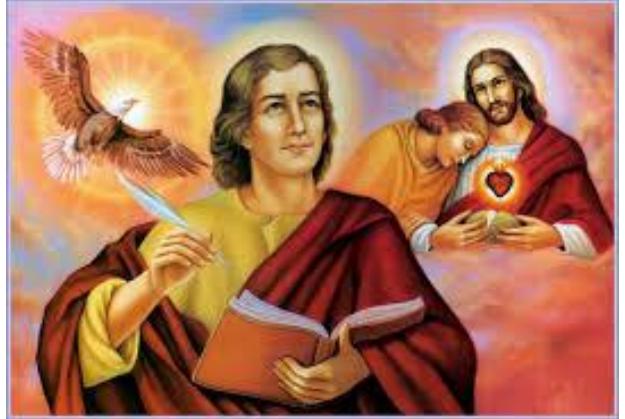


Sunday Worship
Bulletin

**St. John
The Apostle**

December 27, A.D. 2020



Saint John's Lutheran Church

Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM 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.

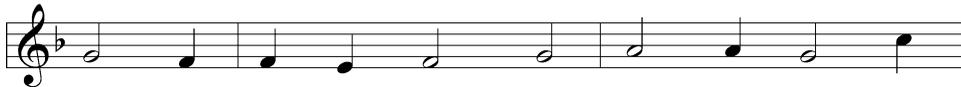
A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Please note: We are pleased that you have joined us for worship in the sanctuary of St. John's. We respectfully ask that you follow the health and safety guidelines issued by the Commonwealth that have allowed us to be open. Please make use of the hand sanitizing stations as you enter the church building. Masks are to be worn at ALL TIMES. You may sit in any pew that is not roped off, but not on the left side of the sanctuary. Maintain proper social distancing while worshipping and receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Thank you for your cooperation.

✧ HYMN NO. **580**: "The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace"



1 The Gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who sent His
 2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who made the a -
 3 It brings the Sav - ior's righ - teous - ness To robe our
 4 It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and



Son to save our race, Pro - claims how Je - sus
 ton - ing sac - ri - fice, And calls the souls with
 souls in roy - al dress; From all our guilt it
 Sa - tan and the grave; It works the faith which



lived and died That we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
 guilt op - pressed To come and find e - ter - nal rest.
 brings re - lease And gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
 firm - ly clings To all the trea - sures which it brings.

**5 It bears to all the tidings glad
 And bids their hearts no more be sad;
 The weary, burdened souls it cheers
 And banishes their guilty fears.**

**6 May we in faith its message learn
 Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
 May we in faith its truth confess
 And praise the Lord, our righteousness.**

✧ INVOCATION, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with

which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

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 Spirit. **C: Amen.**

✧ KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

✧ HYMN No. 368 - "Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

✧ SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please sit)

✧ FIRST READING: Revelation: 1:1-11

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”^[a]
So shall it be! Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✧ GRADUAL – (Sung by All)

**Your word is a lamp | to my feet
and a light | to my path.
How sweet are your words | to my taste,
sweeter than honey | to my mouth!
My heart overflows with a | pleasing theme;
my tongue is like the pen of a | ready scribe.**

✧ **EPISTLE READING:** 1 John 1:1-2:2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand and Sing)



✧ **The Gospel Processional**

✧ **HOLY GOSPEL:** John 21: 20-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.



Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who had been reclining at table close to him and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!" So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?"

This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

✧ The Gospel Recessional

✧ 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.

And 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.

✧ HYMN NO. 517: "By All Saints in Warfare" (Sts. 1, 8, 3)



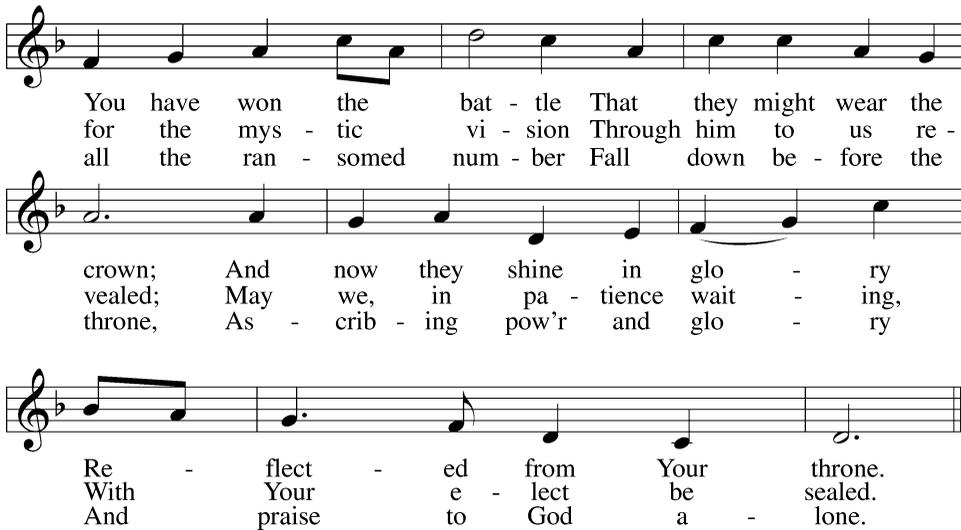
1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For
2 For Your be - lov'd dis - ci - ple Ex -
3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And



all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
iled to Pat - mos' shore, And for his faith - ful
wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the



Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For
rec - ord, We praise You ev - er - more. Praise
Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till



You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the
for the mys - tic vi - sion Through him to us re -
all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the
crown; And now they shine in glo - ry
vealed; May we, in pa - tience wait - ing,
throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry
Re - flect - ed from Your throne.
With Your e - lect be sealed.
And praise to God a - lone.

(Please sit)

✧ SERMON: “*St. John Apostle, Evangelist, and Friend*” John 21:20-25

(Please Stand)

✧ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Eternal Lord God, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs. Hear us, Father, as we call to You in His name. Give us grace to rejoice in Christ's blessed incarnation and grant us a glad new year. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood on earth is named, bless the families of all Christians with Your promises. Give parents diligence and delight in their work, and grant Your favor on all children, that they may grow in strength and wisdom. Bless all widows, orphans and broken families also with Your mercy, and give them joy in the redemption You have won for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O worthy Judge, from You proceeds the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Give wisdom to those who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may serve faithfully in their tasks, according to Your good pleasure, for the benefit of our people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious Lord, receive our prayers for those who suffer from loneliness. Comfort them with the sure and certain knowledge that they will never be forsaken by You. Give them family and friends within the household of faith with whom they can find loving companionship. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Lord, help the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers. Surround them with Your love in Christ and, according to Your gracious will, heal them. Comfort all those who mourn and fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Father of lasting peace, show Your mercy to those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well-prepared to depart in peace according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to 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 You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant John, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So 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.

✧ WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

✧ PAX DOMINI

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



☐ A - men.

✧ AGNUS DEI



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(Please Sit)

◇ DISTRIBUTION HYMN NO. **372**: "O Jesus Christ, The Manger Is"



1 O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is My
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey Doth
 3 Thy light and grace Our guilt ef - face, Thy
 4 Thou Chris - tian heart, Who - e'er thou art, Be



par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.
 come to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
 heav'n - ly rich - es all our loss re - triev - ing.
 of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee!



For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made
 Thou, God's own Son, With us art one, Dost
 Im - man - u - el, Thy birth doth quell The
 For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild, Joins



flesh for us; here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.
 join us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
 pow'r of hell and Sa - tan's bold de - ceiv - ing.
 thee to Him; how great - ly God must love thee!

5 Remember thou

What glory now

The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.

The angel host

Can never boast

Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6 The world may hold

Her wealth and gold;

But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.

To Him hold fast

Until at last

A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

(Please Stand)

✧ THE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

✧ NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

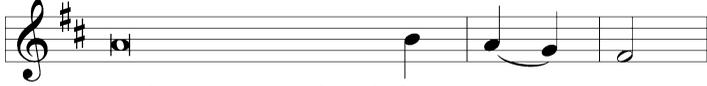


is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

◇ THANKSGIVING



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



G and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

◇ SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS



P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.

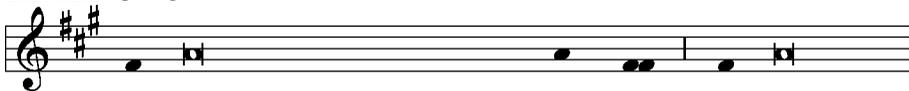


A Bless we the Lord.

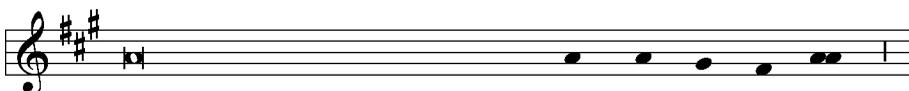


G Thanks be to God.

◇ BENEDICTION



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

