

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023 | 10:30 AM



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.



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music cha Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator j Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org crothman@stjohnssummit.org jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org ion 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

Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. 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 Antiphon III (15 Versets pour les Vêpres, op. 18) I am black but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem Marcel Dupré

Antiphon V How fair and pleasant art thou

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.**

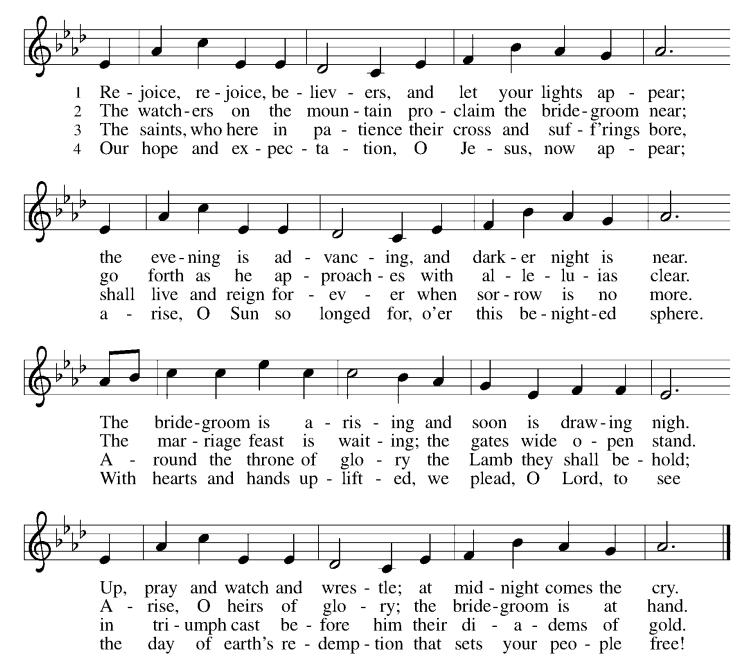
Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

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



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

APOSTOLIC GREETING

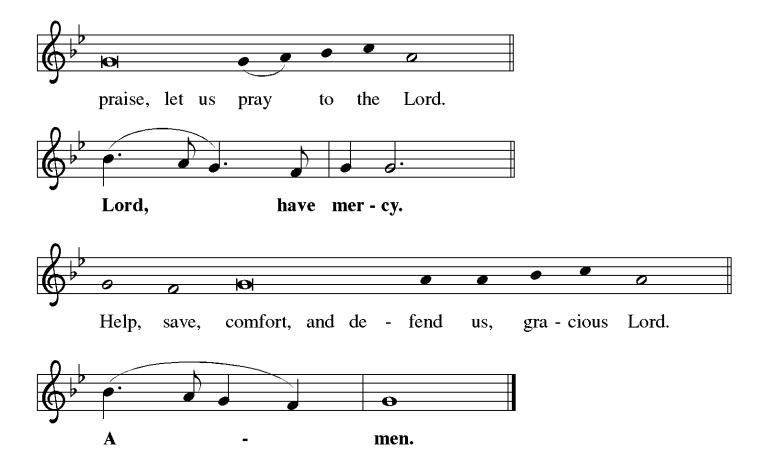
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE





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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 ¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities. the devastations of many generations. ⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

Orlando Gibbons

CANTICLE Magnificat (Short Service) My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. - Luke 1.46-55 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

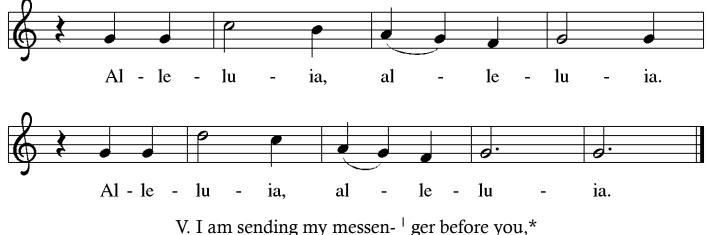
²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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.



who will prepare your ⁺ way before you. (Matthew 11:10)

GOSPEL John 1:6–8, 19–28

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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 People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

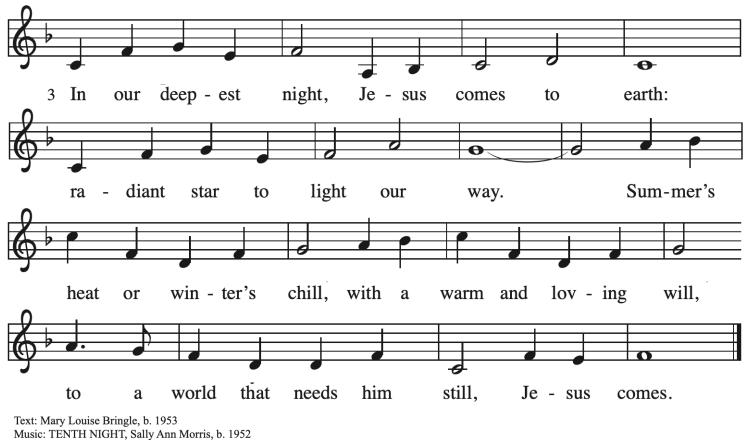
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People look east, and sing today Love, the Lord is on the way.

—Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), 1928





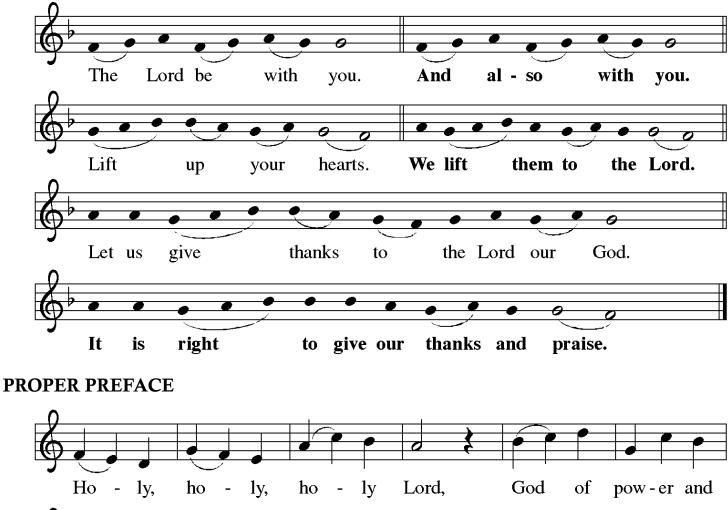
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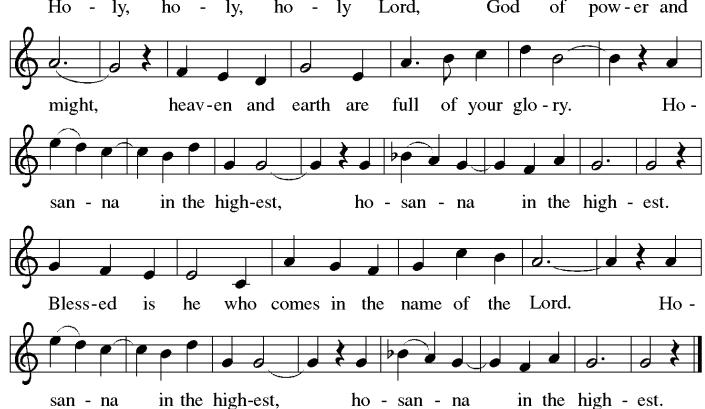
OFFERING PRAYER

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





EUCHARISTIC 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.

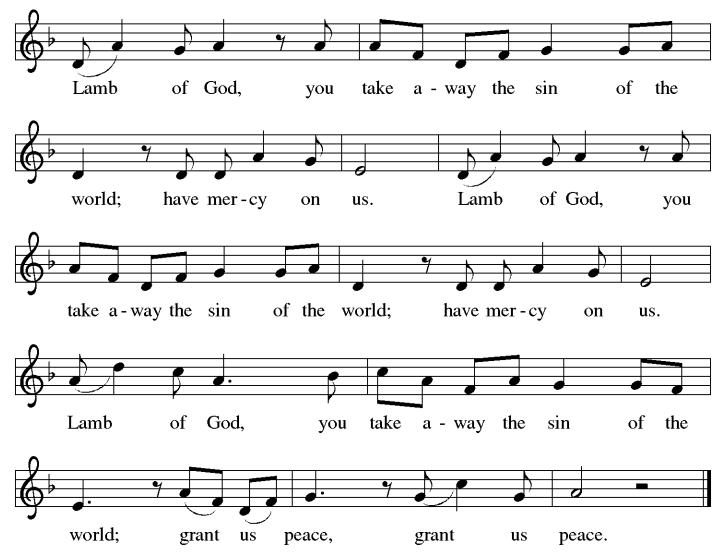
Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

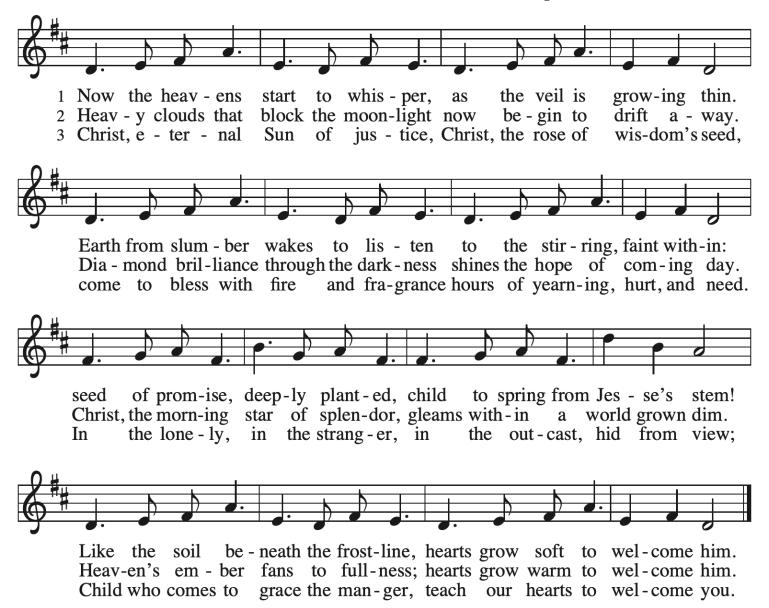
If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time. The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer. Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup. Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled 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.

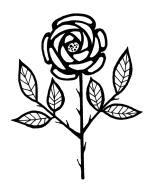
LAMB OF GOD



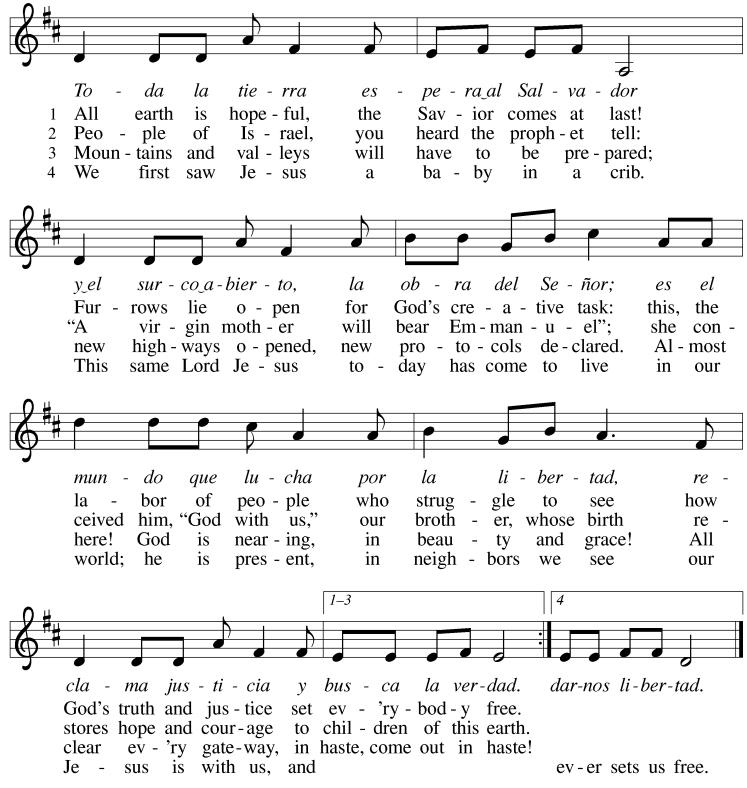
COMMUNION HYMN ACS 901 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



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



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 266 All Earth Is Hopeful



Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

Please stand. BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

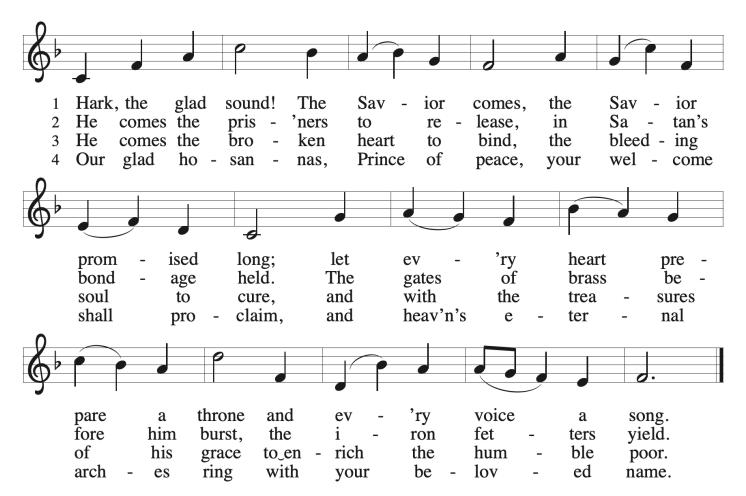
Let us pray. God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your advent among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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!



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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Magnificat VI: *Gloria Patri (15 Versets pour les Vêpres, op. 18)*

Marcel Dupré



Advent & Christmas Schedule

Dec. 17	Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Bridges Run Prep Greening the Church	.9:00 AM
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 Christmas Eve Service–All-in Pagenant Festival Prelude with Choir & Brass Christmas Eve Festival Service	.5:00 PM .9:30 PM
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Christmas Morning Service	10:30 AM
Dec. 31 Jan. 7	Lessons & Carols for Christmas Baptism of Our Lord Epiphany Party	.10:30 AM 8:00 & 10:30 AM 9:00 AM

December 17, 2023

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Roy Patterson by the Sharpe & Bowler families.

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

Thursday Meals for Summit Warm Hearts are needed for December 28 & January 11. Please sing up in the weekly email to provide main dishes, sides, salads, or desserts.

Pledge Update: We have received **69 pledges,** totaling **447,572** and **\$16,925** for World Hunger. Please submit your 2024 pledge as soon as possible.

Envelopes for 2024 are now available. Fewer envelopes were ordered so some envelope numbers have changed. If you no longer need envelopes, please let us know.

Advent ALL-AGES Activity TODAY at 9:00 AM to prepare for the Bridges Run.

Join our Intergenerational Christmas Eve Choir for a brief rehearsal on TODAY from 9:30 to 10:00 AM and/or December 24 at 4:05 PM. Adults and children of all ages are welcome. We will sing two simple carols at the 5:00 PM service on Christmas Eve.

Faith Formation at 10:00 AM. All children are welcome.

Luther Ringers, TODAY at 11:45.

115th Anniversary Appeal: Please prayerfully consider donating \$115 or more to be used for Major Maintenance. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Mitten Tree collection of new or gently-used winter apparel due TODAY.

Help us decorate the church after worship TODAY. Lunch will be provided.

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.

Homeless Persons Memorial Vigil on December 21 at 7:00 PM at Fountain Baptist Church in Summit. There will also be a supplies drive of non-perishable food and winter apparel.

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

We will have ONE SERVICE at 9:15 AM on Sunday, December 24 and 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 31. Mark your calendars!

Church Office Holiday Hours: The church office will be closed from December 25–January 1.

The 2024 Flower Chart is posted on the rear bulletin board and available for you to sign up. Weekly flowers cost Saint John's \$85. Please give as you are able.



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



Reconciling in Christ

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