

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Red Bud, Illinois

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 19-20, 2020

Divine Service Four, page 203

The Prelude: *(Sat.)* "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

arranged by James L. Brauer

(Sun.) "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

Bell Choir

The Ringing of the Bell calls us to holy worship.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH! We preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, administer the sacraments and provide Christian education in service to all people. We are especially happy that we have visitors with us today. St. John's is a congregation which follows the historic order of Christian worship. Even if you are not Lutheran, you may recognize many of the elements of worship from your own tradition. If you or your small child needs a space for privacy during the service, Room 1 in the Fellowship Hall has a TV with a video feed of our worship service. We ask everyone to sign our Friendship Register that is at the end of the pew. To help with the reverent nature of our worship, please silence and do not use your cell phones and pagers during this service. Thank you!

The Opening Hymn: 338 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

**Come, Thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
 From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Israel's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
 Dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.**

**Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!
 Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
 By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-long;
 By Thine all-suf-fi-cent mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.**

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord, **C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, (and) call upon Him in prayer and praise, (and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar), let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Introit: Psalm 19



Shower, O heavens, / from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
let the earth / open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.
The heavens declare the glory / of God, and the sky above proclaims His | handiwork.
In them He has set a tent | for the sun, which comes out like a groom leaving his | chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the / heavens,
and its circuit to the | end of them, and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Shower, O heavens, / from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
let the earth / open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

Kyrie (*sung*) Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

The Advent Stanza: (*sung, LSB 348*)

The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri-um-phant breaks,
When beau-ty gilds the east-ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.

The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau-ty brings.

Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

P Let us pray together the Collect of the Day.

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. Amen. (*please be seated*)

The Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his

surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build Me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for My dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?”’”

Now, therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over My people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more.

And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual

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.**

The Epistle Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

Common Alleluia and Verse (*please stand if you are able*)

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are writ-ten that you may be-lieve that Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter. **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The 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. *(please be seated)*

Hymn of The Day: 356 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

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Sermon: "Do Not Be Afraid! Jesus Is on His Throne" Luke 1:30-33

(Please stand if you are able) **Prayer of the Church**

HEALING AND COMFORT: Kenneth Koester, Kenny Althoff, Ed Luttmann, Barb Ladwig, Joan Prigge, Fred Buch, Dennis Deterding, Lori Rees, David Burgdorf, Jackie Quintin; *Family and Friends of St. John's Members:* Lori Voges, Roger Drinnon, Sr., Pat Smith, Barb Niermann, Boniface Becker, Merlin Liefer, Velma Koenig, Denise Ebers, Doug Whelan, Brenda Manning, Peggy Koen, Judy Hackstadt. *Help us keep this list current!*

MILITARY: *(Please call with names.)* **Army-** Casey Vallett, Tanner Valleroy, Nathan Koen, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Austin Scheibe, Trevor Buckner, Jessica DeMarco, Jeremiah Brandt, Benjamin Boeder, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan, Tyler Wahlman, Gavin Roche-Voss, Joshua Cox; **Navy-** Brad Koester, Carl Muehler; **Air Force-** Gage Baldwin, Brian Hubbard, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, Terry Koester, David Livingston,

Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Tailor Neuhaus, Josh Butterworth, Keenan Turnure

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL: Fire/EMS- Tom Beshoar, Kevin Biffar, Chad Crafton, Steven Falkenhain, Chad Grohmann, Curt Guebert, Scot Heller, Blake Koppel, Chad Langrehr, Kenny Langrehr, Matt Liefer, Kevin Miller, Alan Piel, Jason Rippelmeyer, Brad Stechmesser; Police- Ralph Sievers, Chris Hewitt, Jason Palm (*Please call our office with names*)

+those who mourn: the family of St. John's member Carl Becker; the family of Elda Guebert, the mother of Carol Stoll

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

O Most High, You have favored us in the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary. In everything, let it be to us according to Your Word. Give us faith to believe that nothing is impossible with You, and so to pray boldly in childlike confidence. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, You have revealed in Christ Jesus the mystery kept secret for long ages, now made known to all nations through the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. According to Your eternal command, give us faithful preachers of Your Gospel to bring about the obedience of faith. Bless our Synod president, our district president, our circuit visitor; and all pastors and teachers in Christ. Strengthen Your Holy Church in every place. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, hear our prayers on behalf of our nation, its president, all legislators and judges, and those newly elected to serve. Preserve their lives and guide their actions for the good of our people. Protect all who serve in harm's way for our good, remembering especially our military members, law enforcement agents, emergency responders and all healthcare personnel. Give peace among the nations of the earth, and preserve us from pestilence and famine, war and bloodshed, sedition, rebellion and every evil. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Graciously regard all for whom we pray asking for relief, recovery and protection from the Covid-19 pandemic. Grant healing to the sick, and give peace to the anxious and dying, *especially* do we place into Your care and keeping Kenneth, Kenny, Ed, Barb, Joan, Ron, Fred, Dennis, Lori, David, Jackie, Lori, Roger, Pat, Barb, Boniface, Merlin, Velma,

Denise, Doug, Brenda, Peggy, Judy and those we now name in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord of all life, we place into your care and keeping all those who mourn the loss of loved ones to physical death. We remember Carl's family and Elda's family as You have called them from their long earthly lives into Your eternal presence. We thank You for Your many blessings to them in this life and for the blessing they were to those around them. We especially are grateful for the gift of faith in their Lord Jesus which the Holy Spirit worked in them. Now that You have fulfilled that faith for them with the with the heavenly life Jesus won for them, we trust that You will comfort those who grieve their loss by blessing them with the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, grant that all who receive Your Son's holy body and precious blood may do so in repentance and faith and in the unity of a true confession. Work in us this Christmas a love and desire for receiving Your blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Most High, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. By His death, He has opened the kingdom of heaven and closed the gates of hell for all who trust in Him. By His resurrection, He has rescued the prisoners who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The individual cups of white wine in the center of the cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer this. For more information about this sacrament, please see pages 326-327 and 329-330 of *Lutheran Service Book*.

Preface

- P The Lord be with you. C **And also with you.**
 P Lift up your hearts. C **We lift them to the Lord.**
 P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
 P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks

to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (*sung*)

**Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth a-dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho-san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;
Tru-ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**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.**

The Words of Our Lord and The Pax Domini

PThe peace of the Lord be with you always. C Amen.

Agnus Dei (*sung*)

**1 O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world a-way;
O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mer-cy on us, Lord, we pray.
2 O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world a-way;
Have mer-cy on us, Je- sus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Distribution: (*please be seated*)

(Lord Jesus, I pray You to make me, unworthy as I am, worthy through Your grace;
so that Your body and Your blood may be for me a strengthening of my faith,

a proof of my forgiveness, a closer union with You and Your people, an increase of holiness, the basis of a glad resurrection, and a pledge of everlasting life. Amen.)

(Sunday) “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”

Bell Choir

Hymn: “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (tune: LSB 442 “All Glory, Laud and Honor”)

**O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel-come You a-right?
Your peo-ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart’s de-light!
O kin-dle, Lord most ho-ly, Your lamp with-in my breast
To do in spir-it low-ly All that may please You best.**

**Your peo-ple ev-er praise You And lift to You their palms;
And I too will a-dore You With joy-ous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom for-ev-er For You with prais-es new
And from Your name shall nev-er With-hold the hon-or due.**

**I lay in fet-ters, groan-ing; You came to set me free
I stood, my shame be-moan-ing; You came to hon-or me
A glo-rious crown You give me, A trea-sure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me As earth-ly rich-es fly.**

**Love caused Your in-car-na-tion; Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my sal-va-tion Pro-cured my lib-er-ty.
Oh, love be-yond all tell-ing, That let You to em-brace
In love, all love ex-cel-ling, Our lost and fall-en race.**

**Sin’s debt, that fear-ful bur-den, Can-not His love e-rase;
Your guilt the Lord will par-don And co-ver by His grace.
He comes, for you pro-cur-ing The peace of sin for-giv’n,
His child-ren thus se-cur-ing E-ter-nal life in heav’n.**

**He comes to judge the na-tions, A te-rror to His foes.
A light of con-so-la-tions And bless-ed hope to those
Who love the Lord’s ap-pear-ing, O glor-ious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheer-ing, And guide us safe-ly home.**

Hymn: 357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

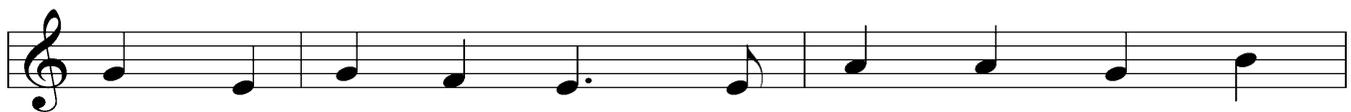
6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
 2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
 3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
 4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
 fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
 in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
 above the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
 Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
 mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.
 yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
 Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.
 Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

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(Please stand if able) **Nunc Dimittis:** page 211

**O Lord, now let Your ser-vant De-part in heav'n-ly peace,
 For I have seen the glo-ry Of Your re-deem-ing grace:
 A light to lead the Gen-tiles Un-to Your ho-ly hill,
 The glo-ry of Your peo-ple, Your cho-sen Is-ra-el.**

**All glo-ry to the Fa-ther, All glo-ry to the Son,
 All glo-ry to the Spir-it, For-ev-er Three in One;
 For as in the be-gin-ning, Is now, shall ev-er be,
 God's tri-une name re-sound-ing Through all e-ter-ni-ty.**

Post-Communion Collect

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 in 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.

C Amen.**Benedicamus and Benediction**

P Let us bless the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace. **C Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: 345 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” (*sing “A-men”*)

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!

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The Postlude: (*Sat.*) “From God the Father, Virgin-Born” *arranged by Benjamin M. Culli*
 (*Sunday*) “Kling, Glocken, Kling-A-Ling-A-Ling” *Bell Choir*

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This Week With Our Lord, December 20-27, 2020

SUNDAY, December 20-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
 9:25 a.m. Sunday School and Faith/Pandemic Class in the new gym wing
 9:30 a.m. Adult and Youth Bible classes in the Fellowship Hall
 10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)

Monday, December 21-

8:20 a.m. Grade 2 Early Childhood Christmas Service online
 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall
 7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room

Tuesday, December 22-

8:30 a.m. Grades 3-8 Christmas Service online
 12:30 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 23- *School on Christmas Break*

Thursday, December 24- *Office Closed*

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service Acolyte: Barrett Wagner
 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service Acolyte: Kendall Crafton
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service Acolyte: Lucas McCarthy
 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Friday, December 25- *The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Communion Service Acolyte: Christine Liefer

Saturday, December 26- *Pastor Nebel on vacation thru 31st*

5:00 p.m. Divine Service Acolyte: Ayden Wiegard

SUNDAY, December 27-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service Acolyte: Austin Kiefer
 9:25 a.m. Sunday School and Faith/Pandemic class in the new gym wing
 9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes in the Fellowship Hall
 10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion Acolyte: Kerrigan Zeiger

CHALICE/COMMON CUP RETURNS:

The chalice/common cup is available for receiving the Lord's Supper should you desire it. While the risk of transmitting a disease in this way is very slight normally, we take the extra precaution of soaking the cloth purificators in high percentage alcohol, which kills the virus.

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL:

To have flowers in worship please call the office at 282-3873 to notify the committee and to have proper thanks in the bulletin of those donating.

PORTALS OF PRAYER:

The next edition of our quarterly devotion, *Portals of Prayer*, for January-March of 2021 is available in the racks by the front and back doors of church.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:

Worship: 318; Holy Communion: 108; Adults & Youth: 45; Sunday School students: 48
 Wednesday, December 16 Midweek Advent III- AM- 29; PM- 140

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN, WHATE'ER THE GIFT MAY BE:

We join with one another in the grace of giving. 12/13- General Fund: \$23,567.50; Debt: \$300; School: \$315; Automatic Giving: \$5,690; Lutheran Witness: \$20. *“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. And thereby put Me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”* (Malachi 3:10)

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: *LCMS Stewardship Resources*

2 Samuel 7:4 – “But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan. . .” Nathan thought David’s idea was great, so he blessed it with the Lord’s name. But, later that night, the Word of the Lord set him straight. The Word of the Lord must be the basis for what we think, say, and do in God’s Kingdom – not our own desires or whims.

OFFERING ENVELOPES:

Boxes of offering envelopes are on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. Please take yours and any for family members not able to be in worship with us. If you do not see a box for yourself, please call our office at 282-2394 and ask Julie for one. Thank you!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR:

We will never fully grasp the idea of God, but that doesn't keep us from experiencing God's love for us in Christ. Listen to “Experience God” (John 1:1-18) with Speaker Dr. Michael Ziegler on KFUE AM 850 Sundays at 12:30 & 5 p.m. or on Bott Christian Radio Sundays at 8 a.m. (KSIV 1320 AM or 91.5 FM).

ADDITION TO WORSHIP PRAYERS:

If you are or have in your family an emergency responder or healthcare worker whose position has become especially difficult during this time of pandemic, please call or email our office so that we can list the name of that person in our group prayers much like we remember our nation’s military personnel.

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES: (9:30 to 10:15 a.m.)

Sunday Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall concludes the topic of “The Separation of Church and State” this Sunday. DCE Bill Becker continues his class called “Faith in the Shadow of a Pandemic.” This is in the Junior High wing of the new part of the school.

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE CLASS:

Seminarian Wade Waterstreet and our high school students have begun a study on “The Gospel of Matthew.” This is in Room Two of the Fellowship Hall on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

ZOOM BIBLE CLASS OFFERING:

Seminarian Waterstreet also is offering a Zoom Bible Class on Saturdays from 4-4:40 p.m. To be part of “Stump the Seminarian” please send an email to him at waterstreetw@csl.edu and he will send you a weekly Zoom link.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY:

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of St. John’s member Carl Becker who died in the Lord on Monday at Mercy South Hospital just two weeks short of his 93rd birthday. He received his Christian burial on Saturday in a private family service and committal in our cemetery. Thanks be to God for His gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER:

Kdg.: Layla Meyer and Maggie Kuehn; 1st Grade: Henry Schnepel 2nd Grade: Natalie Kassing; 5th Grade: Sydney Kassing; 7th Grade: Noah Kassing 8th Grade: Sam Roscow and Daniel Stapleton. Thank you for your dedication and your participation in our Sunday School ministry!

CHRISTMAS HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES:

In order to enable your attendance at Christmas worship services in a socially-distant and comfortable way, we have asked you to make a reservation as we limit each service to 120 people, or 33% capacity of the sanctuary. We have added two Christmas Eve Holy Communion services, so the times will be 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to go along with the Christmas Day 9 a.m. Holy Communion service. Christmas Day is the only service with room left. Call our office at 282-2394 to reserve a place at that service. Those who arrive without a reservation will be seated in the Fellowship Hall to worship over closed-circuit television. That will be five opportunities for worship here at St. John's at Christmas.

CHRISTMAS ON FACEBOOK AND YOU TUBE:

The 3 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be recorded and uploaded to Facebook and You Tube by 5 p.m. so that it can be viewed on Christmas Eve by those who are unable to be in person for worship. On Christmas Eve please do not arrive more than ½ hour before the 5 p.m., 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. services begin in order to provide the worshippers from the previous service time to depart and for the sanitizing of the sanctuary to take place.

FOOD DRIVE FOR COMWELL:

Our Evening Guild is sponsoring a food drive for ComWell (Human Service Center) Food Pantry! We have a box in the church entryway for your donations.

CHRISTIAN MUSIC CDs AVAILABLE:

+St. John's member Joan Voges offers music CDs from her Lilyfields Collection to us for a donation to our school's ministry. You can pick up copies from the table in the entryway.

+Former St. John's member Bryan Perdue has a new CD of music available called, "Freely Given Freely Received." This, plus a few of his earlier CDs also are available on the table in the entryway for a \$10 donation to our congregation's debt reduction.

CONGRATULATIONS!:

St. John's member and Red Bud High School senior Adrienne Vallett was named Student of the Month for Red Bud High School. This award is provided by the Red Bud Lions Club. She also was one of 14 runners named to the All-South Cross Country Team. She is the daughter of Casey and Tracy Vallett.

THE PRAYER CHAIN:

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. If you would like to serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact her at 618/521-7417 or dvheller@htc.net. Call our office if you would like to add someone to our worship prayers. *Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective* (James 5:16).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT:

Red Bud Care Center: Virginia Bahr, Wilma Wagner, Jody Winkelmann; Waterloo Garden Place- Alice Smith; Ruma R&R- Fern Schnepel, Willard Uffelmann; Waterloo Magnolia Terrace- June Lawrence; Cedarhurst Memory Care, Waterloo- Cecelia Lautenschlaeger

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT RED BUD GARDEN PLACE:

Margaret Hanebutt, Dorothy Heizer, Doris Mueller, Vernon and Evelyn Muench, Lorine Reinhardt, Dr. Paul Schrieber, Elda Seders, Gloria Stellhorn, Wilma Stellhorn, Norma Vogt, Arlin and Helen Winkelman

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH CONFINED IN-HOME:

Kathryn Chunn, Larry Ebers, Don and Betty Fausz, Willie Guebert, Nancy Holmstrom, Kenneth and Geri Koester, Donald Kueker, Omer and Neva Liefer, Orville Liefer, Joyce Lopez, Ed Luttmann, Jean Menke, Edna Moeller.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!:

12/20- Jacob Moll, Jeremy Collins; 12/21- Madison Falkenhain, Maggie Brown, Ava Clifford, Langston Wiegard; 12/22- Addalyn Schloemann; 12/23- Nik Stechmesser, Olivia Schluter; 12/24- Camden Moll; 12/25- Wayne Mesnarich, Ken Ruwald, Laura DuFrenne; 12/26- Mike VanDorn, Christina Gidley. *Please call the office for corrections!*

PARISH NURSE NOTE: from LCMS *Better Health*

Boost Your Immune System: Yogurt is a great source of vitamin D which regulates the immune system. Look for the phrase “live and active cultures” printed on the label. Buy plain yogurts rather than those loaded with sugar and then add your own fruits.

VIRTUAL “BREW IN THE LOU”:

The Lutheran Elementary School Association (LESA, we are a member), is selling “Brew in the Lou” passports. They are in our office or you can go to www.LESAstl.org. The cost is \$30 for a 12-month ticket with more than \$300 worth of beverages, distilleries, wineries, restaurants and retailers in the St. Louis area. Money raised supports students in area Lutheran schools.

BOOK NOOK CHURCH LIBRARY FEATURED BOOK:

The latest addition to our church library in the Fellowship Hall is “Hearts of Fire: Eight Women in the Underground Church and Their Stories of Costly Faith.” This is published by Voice of the Martyrs. “These role models of faith and passion will inspire you to pursue Christ with heart aflame, no matter what the cost.”

KFUO AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:

KFUO Radio, AM850 & kfuo.org, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you on **AM850 & kfuo.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get podcasts! Find us on social media @KFUO.org, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. This week on KFUO and kfuo.org we begin our special Twelve Days of Christmas programming full of sacred music, scripture, prayers, and special talk segments. Listen to this special programming for the Christmas season from December 24 to January 6!

ISSUES, ETC.: Talk Radio and Podcasts for the Christmas Season: December 23-January 1
Early Church Fathers on the Birth of Christ

Rev. Will Weedon of “The Word of the Lord Endures Forever”
The Birth of Jesus Foretold in Micah

Dr. Jason Soenksen of Concordia University Wisconsin
Holiday Depression- Dr. Beverly Yahnke of Doxology

The New Year Hymn “Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year”

Dr. Arthur Just of Concordia Theological Seminary

The Top Religion Stories of 2020- Terry Mattingly of GetReligion

Listen at www.issuesetc.org

LIFE THOUGHTS: (from *Lutherans for Life*) www.lutheransforlife.org

Anyone who experiences surprise pregnancy understands Mary’s “greatly troubled” (Luke 1:29). But since every conception comes about only by God’s good and gracious will, we can rest assured that especially in such circumstances, “The Lord is with you” (Luke 1:28) and “You have found favor with God” (Luke 1:30). Who needs “my body, my choice” when we can declare, “Let it be to my according to Your Word” (Luke 1:38)?

CAMP WARTBURG NEWS: www.campwartburg.com

Due to social distancing, children were in day camp all summer with ten or less in each group. Our staff did an amazing job keeping the children in their groups, delivering snacks and lunch to their cabins and providing a safe environment. We were excited to minister to over 120 children at some level. We now are able to provide a much needed service to the community with our day camp, our classroom settings and our before and after school care program. Currently children arrive on the school bus daily ready for lunch and very excited to be at Camp Wartburg for the remainder of the afternoon. Please keep this ministry in your prayers and consider a gift of support as plans are being made to welcome retreat groups and campers this spring.

UNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS: www.unityesl.org

The theme of this school year is “Walking Together in Christ.” There are 136 students this year with 21 of them participating on-line. Unity’s principal, Rev. Aaron Dickerson leads the daily “Belong to Jesus” time. This year he is sharing lessons from the book of Genesis on God’s creation of the world, humanity’s fall into sin, and God’s covenant with Abraham.

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL 618-853-7300

Merry Christmas! Thank you to everyone who has supported the work and ministry of *Christ Our Savior*. It isn’t too late to make a donation for the 2020 tax year. You can make a donation by mailing or dropping off a check or by visiting our website: www.coslhs.org.

Part-time Job Opportunity: COS looking to employ a part-time facilities manager for less than 20 hours a week. If you are interested, please call the office for more details.

Thrivent Action Grants: Members of Thrivent can request two \$250 action grants each year. If you or a family member has a Thrivent Action team they have not used yet, please consider using it for a project for COS. We would like to update landscaping, do some deep cleaning, painting, and maintenance work. Please contact Lisa via email at enroll@coslhs.org or call the school if you would like to use an Action Team Grant toward one or more of these projects.



St. John's Lutheran Church – LCMS
 508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois
 Church Office & School: 808 South Main Street
 (618) 282-3873 Fax 618-282-4087

E-mail: office@stjohnsredbud.org Web address: www.stjohnsredbud.org

Senior Pastor Mark Nebel 618-237-5802 or home 282-3050

Assistant to the Pastor: Rev. Clifford Adair 507-215-7333

Principal – Mrs. Deitt Schneider 618-806-3049 or home: 824-6335

Director of Parish Music – Mrs. Lindsey Hudak 340-6055

Director of Christian Education and School Librarian – Mr. Bill Becker 282-2958

Athletic Director – Justin Palm 214-1103 Secretaries - Julie Ratz & Jessica Schloemann

Senior Youth – Terry and Susie Harms 618-201-5654

Junior Youth -- Lisa Quinn and Jennifer Roscow 282-5343

Matthew Foster, Principal, Christ Our Savior Lutheran High, 853-7300

Faculty and Staff

Preschool – Cindy Steele

Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz; Aide – Patty Schnepel

First Grade – Rachel Miller

Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer

Third Grade – Stephanie Valleroy

Fourth Grade – Cindy Nebel (Before/After School Care)

Fifth Grade – Darlene Letcher

Sixth Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Doreen Schnepel

Seventh Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Nancy Whelan

Eighth Grade Homeroom and Athletic Director (6th-8th) – Justin Palm

Resource Teacher – Lara Vause

Custodians – Alan Ohms, Bob Schramm Cooks – Jill Gross and Marilyn Oettle

Day Care

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Lisa Quinn, Ashley Brittingham,

Megan Diercks, Jennifer Pfannebecker, Nicole Kadlec, Patty Brewer, Kristi Martel, Courtney

Schoenbeck, Brittney Eichholz, Pam Henry, Eileen Seibold, Christy Deterding, Melissa Schilling,

Kaleigh Johnston, Amy Williams, Karin Russo and Geraldine Thompson

Church Council

Chairman: Bruce Schneider Vice-Chairman: Gary Buatte

Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Ray Wagner Board of Finance: Ben Guebert

Elder Chair: Stuart Langrehr Parish Education Chair: Andrew Stellhorn

Trustee Chair: John Preston Estate Fund Chair: Jim Walker

Lutheran High School Board: Lisa Quinn and Christina Gidley

Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Nebel Lector: (8 a.m.) Seminarian Wade Waterstreet

Organist/Bell Choir Director: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak Greeters: (5 p.m.) Virginia and Mark Moeller

Acolytes: (5 p.m.) Landon Ruebusch; (8 a.m.) Noah Kassing; (10:30 a.m.) Colt Hess

Instrumentalists: (10:30 a.m.) Lindsey Hudak, Brandon Nehrt, and Jonathan Hudak

Video: Eric Fritsche Communion Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Flower Servers: Alverda Rahn and Diane Kunkelmann Paraments: Virginia Moeller

() Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life (+) everlasting. Amen.**

(5 p.m. and 8 a.m.) Children's Message Song: "Light One Candle" (AGPS 163)

**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,
Ev'ry nation will find salvation in Beth-l'em's baby boy.
Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love,
He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!
He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

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The 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. services conclude here:

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.**

Pastor: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and take them to heart that by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **People: Amen.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace. C **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn:

The Postlude: “”

by

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