

Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday

December 12, 2021 | 10:30 AM



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

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 from the ushers and a professionally staffed nursery is available from 7:45 AM to 11:45 AM. Follow the signs or ask any member for directions.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastors will be happy 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. Individual wired devices coming soon!



Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jessica Damrow Sherman, Communications Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

pastorbcalet@stjohnssummit.org

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wk154linda@gmail.com

We're delighted you're worshiping 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

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Gathering

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

PRELUDE Prelude on *He Came Down*

Setting by Wayne H. Dietterick

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.

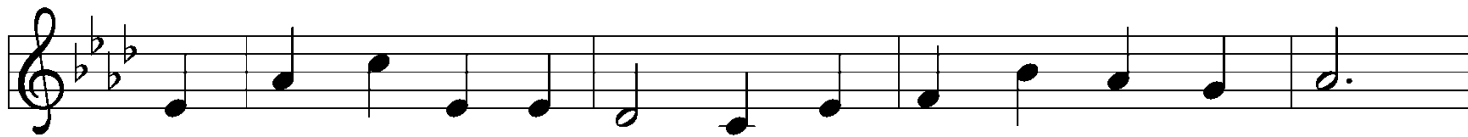
Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

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

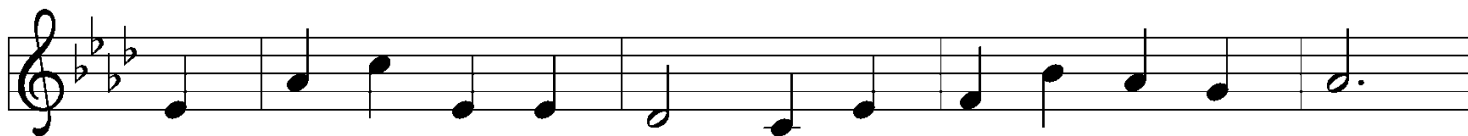
God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, 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 244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

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.**

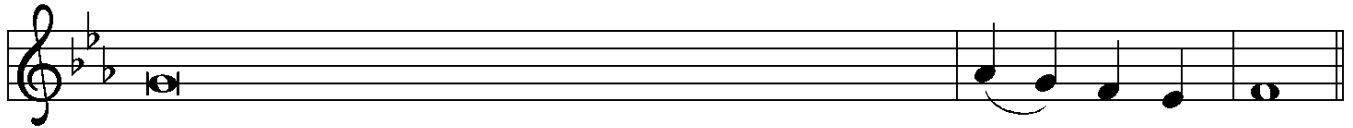
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



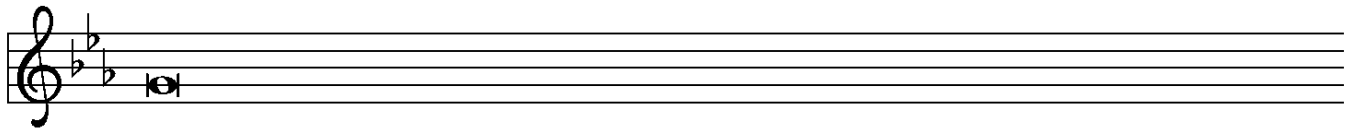
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



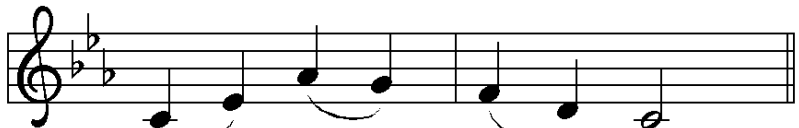
Lord, have mer - cy.



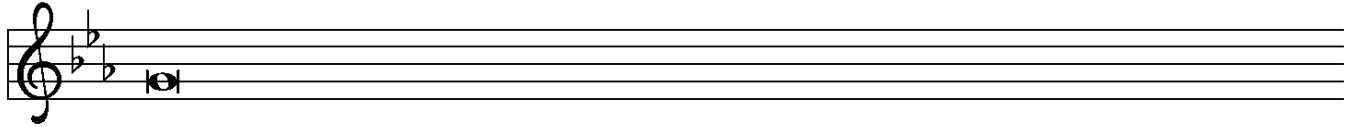
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

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

Please be seated.

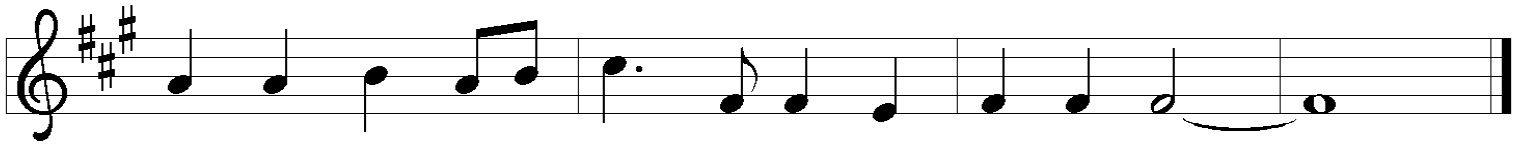
FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14–20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

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

CANTICLE Isaiah 12:2–6 *First Song of Isaiah*

*Refrain sung first by cantor, thereafter by all.
Light verses sung by cantor. Bold verses sung by all.*



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not ¹ be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,
and has become ¹ my salvation.

³**With joy you ¹ will draw water
from the wells ¹ of salvation. R**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call ¹ on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;
proclaim that this name ¹ is exalted.

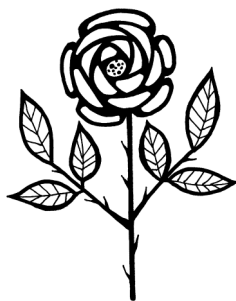
⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done ¹ gloriously;
let this be known in ¹ all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O ¹ royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy ¹ One of Israel. R

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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



GAUDETE

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL Luke 3:7–18

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

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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 ELW 249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we 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

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** *Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.*

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 monetary, food, and other offerings for God's mission and this congregation's ministry. 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, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Lutherringers

Arr. Michael Ryan



OFFERING HYMN ACS 901 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Verse 3



3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom's seed,



come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SŪO GĀN, Welsh melody
Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Please stand.

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 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.

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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

The assisting minister serves the wine / grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.

You may pick up your personal cup, being careful to only touch that cup.

Step aside and drink the wine, placing the used cup in the return tray.

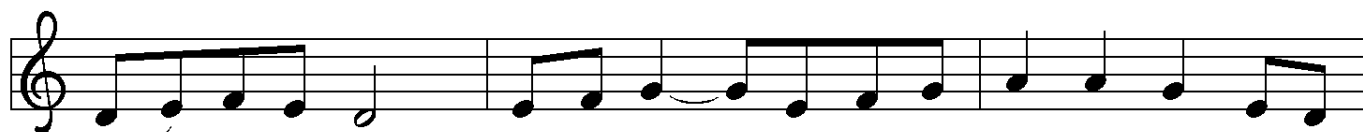
All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

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

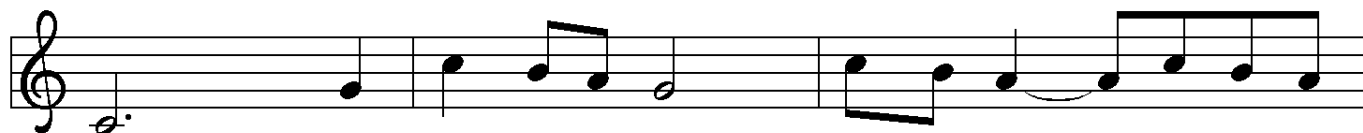
LAMB OF GOD



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 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

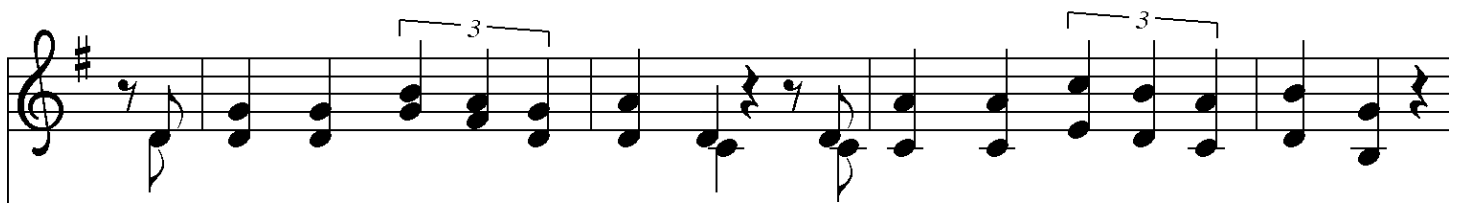


"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

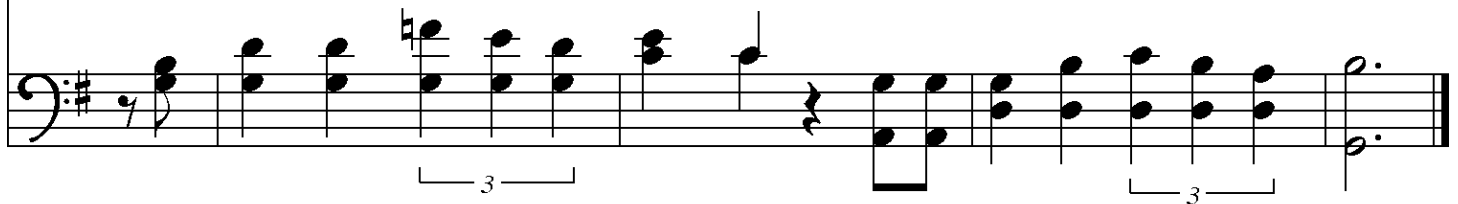
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 253 He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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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.

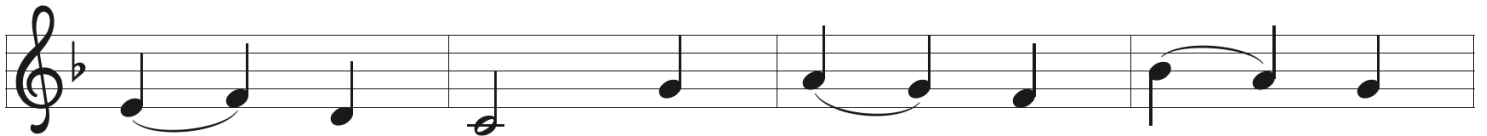
BLESSING

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 239 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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Postlude on *Puer Nobis*

by Wayne H. Dietterick

December 12, 2021

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Lud Zabel by Marlene Zabel.

Christmas Chancel Decorations: Suggested donations of \$25– \$100 may be made to decorate our church for Christmas. Please sign up in the rear entryway or with the tear off form by **TODAY** to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Bridges Outreach: We will be preparing sustainable lunches to give to the homeless on **TODAY** at **9:00 AM**, and doing a run to Newark on **Saturday, December 18**. Sign-ups are posted in the rear entryway.

Dinner Church: TONIGHT at 6:00 PM. Join us for Word and sacrament in a dinner setting.

The 2022 Flower Chart is up! Please sign up for dedication in the coming year. Multiple people can sign up each week. Weekly flowers cost St. John's \$80. Please donate as you are able.

2022 Pledge Update To date, we have received 81 pledges totaling \$410,470 toward our goal of \$450,000. Please be sure to submit your 2022 pledge card to the church office or online.

Jehu Jones Bishop's Challenge Update: Thus far we have received \$1,990. Our challenge is to raise \$3,750 which will be matched dollar for dollar by our Antiracism Committee.

Join us for Advent intergenerational activities for children and adults, **every Sunday in Advent at 9:00AM** in Hinman Hall. Sing carols, do crafts, prepare for Bridges Run, and eat special treats specific to each week.

Facebook Advent Calendar: Check out our online Advent calendar on our [Facebook](#) page, where we will post each day of Advent through Epiphany, recipes, memories, fun facts & more.

The Advent Sale, November 28–December 19 in the chapel. We are feeling nostalgic this Advent Season so our theme for this year is "Awaiting with Nostalgia," bringing back memories of the past. We will have items from the past, handmade crafts, a few traditional things, and ELCA Good Gifts will also be available. All proceeds will go toward local food ministries.

Church Decorating is planned for **Sunday, December 19**. Sign up in the narthex for the many tasks that need to be completed to ready St. John's for Christmas Eve. Pizza will be served! There are tasks for all skill sets. We need your help!

Caroling, December 19 at 4:00 PM! Join us as we carol through town spreading Christmas joy.

Year-End Giving: Please remember to honor your 2021 financial pledges and World Hunger giving. All financial contributions, Christmas offerings, and special giving must be received before year's end for 2021 accounting purposes. Thank you for your generosity!

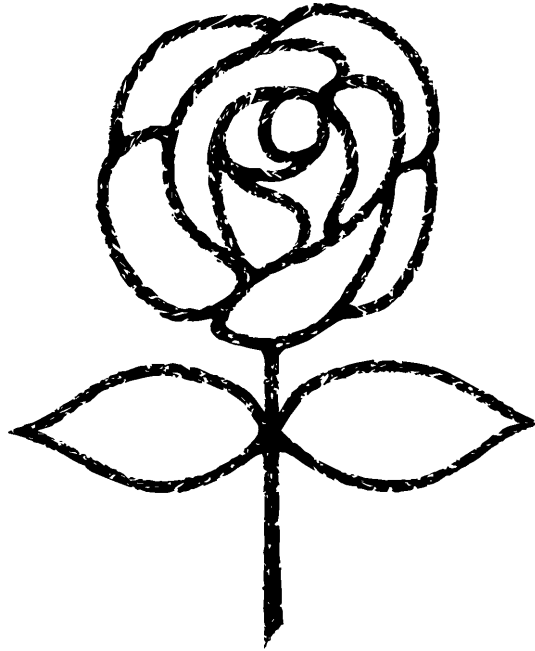
Appalachia Service Project July 2–9, 2022 Update: Youth AND adults can still sign up for this awesome service opportunity. The need in Appalachia is so great, ASP is permitting some all-adults teams for the summer program usually geared to youth. This is a unique year and a great opportunity for adults to try ASP. Contact Laura Snyder ASAP: njsnyders5@verizon.net.



Chancel Decorations

Suggested donations of \$25–100 may be made to decorate our church for Christmas. Please sign up in the rear entryway or fill out this form and return it in the offering plate. You must sign up **TODAY** to have your donation listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

| Given by: | In memory/honor of: |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| | |
| | |



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