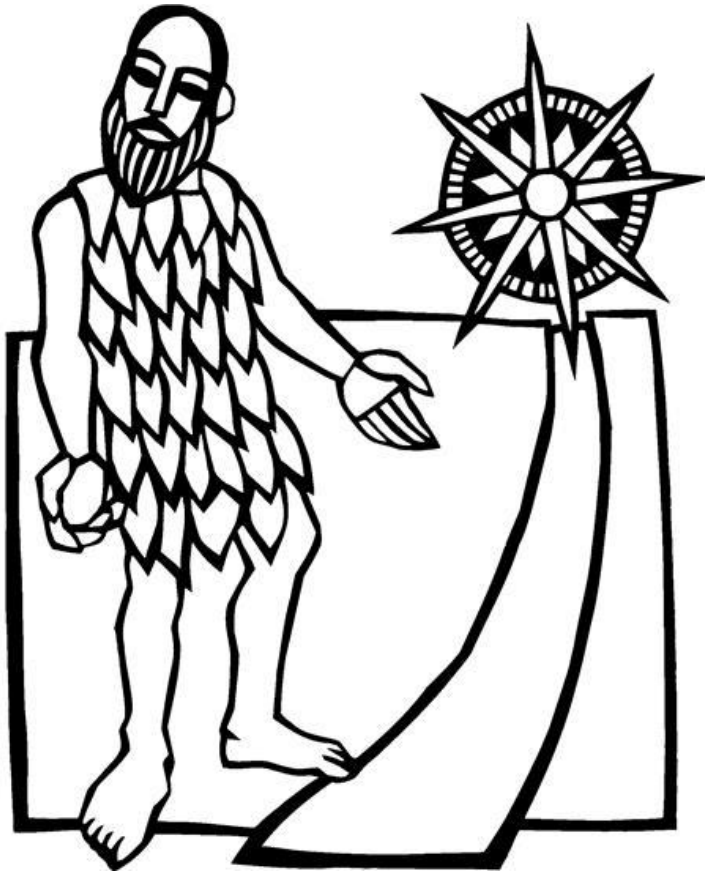


# Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

9 am



**Saint John Lutheran Church**

**Fairfield, Pennsylvania**

**Rev. Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor**

**Carol Garman, Organist/ Music Director**

**St. John Lutheran Church  
13 East Main St.  
Fairfield Pa 17320  
717-642-5822**

Reverend Wayne Gallipo, Interim Pastor  
Cell: 605-214-6828  
Pastor's Office Hours – Mon. & Tues. 8:30am – 4:30pm

Carol Garman, Director of Music Ministries

[www.stjohnfairfield.net](http://www.stjohnfairfield.net)  
Email: [office@stjohnfairfield.net](mailto:office@stjohnfairfield.net)

Like us on Facebook

Office Hours  
Monday – Thursday 8:30am-12:00pm

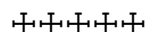
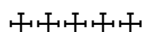
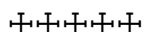
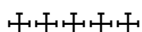
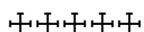
***Our Mission is to make Christ known.***

We welcome all guests this morning.  
We are very pleased to have you worship with us.  
All are welcome to receive communion.

Sunday School for all ages meets at 10:15  
Everyone is welcome! Grab some refreshments and join us!

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## Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025



### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CARING CONVERSATION: “What Are Your Christmas Plans?”

#### PRELUDE

People Look East

arr. Wood

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of Almighty God, the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### GATHERING HYMN

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed (alt tune)**

**ELW 311**

#### INVOCATION

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE    “Kyrie”                    (See Insert)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

P: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING    The Haynes Family**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah    35:1-10**

- <sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. 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. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say 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.” <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then 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; <sup>7</sup> the 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. <sup>8</sup> A 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. <sup>9</sup> No 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. <sup>10</sup> And 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.*

## PSALM 146:5-10 (Read Responsively)

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup> Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

**James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. *The Word of the Lord... Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ *please stand if able*

**“ Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you O Israel”**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew... **Glory to you O Lord**

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” <sup>7</sup> As 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? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a

prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly 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.*

**Reminders of Jesus**

**Sunday School Children**

**HYMN Prepare the Royal Highway**

**ELW 264**

**APOSTLES CREED**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** Response: God of Grace, **Hear our Prayer.**

**PEACE**

**RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**C: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.**

**P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them unto the Lord.**

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.**

**C: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

**P: It is indeed right....**

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

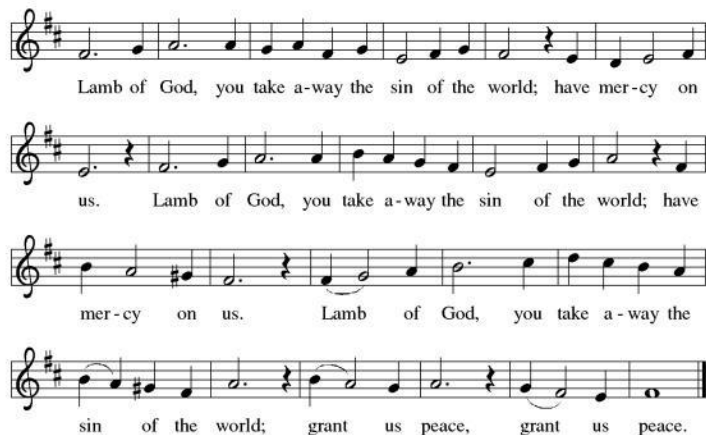
## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: On the night in which he was betrayed ... for as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes again.

## LORD'S PRAYER

## FRACTION AND INVITATION

## 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

*We practice “open communion” at St. John. ALL are invited to come forward as ushered to receive this life-giving sacrament. Those not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing. As you are given the bread and wine an appropriate response is “Amen.” Please be respectful of this meditative time within our worship.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

**People, Look East**

**ELW 248**

**He Came Down**

**ELW 253**

**My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness Lord**

**ELW 251**

## COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered 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 and Lord. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN    Soon and Very Soon

**ELW 439**

**Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!**

**No more crying there...**

**No more dying there...**

**Soon and very soon...**

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE    Hosanna Now Through Advent

**arr. Bussarow**