

P: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

C: **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194)

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when Assistant comes to you and he will hand you a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray carried by the acolyte.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **354**: "Arise, O Christian People"

At the end of the Distribution we stand and continue with Nunc Dimittis on p. 199

✠ CLOSING HYMN NO. **332**: "Savior of the Nations, Come" (Sts. 1-8)

✠ SILENT PRAYER

✠ POSTLUDE

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Assistants – William Schneeloch & Paul Brose

Lay Reader – Bill Schneeloch

Acolyte – Alex Provost

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of

**Sunday Worship
Bulletin
Fourth
Sunday
In ADVENT**

10:00 a.m.

December 23, A.D. 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD!

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35



The Order of Holy Communion

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

AS WE GATHER

In the Holy Gospel, Mary, already pregnant with Jesus, meets with her aunt Elizabeth. Elizabeth is pregnant with the one who will be called John the Baptist. Still in his mother's womb, John recognizes Jesus at the voice of His mother. Jesus' incarnation is so profound that it reaches even the unborn. Likewise, Jesus' resurrection is so powerful that it reaches even the dead. All human creatures, no matter in what stage of humanity, are loved by this Jesus. And He is coming soon.

† ANNOUNCEMENTS

† HYMN of the DAY NO. **357**: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Sts. 1-7)

Confession and Absolution

(Page 184)

† LIGHTING of ADVENT CANDLE

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

As the wreath is lit, the congregation will sing:

**Light one candle for hope, One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for peace, One bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for joy, One bright candle for joy,
Every nation will find salvation in Beth'lem's baby boy.**

**Light one candle for love, One bright candle for love,
He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

† OFFERTORY (Page 192)

(Be Seated)

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

Choir Anthem: "Prepare the Way"

(Please Stand)

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord Jesus Christ, come to all those who are in bondage to sin and Satan. Break their chains and release them from their enslavement, that they serve You in peace and quietness. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

C: and ransom captive Israel.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we live in a world where everyone does what is right in their own minds. Come to us with Your perfect wisdom, that we follow You and not our own selfish ways. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,

C: who orders all things mightily.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, come to those whose life is in chaos and provide order, structure, and discipline, that they live in peace and unity with their neighbors. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,

C: who gave the Law on Sinai's height.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Satan remains an active voice in the world. Silence him by Your mighty power, and proclaim liberty to those who are under his influence. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,

C: free us from Satan's tyranny.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, there are many who do not know You and Your salvation. Send missionaries, pastors, teachers, and anyone willing to share Your grace around the world, that more might believe in You and be saved by Your death and resurrection. O come, Thou Key of David, come,

C: and open wide our heav'nly home.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, so many in this world are lonely and longing for friendship and a place to belong. Send us to those people, that we befriend them and bring them to You. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,

C: and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again, that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;

C: bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.

(Please Stand)

† HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 *(Mary visits Elizabeth.)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C (sung): Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (sung): Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

† STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in 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.

(Be Seated)

† HYMN of the DAY NO. **934**: *"My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"*

† SERMON: *"Look to Little Bethlehem!"* Micah 5: 2-5

(Please Stand)

Service of the Word

(Page 186)

KYRIE

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

† OLD TESTAMENT: Micah 5:2-5a *(The ruler of Israel shall come from Bethlehem.)*

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

† GRADUAL: *(Sung by All)*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

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

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

† EPISTLE: Hebrews 10:5-10

("We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.")

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

