



# ADVENT

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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

# WORSHIP GUIDELINES

Worship will be conducted using the following protocol:

- ✝ The seating capacity has been reduced to a maximum of 50 worshipers.
- ✝ Each worshiper is asked to enter the building by way of the Central Avenue entrance wearing the required face mask. For those who arrive without one, a mask will be provided.
- ✝ Temperatures will be taken upon entering the building and sign in will be requested.
- ✝ The restrooms will be occupied by one person at a time.
- ✝ Bulletins and sanitizing supplies can be obtained in the narthex.
- ✝ There will be a vacant row between worshipers to maintain a proper, safe distance.
- ✝ There will be no passing of the peace or personal contact during the service.
- ✝ To avoid the unnecessary transmission of airborne particles, no liturgy or hymns will be sung.
- ✝ Communion will be distributed by means of a sealed individual package containing a wafer and grape juice.
- ✝ Offerings will not be received during the service; an offering plate will be available at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- ✝ There will be no personal greeting at the door before or after worship.
- ✝ All conversation after worship is encouraged to take place outside the building.
- ✝ Members are expected to stay at home when ill, be vigilant for symptoms, maintain safe distancing, wash hands often, and wear face coverings.

**We pray that this worship service, though different,  
will be meaningful and uplifting.**

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
THE ORDER OF WORSHIP  
9:30 AM SUNDAY

PRELUDE

*(stand)*

INVOCATION

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

AMEN

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. *(kneel if able)*

*(silence is kept for reflection)*

Loving and forgiving God,

**WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE HELD CAPTIVE BY SIN. IN SPITE OF OUR BEST EFFORTS, WE HAVE GONE ASTRAY. WE HAVE NOT WELCOMED THE STRANGER; WE HAVE NOT LOVED OUR NEIGHBOR; WE HAVE NOT BEEN CHRIST TO ONE ANOTHER. RESTORE US, O GOD. WAKE US UP AND TURN US FROM OUR SIN. RENEW US EACH DAY IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST. AMEN.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.

*(stand)*

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

AMEN.

MUSICAL OFFERING

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

## 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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Celebrate*

*(sit)*

## FIRST READING

*Celebrate*

## SECOND READING

*Celebrate*

*(stand)*

## GOSPEL

*Celebrate*

The Gospel of the Lord;

THANKS BE TO GOD

*(sit)*

## SERMON

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*(stand)*

## APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

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.

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. AMEN.

## PRAYERS

*Celebrate*

### CHOIR ANTHEM *(Pre-recorded)*

*(stand)*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Lift up your hearts.

**WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**AMEN.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

### THANKS BE TO GOD

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table, trusting that Jesus Christ is truly present with us as he promised in this sacrament.*

*(stand)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious and abundant God,

**YOU HAVE DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US, AND WE REJOICE. IN THIS BREAD AND CUP YOU GIVE US LIFE FOREVER. IN YOUR BOUNDLESS MERCY, STRENGTHEN US AND OPEN OUR HEARTS TO THE WORLD'S NEEDS, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN**

## BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✝ now and forever.

AMEN

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

