



**St. John's of Hatboro**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



## Third Sunday in Advent

### *Music Sunday*

December 14, 2025

*The Good News for Today: Even if you fall flat  
on your face, you can get up again.*

*Thank you for worshiping with us at St. John's. Please fill out your yellow attendance card and place it in the offering plate when we collect the offering later in the service.*

*This Advent, we will be using Setting 4 at the beginning of the blue With One Voice (WOV) hymnals. Page numbers will be included for various elements of the service.*

### Gathering Music

**Prelude: Light of the Stable – (Rhymer)**

*STAND*

## Hymn: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn – ELW 242 (Red Book)

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new  
morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.
- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.
- 3 In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in  
song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.
- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the  
night,  
though dark the winter and  
cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with  
light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

**Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

**Amen.**

## Welcome & Greeting

Welcome to St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

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** – WOV p. 12-13 (Blue Book)

**This Is the Feast** – WOV p. 15-16 (Blue Book)

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... 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.**

*SIT*

**Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel** (Verse 1) – ELW 257 (Red Book)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

# Lighting the Advent Wreath

*Use this blessing when lighting three candles.*

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

**let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing.**

**Amen.**

## Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel (Verse 4) – ELW 257 (Red Book)

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people  
save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the  
grave.

*Refrain*  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## The Readings

### 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.**

## Luke 1:46b-55 (*Read Responsively*)

<sup>46b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup> **You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup> **casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.



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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*SIT*

## Musical Presentation

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – (Maher)

Heaven Everywhere – (Glover)

An English Carol – (Sherman)

Fantasy on Silent Night – (Bock)

The Blessed Angels Sing – (Helmen)

This Gift – (Hansard)

Angel’s Carol – (Rutter)

Do You Hear What I Hear – (Regney)

Mary, Did You Know? – (Lowry)

Celtic Advent Carol – (Barret)

*STAND*

# Hymn: When It Seems the Day Will End – ACS 1034



1 When it seems the day will end, and all  
2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing  
3 When it seems the day will end, and a



light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -  
low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -  
cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've



gain to re - mind us you are here.  
gain, and with you now en - ter in.  
been, and our hearts will be your home.

## Refrain



New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,



joy and weep - ing, joy and weep - ing, in your call - ing. in your call - ing.

Text: Justin Rimbo, b. 1980  
Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

## Prayers of Intercession

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant, especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith especially Mary, mother of Jesus, and John of the Cross. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

*SIT*

## Announcements

*Printed copies of our weekly announcements are available at the usher's stand in the Narthex, and monthly newsletters are on the Hospitality Table. Please include your email address on your yellow attendance card to receive announcements electronically.*

**Generosity Temple Talk: Joy — Audrey Gobetz**

## Baptism: *Nico Alexander Foerst*

In baptism, our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Parent: I present *Nico Alexander Foerst* for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have **Nico** baptized into Christ?

Response: **I do.**

As you bring **Nico** to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with *him* among God's faithful people, bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper, teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *his* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *him* in faith and prayer so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help **Nico** grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: **I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture **Nico** in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *him* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: **I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support **Nico** and pray for *him* in *his* new life in Christ?

Response: **We do.**

## Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Baptism

**Nico Alexander**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Let us pray...We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain **Nico** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Nico**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## Welcome

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## Offering

### Offertory: Joy to the World – (Lanz)

*STAND*

### Offertory Hymn: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful – WOV p. 21 (Blue Book)

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our  
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the  
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,  
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## Offering Prayer

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.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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.**

*SIT*

## Blessing

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: People, Look East — ELW 248 (Red Book)

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | People, look east. The time is near<br>of the crowning of the year.<br>Make your house fair as you are able,<br>trim the hearth and set the table.<br>People, look east, and sing today—<br>Love, the Guest, is on the way.                          | 3 | Stars, keep the watch. When night is<br>dim,<br>one more light the bowl shall brim,<br>shining beyond the frosty weather,<br>bright as sun and moon together.<br>People, look east, and sing today—<br>Love, the Star, is on the way. |
| 2 | Furrows, be glad. Though earth is<br>bare,<br>one more seed is planted there.<br>Give up your strength the seed to<br>nourish,<br>that in course the flow'r may<br>flourish.<br>People, look east, and sing today—<br>Love, the Rose, is on the way. | 4 | Angels announce with shouts of<br>mirth<br>him who brings new life to earth.<br>Set ev'ry peak and valley humming<br>with the word, the Lord is coming.<br>People, look east, and sing today—<br>Love, the Lord, is on the way.       |

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

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# Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

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