

Third Sunday in Advent



December 14, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Churches
stjohnslutheranjc.com

Schubert

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About This Service: The heart of Christianity is not what we do for God but what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We call our service the "Divine Service" because the Divine One, our Lord Jesus, promises to be present to serve us by His Word and with His body and blood.

Are My Children Welcome? Our Lord says, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). Yes, your little ones are more than welcome! We are delighted to have them with us in the service!

Visitors: Welcome to St. John's! If you have not already done so, please fill out the visitor's book outside of the sanctuary. If don't yet have a church home, or have any questions about what we believe, teach, and confess, feel free to speak with Pastor; he would be happy to talk with you!

Communion: We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us. If you are not a communicant member of the LC-MS, please cross your arms when you come up to the communion rail to receive a blessing.

Ring of the Bell

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn TLH 26 "Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him"

**Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him! Yea, I will laud Him until death.
With songs and anthems I'll come before Him As long as He doth give me breath.
From Him my life and all things came; Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Trust not in princes, they are but mortal; Earth-born they are and soon decay.
Naught are their counsels at life's last portal, When the dark grave doth claim its prey.
Since, then, no man can help afford, Trust ye in Christ, our God and Lord.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Blessed, yea, blessed is he forever Whose help is in the Lord most high,
Whom from the saving faith naught can sever And who in hope to Christ draws nigh.
To all who trust in Him, our Lord, Counsel and aid He doth afford.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**God the Almighty, the great Creator, Ruler of sky and land and sea,
All things ordained, and sooner or later They come to pass unfailingly.
His rule is over rich and poor, His promise ever standeth sure.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Penitent sinners, for mercy crying, Pardon and peace from Him obtain;
Ever the wants of the poor supplying, Their faithful God He doth remain.
He helps His children in distress, The widows and the fatherless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**△ Praise, O mankind, now the name so holy Of Him who doth such wondrous things!
All that hath being, to praise Him solely, With happy heart its "Amen" sings!
Children of God, with angel host Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.**

The Order of Worship, Page 15 TLH

Invocation: TLH Page 15 [Responses Sung]

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: Amen.

**P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father,
beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Confession of Sins *TLH Page 16*

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution *TLH Page 16*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen.**

Introit (P: Pastor C: Congregation) *Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

P: Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

**C: I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.**

P: My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of
salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.

**C: With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.**

P: O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

**C: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.**

Gloria Patri: *TLH Page 16 [Sung]*

**C: 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.**

The Kyrie: *TLH Page 17 [Sung]*

C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

(During Advent, it is customary for the Church to forgo the Gloria in Excelsis until Christmas.)

Salutation and Collect

TLH Page 19

P: The Lord be with you! C: And with thy spirit!

(prayed together) – Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: *[Sung]* **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

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.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No 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.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Epistle Reading – James 5:7-11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Gradual (*Pastor speaks, congregation responds with “Hallelujahs!”*)

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

C: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

As the Gospel reading is announced, the congregation sings...

C: GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD!

Gospel Reading – Matthew 3:1-12

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Gospel ended, the congregation sings...

C: PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST!

The Nicene Creed *TLH Page 22*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn *TLH 406* “Lord, as Thou Wilt, Deal Thou with Me”

Lord, as Thou wilt, deal Thou with me; No other wish I cherish.

In life and death I cling to Thee; Oh, do not let me perish!

**Let not Thy grace from me depart And grant an ever patient heart
To bear what Thou dost send me.**

**Grant honor, truth, and purity, And love Thy Word to ponder;
From all false doctrine keep me free. Bestow, both here and yonder,
What serves my everlasting bliss; Preserve me from unrighteousness
Throughout my earthly journey.**

**When, at Thy summons, I must leave This vale of sin and sadness,
Give me Thy grace, Lord, not to grieve, But to depart with gladness.
To Thee my spirit I commend; O Lord, grant me a blessed end
Through Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.**

The Sermon

Offertory

TLH Pages 22-23 [Sung]

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayers

TLH Pages 23-24

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Preface: *TLH Page 24 [Responses Sung]*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

The Sanctus: *TLH Page 26 [Sung]*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer: *TLH Page 27*

**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;**

[Sung] **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution: *TLH Page 27*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini: *TLH Page 27*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *[Sung]* **A - - - - men.**

The Agnus Dei: *TLH Page 28 [Sung]*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A - - - - men.**

The Distribution *(We invite those who are communicant members of the LC–MS to commune with us.)*

Distribution Hymns TLH 304 "An Awe-Full Mystery is Here"

**An awe-full mystery is here To challenge faith and waken fear:
The Savior comes as food divine, Concealed in earthly bread and wine.**

**This world is loveless, – but above, What wondrous boundlessness of love!
The king of Glory stoops to me My spirit's life and strength to be.**

**In consecrated wine and bread No eye perceives the mystery dread;
But Jesus' words are strong and clear: "My body and My blood are here."**

**How dull are all the powers of sense Employed on proofs of love immense!
The richest food remains unseen, And highest gifts appear – how mean!**

**But here we have no boon on earth, And faith alone discerns its worth:
The Word, not sense, must be our guide, And faith assure, since sight's denied.**

**Lord, show us still that Thou art good And grant us evermore this food.
Give faith to every wavering soul And make each wounded spirit whole. Amen.**

TLH 272 "When All the World was Cursed"

**When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal The Greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.**

**Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:**

**Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes The enemy's oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, Who beareth all our sin,
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.**

**Thrice blessed every one Who heeds the proclamation
Which John the Baptist brought, Accepting Christ's salvation.
He who believes this truth And comes with love unfeigned
Has righteousness and peace In fullest measure gained.**

**Oh, grant, Thou Lord of Love, That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing;
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him In His eternal day. Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

TLH Pages 29-30 [Sung]

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation:
which Thou hast prepared before the Face of all people,
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
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.**

The Thanksgiving: *TLH Page 30*

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: *[Sung]* **And His mercy endureth forever.**

The Thanksgiving Prayer: *TLH Pages 30-31*

P: ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God,
world without end.

C: *[Sung]* **A- - - - men.**

The Benedicamus: *TLH Page 31*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *[Sung]* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *[Sung]* **Thanks be to God.**

The Benediction: *TLH Page 31*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Closing Hymn TLH 70 "Hosanna to the Living Lord"

Hosanna to the living Lord! Hosanna to the th' Incarnate Word!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King, Let earth, let heav'n, hosanna sing.

O Savior, with protecting care, Abide in this Thy house of prayer,
Where we Thy parting promise claim, Assembled in Thy sacred name.

But, chiefest, in our cleansed breast, Eternal, bid Thy Spirit rest
And make our secret soul to be A temple pure and worthy Thee.

So in the last and dreadful Day, When earth and heav'n shall melt away,
Thy flock, redeemed from sinful stain, Shall swell the sound of praise again. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

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Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

The Lutheran Hymnal: St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, © 1941.

Hymn # 26: Scripture: Psalm 146; Lobe den Herren, o meine Seele; Author: Johann D. Herrnschmidt (1714); Translator: Alfred Bauer (1925, alt.); Tune: "Lobe den Herren, o meine"; Source: "Seelenharfe", Onolzbach, 1665.

Hymn # 406: Text: Psalm 40:8; Herr, wie du willst, so schick's mit mir; Lord, as Thou wilt, Deal Thou with Me; Author: Kasparr Bienemann (1574); Translator: Emanuel Cronenwett (1880, alt.); Tune: Herr, wie du willst; Source: "Deutsch Kirchenamt", Strassburg, 1525.

Hymn #304: Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; An Awe-full Mystery is Here; Author: Matthias Loy (1880); Tune: St. Crispin; Composer: George J. Elvey (1862).

Hymn #272: Scripture: Luke 1:41; Es war die ganze Welt; When All the World was Cursed; Author: Johann G. Olaerius (1697); Translator: Paul E. Kretzmann (1940); Tune: Was frag' ich nach der Welt; Composer: Ahasverus Fritsch (1679).

Hymn #70: Scripture: Matthew 21:9; Hosanna To The Living Lord; Author: Reginald Heber (1811. 1827, ab.); Tune: Vom Himmel hoch; ; Source: "Geisliche Lieder," Leipzig, 1539.

Bible Readings: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

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Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, Dec. 15th:** Luke 16
- **Tuesday, Dec. 16th:** Luke 17
- **Wednesday, Dec. 17th:** Luke 18
- **Thursday, Dec. 18th:** Luke 19
- **Friday, Dec. 19th:** Luke 20
- **Saturday, Dec. 20th:** Luke 21
- **Sunday, Dec. 21st:** Luke 22

Catechism Recitation for the Week: The Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.