

Divine Service
for the
**Third
Sunday
in Advent**

10:00 a.m.

December 14, A.D. 2025



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

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WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD and SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST!

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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, be patient and establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also. He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

✠ OPENING HYMN NO. **348**: *"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"*



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

✠ 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.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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.

☩ **LIGHTING of ADVENT CANDLE**

P: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**C: Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!
Hosanna in the highest!**

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 verse will be sung by the congregation.

**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.**

☩ **KYRIE**



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



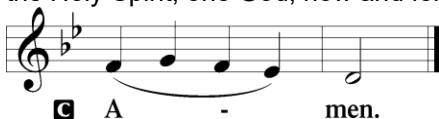
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Let us pray. 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.



(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say 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." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then 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; the 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. And 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. No 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. And 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.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ GRADUAL: **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: James 5:7-11

Be 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. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do

not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, 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.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)



† HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the 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. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

As 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. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly, 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. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let them hear.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



† 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.

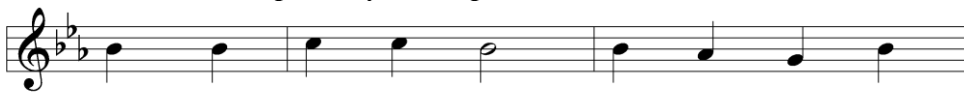
(Be Seated)

✠ CHILDREN'S SERMON

✠ HYMN of the DAY NO. **345**: *"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"*



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

✠ SERMON: *"Give Me Patience Now"*

James 5:7-11

✠ CHOIR ANTHEM: *"People Look East"*

Traditional

(Please Stand)

† OFFERTORY

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Lord, You are the source of all joy. Even the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad at Your appearance. Sustain us in the time of waiting for Your will and purpose to unfold in these latter days. Give us patience under trials and hope that endures the changes and chances of this mortal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O God, You have sent messengers to prepare the way of Your Son's coming. Grant us ears to hear and hearts to believe the words delivered by pastors and all who bear Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious Lord, You have instituted the home to be a refuge for husbands and wives and a place of growth and safety for children. Look with favor upon the homes of our land, and grant that the faith might be delivered from one generation to the next. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty God, give guidance to those entrusted with positions of leadership in government. Protect service men and women who defend us against the enemies of our nation, and those who enact and enforce laws that protect us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, our God, the prophet Isaiah looked for the day when blind eyes would see, deaf ears would hear, lame legs would leap and mute tongues would sing. Until the final day of restoration, draw near to all who have requested our prayers, and give them healing according to Your gracious will. Bind up those who grieve, that they may look for the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, You give strength to those who are anxious. Give us hearts that trust in You at all times. Grant us courage to confront our doubts and fears with Your Word, and give us strength to fulfill our vocations of worship, witness, prayer and works of mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With great jubilation, O Lord, we rejoice at Your Son's gracious visitation in His body and blood in the fellowship of this altar. Grant us faith to receive Him worthily as He comes in this foretaste of the Lamb's marriage feast. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, Your love invites us to rejoice in Your goodness. In every circumstance of life, teach us the joy that comes from knowing Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and eagerly expecting His gracious visitation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:



C 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,



bless-ed is He, bless - 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: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.



C 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.

(Be Seated)

Regarding the Reception of the Lord's Supper

At Saint John's we believe, teach, and confess according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that in the Lord's Supper we receive not merely bread and wine, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This Holy Supper is not only a gift of Christ, but also a confession of the faith and doctrine confessed at this altar. Because Holy Scripture warns that those who eat and drink unworthily do so to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and because communing together is also an expression of unity in doctrine and confession, we joyfully invite to the Lord's Table all confirmed members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who are in good standing with their home congregation, who have been instructed and who publicly confess this faith. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation, we are thankful for your presence today and warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor approaches. Following the service and in the coming week, our pastors would be glad to speak with you about the Lord's Supper and to share more about what we believe, teach, and confess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

✠ DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **636**: "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
 mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



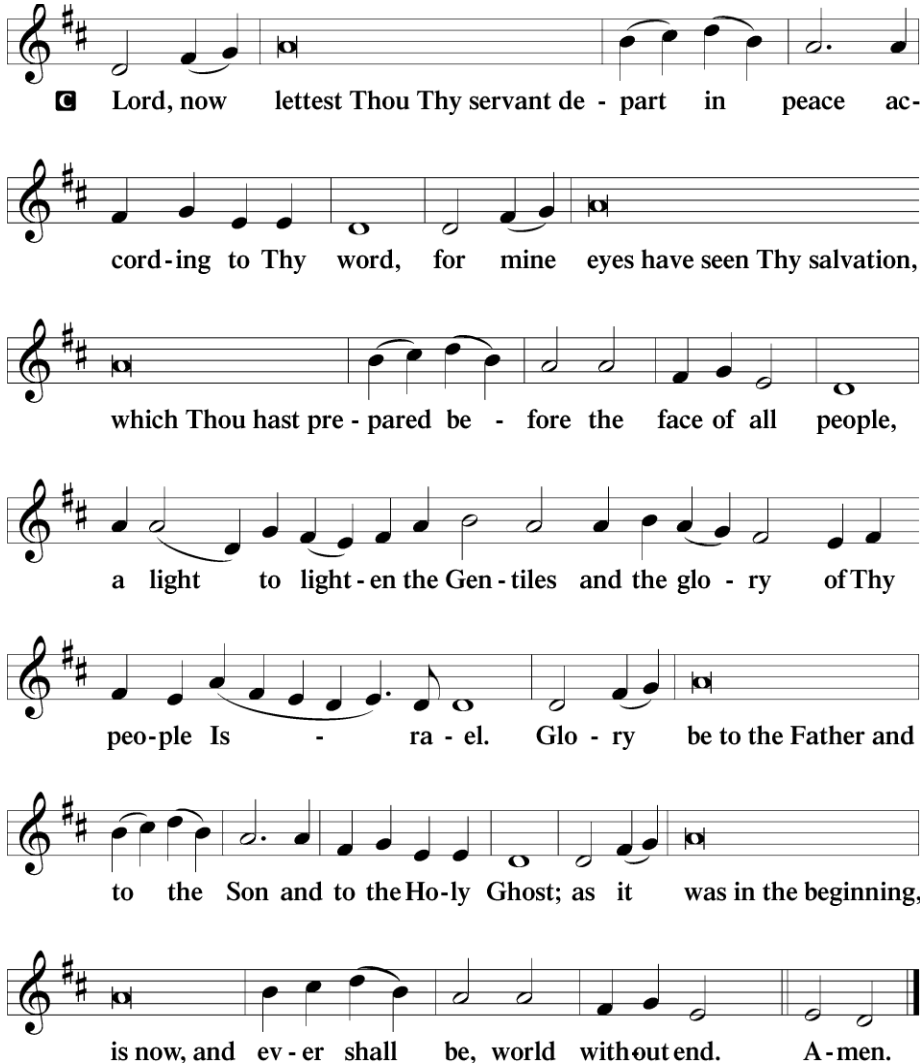
ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

(Please Stand)

† 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

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

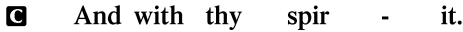


and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.



P: The Lord be with you.

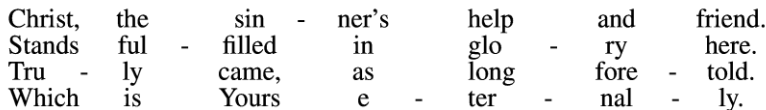
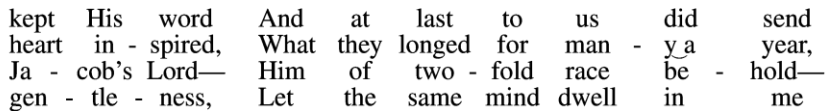


C Thanks be to God.

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.



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



**5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.**

**6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.**

The Rose Candle and the Joy That Cannot Fade

Rose is used only twice each year, and always within seasons that call the Church to repentance and preparation. The Third Sunday in Advent, called Gaudete Sunday, includes a time for rejoicing that has been long recognized since the Middle Ages. Rose does not replace the character of Advent, nor does it set aside the season's call to watchfulness. Instead, it reflects the ancient custom of lightening the tone at the midpoint of a penitential season in order to remind the faithful that, even amid sorrow and repentance, the joy of Christ and His coming cannot be eclipsed. Therefore, the rose-colored Third Sunday in Advent points us forward toward the comfort that Christ has won for His people on the cross. So too, it assures us that our hope in Him remains joyful even as we prepare our hearts for His coming.

Advent Midweek Sermon Series

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

"The Lies of Christmas: What Satan Wants You to Believe This Advent"

During the holy season of Advent, the Church watches and waits for the coming of her Lord. Advent is a season of repentance and expectation in which we hear the preaching of John the Baptist and lift our eyes toward the appearing of Christ, who once came in humility, who now comes through His Word and Sacraments, and who will come again in glory. In these weeks before Christmas, the Church deliberately resists the world's rush into sentiment and excess, so that our hearts may be renewed in faith and fixed on the One who comes to save.

This year our midweek Advent services will confront the falsehoods that the evil one uses to distort our hope and distract our hearts. Each week we will expose one of the common lies of our age, so that our hearts may be turned to repentance and anchored in the truth of Christ, who is our Light in the darkness.

* December 17

The Lie: Christmas Is Only for the Merry

This lie echoes through a culture that celebrates surface level joy, telling you to hide your grief, silence your loneliness, and mask your exhaustion, because honest sorrow is treated as a threat to everyone else's cheer.

In these Wednesday services, we will gather in quiet expectation, hear the Scriptures, pray for steadfast faith, and rejoice that our King is coming to us. You are warmly invited to join us as we watch for His appearing and open our hearts in repentance to receive the Christ who brings grace, mercy, and peace to His waiting people.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS to adorn our altar for Christmas. Order forms are on the round table in the foyer. If you have any questions, please see or call Jane McClure: 562-0492.

AMERICAN CLASSICS CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be held today at 3:00 p.m. Join in a carol sing-along and feel the spirit of this Christmas season! A light reception will follow. (A free will offering will be collected)

THIS WEEK:

TODAY	Classic Chorus Concert	3:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	Choir Practice	4:45 p.m.
	Mid-Week Advent Service	6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	Pastor Riley's Bible Study	10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
	Hand Chimes Practice	4:45 p.m.
NEXT SUNDAY	8:30 AM Bible Study - Led by Herb Greenspan <i>(In the Lounge)</i>	
	9:00 AM Bible Study - Led by Pastor Windoloski	
	<i>(In last room on the left - the WINGS room)</i>	
	Divine Service	10:00 a.m.

Mark Your Calendars for Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Divine Service at 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Divine Service at 7:00 p.m.

