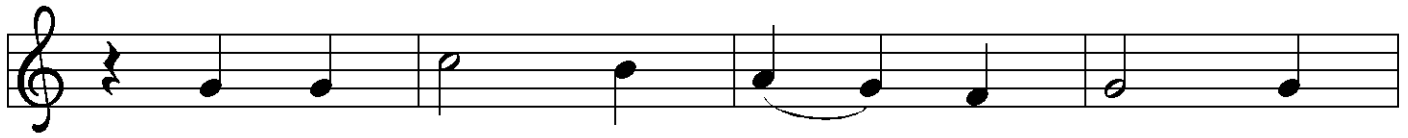
The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**



Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing the acclamation; Choir sings the proper verse.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

V. Show us your steadfast ¹love, O Lord,* and grant us ¹your salvation. (Ps. 85:7)

GOSPEL Mark 13:24–37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

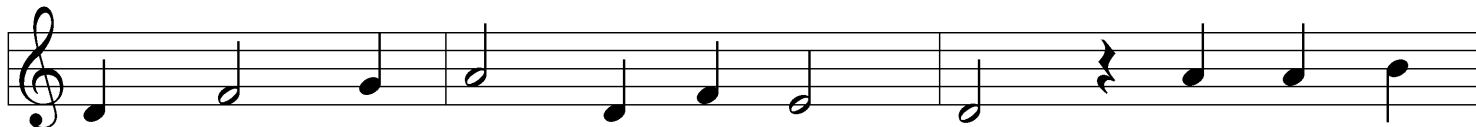
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 38 O Savior, Rend the Heaven's Wide



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; come down, come
2 O Morn - ing Star, O Ra - diant Sun, when will our
3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; grim death looms
4 There shall we all our prais - es bring ev - er to



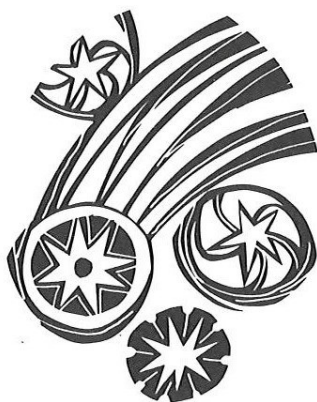
down with might - y stride; un - lock the gates, the doors break
hearts be - hold your dawn? O Sun, a - rise; with - out your
fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y
you, our Sav - ior King; there shall we laud you and a -



down; un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
light we grope in gloom and dark of night.
hand from ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: German spiritual song, Köln, 1623; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967, alt.
Music: O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF, *Gesangbuch*, Augsburg, 1666

Text copyright © 1969 Concordia Publishing House



NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
 Not by any din of drums,
 Nor his manners, nor his airs,
 Nor by anything he wears.
 Thou shalt know him when he comes,
 Not by his crown nor by his gown,
 But his coming known shall be,
 By the holy harmony
 Which his coming makes in thee.
 Thou shalt know him when he comes.
 Amen. Amen.

– Anonymous

*Please stand.***OFFERING HYMN** ACS 908 In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes*Verse 3*

3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:
 ra - diant star to light our way. Sum - mer's
 heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,
 to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TENTH NIGHT, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

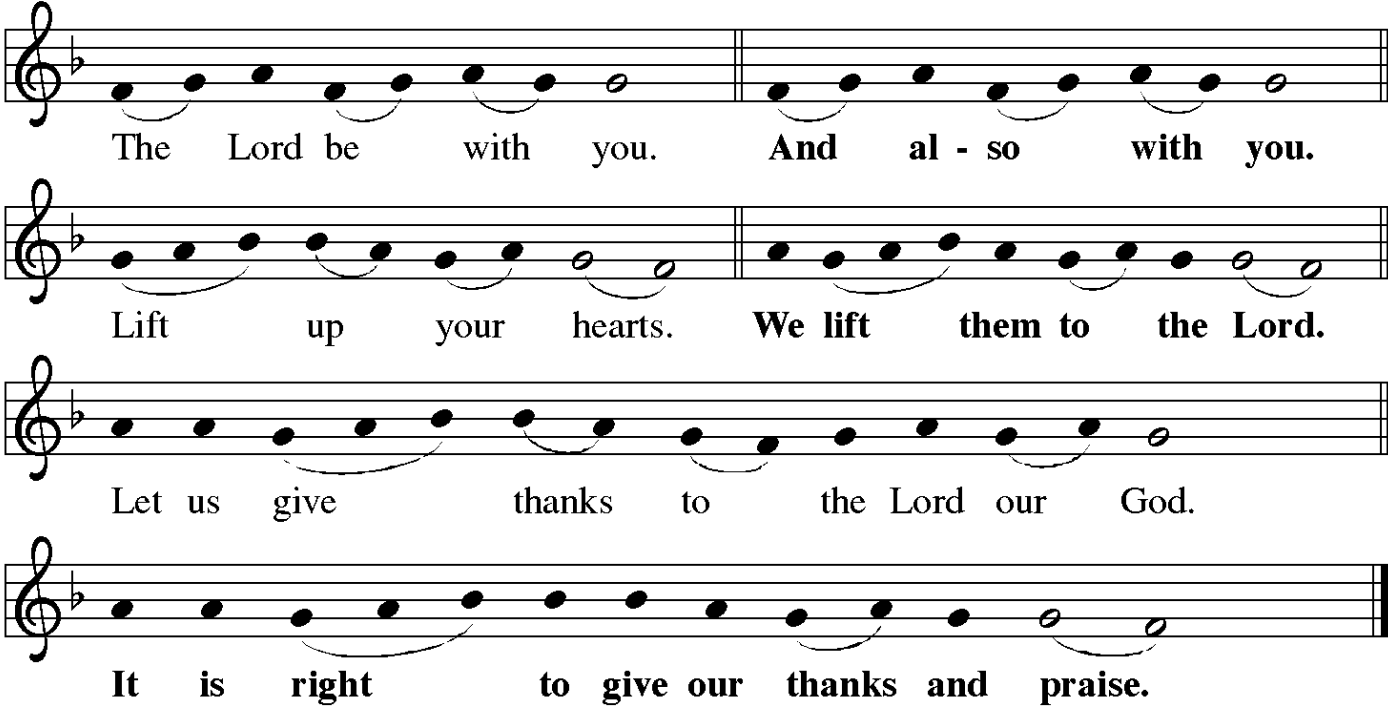
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

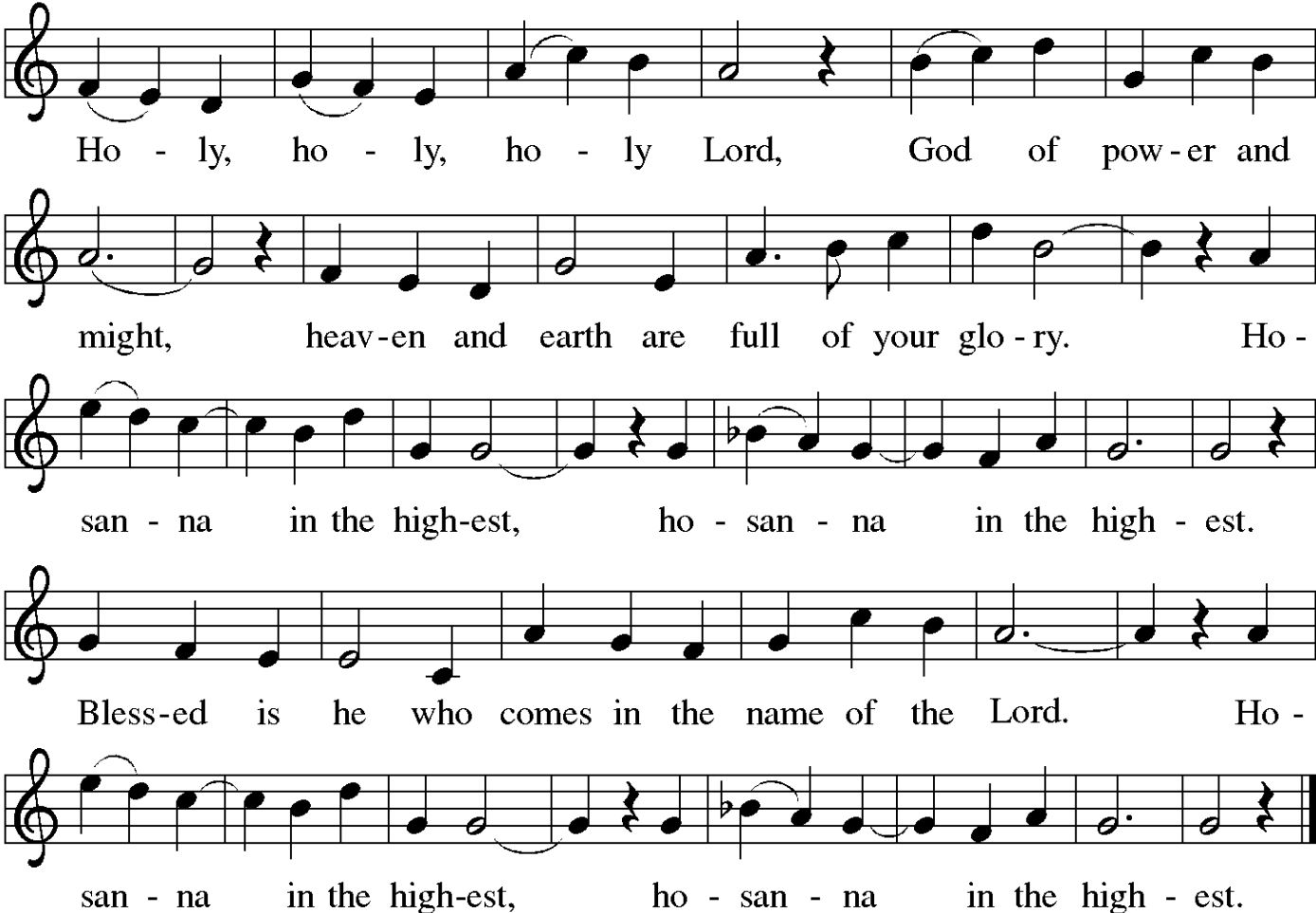
Meal
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

PROPER PREFACE



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



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 HYMN ELW 252 Each Winter as the Year Grows Older



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.
Music: CAROL OF HOPE, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925
Text and music © 1971 United Church Press.

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 advent among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, † through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 260 The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

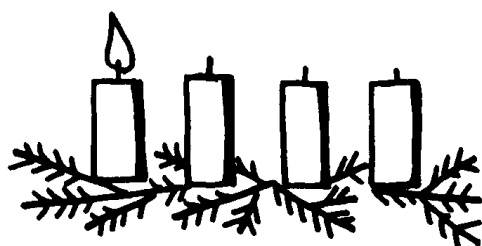
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J.S. Bach



Advent & Christmas Schedule

Dec. 10	Second Sunday of Advent.....	8:00 & 10:30 AM
	Lessons & Carols Service.....	4:00 PM
	115th Anniversary Reception.....	5:00 PM
Dec. 17	Third Sunday of Advent.....	8:00 & 10:30 AM
	Christmas Bridges Run Prep.....	9:00 AM
	Greening the Church	12:00 PM
Dec. 19	Blue Christmas.....	7:00 PM
Dec. 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent.....	9:15 AM
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	
	Festival Prelude with Choir & Brass.....	4:30 PM
	Christmas Eve Service–All-in Pagenant.....	5:00 PM
	Festival Prelude with Choir & Brass.....	9:30 PM
	Christmas Eve Festival Service.....	10:00 PM
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	
	Christmas Morning Service.....	10:30 AM
Dec. 31	Lessons & Carols for Christmas.....	10:30 AM

December 3, 2023

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Marie Long's birthday by Helen Dachowicz and in celebration of Courtney & Stephanie Rothman's birthdays by Carolyn & Craig Rothman.

We Have a Special Need for Worship Volunteers for Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve. Please sign up in the weekly email to help usher, read, and acolyte.

Pledge Update: We have received **63 pledges**, totaling **\$366,092** and **\$10,725** for World Hunger. Please submit your 2024 pledge as soon as possible.

Advent Intergenerational Activity December 3, 10, 17 at 9:00 AM to prepare for the Bridges Run. All ages are welcome.

Children's Choir TODAY at 9:30 AM and Faith Formation at 10:00 AM. All children are welcome. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings or Deacon Walker for more information.

Check out our Facebook Advent Calendar: Every day, from the first day of Advent through Epiphany, we will post recipes, memories, fun facts, and more.

Advent Devotional Books are available in the narthex.

Christmas decorations: Recommended donations of \$25-\$100 are appreciated, but we will receive donations of any amount. To be included in the Christmas worship bulletins, dedications must be received in the church office by **December 10**. Sign up in the rear entryway.

Lessons & Carols & St. John's Anniversary, December 10 at 4:00 PM. This moving service combines readings with choral music and congregational carols. Following the service, we will have a festive reception celebrating the 115th anniversary of the founding of our congregation with Bishop Tracie Bartholomew as our special guest.

Thursday Meals for Summit Warm Hearts: Every other Thursday we are providing dinner for our Warm Hearts guests. Sign up to provide meals, sides, salads, or desserts in the weekly email.

LSMNJ Gifts due December 10.

GRACE collection of spices, bouillon, and cooking oil, due **December 10**.

Mitten Tree collection of new or gently-used winter apparel due **December 17**.

BRIDGES Run Collection: We are collecting supplies for 200 sustainable lunches to be assembled on **December 17**. Sign up in the narthex or in the weekly email.

Blue Christmas Service, Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 PM. We will gather to hear scripture, name our woes, pray together, receive communion and light candles. All are welcome.

BRIDGES Run: Help hand out lunches on **December 23**. Please sign up in the weekly email.

GE

LD

JESU

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
stjohnssummit.org | 908-273-3846



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