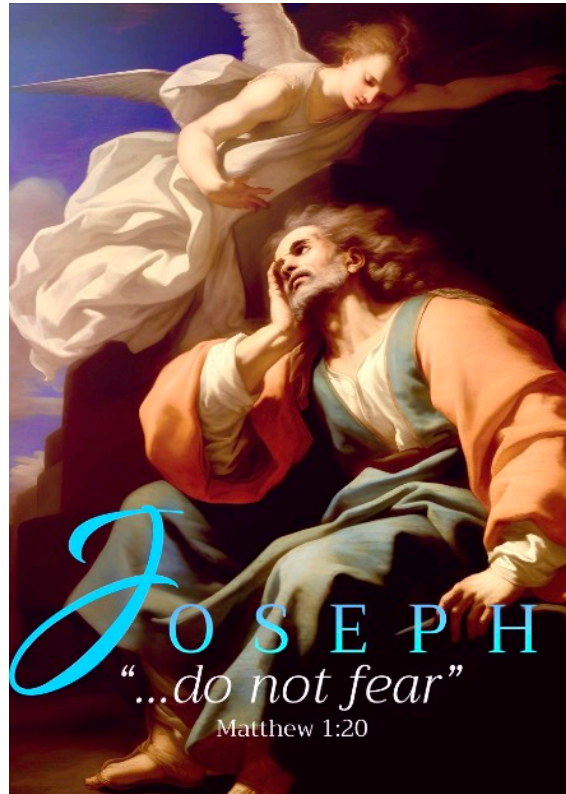


Fourth Sunday in Advent



December 21, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Churches
stjohnslutheranjc.com

Schubert

4409 Saint Johns Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Babbtown

7075 Highway P
Westphalia, MO 65085

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Groh
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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 94 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim. "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild, He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth,
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home;
Oh, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believing heart!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!" 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 130:5-8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1*

P: Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

**C: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;**

P: my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

**C: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is
steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.**

P: And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

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) – **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins
which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with
the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

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

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

Epistle Reading – Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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 62 "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

**Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Oh, come, Thou Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel. 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 310 "Thy Table I Approach"

**Thy Table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer;
Oh, let no unrepented sin Prove hurtful to me there!**

**Lo, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Thy hands.**

**Thy body and Thy blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken here with mouth and soul, I blest reality.**

**Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than seemeth plain to thee.**

**Vouchsafe, O blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined
May ne'er about this Sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.**

**Oh, may I never fail To thank Thee day and night
For Thy true body and Thy blood, O God, my Peace and Light! Amen.**

TLH 55 "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

**Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only Hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.**

**Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Tho' I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my Guest Divine!**

**My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee.
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee;
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit thro' Thy grace.**

**Hail, hosanna, David's Son! Help, Lord, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: Hail, hosanna! to our King. 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 647 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy darkness shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing To God the King, And peace to men on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, The wondrous Gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will Receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel! 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 # 94: Scripture: Luke 2:14; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Author: Charles Wesley (1739, et al.); Tune: Mendelssohn; Composer: Felix Mendelssohn (1840, ad.).

Hymn # 62: Scripture: Isaiah 59:20; Latin: Veni, Veni, Emmanuel; "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; Latin Author: Unknown (c: 1100); Translator: John M. Neale (1851, 1859, ab.); Tune: Veni Emmanuel; Source: Plain-song melody (c.1200).

Hymn # 310: Scripture: Mark 14:22-25; Ich trete frisch; Thy Table I Approach; Author: Gerhard W. Molanus, (1673, cento.); Tr., Matthias Loy (1850, alt.); Tune: St. Michael; Source: "Genevan Psalter," 1551.

Hymn # 55: Scripture: Matthew 21:5; Komm, du Wertes Losengeld; Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come; Author: Johann Olearius (1664); Translator: August Crull, died 1923 (alt.); Tune: Meinen Jesum lass' ich nicht; Source: "Newverfertigtes Gesangbuch," Darmstadt, 1699.

Hymn #647: Scripture: Micah 5:2; O Little Town Of Bethlehem; Author: Phillips Brooks (1868, ab.); Tune: St. Louis; Composer: Lewis H. Redner (1868).

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. 22nd**: Luke 23
- **Tuesday, Dec. 23rd**: Luke 24
- **Wednesday, Dec. 24th**: John 1:1-18
- **Thursday, Dec. 25th**: Matthew 1:18-25
- **Friday, Dec. 26th**: Matthew 2:1-15
- **Saturday, Dec. 27th**: Matthew 2:16-23
- **Sunday, Dec. 28th**: Matthew 3

Catechism Recitation for the Week: The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services:

Christmas Eve

Babbtown - 5:00pm, Schubert - 6:30pm

Christmas Day

Babbtown - 8:00am, Schubert - 10:00am