

Second Sunday in Advent

St. John's Lutheran Church

December 3-4, 2022

Red Bud, Illinois

PRELUDE: (*Saturday*) "Carol of the Bells" *Bell Choir*

(*Sunday*) "By All Your Saints in Warfare"

arranged by Kevin Hildebrand

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.

OPENING HYMN: 344 "On Jordan's Bank" (*we stand for last stanza; "A-men"*)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Divine Service Four (pages 203ff.)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

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 105:4-8; Isaiah 40:3b



In the wilderness prepare the way / of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway / for our God.

Seek the Lord / and His strength;

seek His presence con- / tin-u-ally!

Remember the wondrous works that / He has done,

His miracles, and the judgments He / ut-tered,

O offspring of Abraham, His / ser-vant,

children of Jacob, His / cho-sen ones!

He is the / Lord our God;

His judgments are in / all the earth.

He remembers His covenant for- / ev-er,

the word He commanded, for a thousand gener- / a-tions.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son

and to the Holy | Spir-it;

as it was in the be- | gin-ning,

is now, and will be forever. | A-men.

In the wilderness prepare the way / of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway / for our God.

KYRIE: (page 204) (sung)

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord have mer-cy.

ADVENT STANZA: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (sung)

**O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, And ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el,
That mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here Un-til the Son of God ap-pear.
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el Shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.** P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the

same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*please be seated*)

(Saturday) **ANTHEM:** “Emmanuel, Savior of the Nations”

Bell Choir

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Isaiah 11:1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples— of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

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

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 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have

hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name." And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol Him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand if you are able) **ALLELUIA and VERSE:** page 205

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. These things are writ-ten that you may be-lieve that Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 3:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.'"

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into

the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: Creed

(5 p.m. and 8 a.m.) Nicene Creed (page 206)

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)*

(10:30 a.m.) Apostles' Creed (page 207)

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. *(please be seated)*

(please be seated) (10:30 a.m.) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SONG:**

Light one can-dle for hope, one bright can-dle for hope,
 He brings hope to ev-'ry heart, He comes! He comes!
 Light one can-dle for peace, one bright can-dle for peace,
 He brings peace to ev-'ry heart, He comes! He comes!
 Light one can-dle for joy, one bright can-dle for joy,
 Ev'ry na-tion will find sal-va-tion in Beth-l'em's ba-by boy.
 Light one can-dle for love, one bright can-dle 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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HYMN OF THE DAY: 342 "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,
 3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
 A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
 That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
 Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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SERMON: "We Seek and Remember the Lord Who Remembers His Covenant Forever" Ps. 105:4-8

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (please stand if you are able)

HEALING AND COMFORT: Kenneth Koester, Barb Ladwig, Roy Wirth, Donald Fausz, Ellery Byer, Stanley Langrehr, Clyde Rowold, Ruth Hecht, Rev. Russell Koen, Rick Stenzel, Rick Horrell, Sherry Winkelmann, Rhonda Schaefer, Susie Harms, Marcy Watters, Zac Carnahan, Ashlynn Crafton; *Family/Friends of St. John's Members:* Susan Sochowski, Ava Kern, Jim Arrington, Gary Hollmann, Terry Hammer, Rose Schneider, Delores Stirnamann. *Help us keep this list current!*

MILITARY: (*Please call with names.*) Army- Casey Vallett, Tanner Valleroy, Brandon Voss, Adrienne Vallett, Easton Lucht, Ethan Summers, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Austin Scheibe, Trevor Buckner, Jessica DeMarco, Benjamin Boeder, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan, Tyler Wahlman, Gavin Roche-Voss; Navy- Carl Muehler; Air Force- Gage Baldwin, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, Terry Koester, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Keenan Turnure, Austin Grohmann; National Guard: Jeremiah Brandt

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL: Fire/EMS- Jerre Atchison, Tom Beshoar, Kevin Biffar, Breanna Bingel, Savannah Cowell, Chad Crafton, Steven Falkenhain, Chad Grohmann, Curt Guebert, Jason Guebert, Scot Heller, Blake Koppel, Chad Langrehr, Matt Liefer, Kevin Miller, Alan Piel, Jason Rippelmeyer, Brad Stechmesser, John Valentine, Mike VanDorn, Tanner Winkelman; Police- Abigail Browne, Ralph Sievers, Chris Hewitt, Nick Mounts, Jason Palm, Doug Brennan, Jason Roscow, Aaron Runge.

OFFERTORY: (*sung; LSB 782*)

Gra-cious God, You send great bless-ings New each morn-ing all our days.

For Your mer-cies nev-er end-ing, For Your love we of-fer praise.

Lord, we pray that we, Your peo-ple Who Your gifts un-num-bered claim,

Through the shar-ing of Your bless-ings, May bring glo-ry to Your name.

The 10:30 a.m. service concludes 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.

COLLECT

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **People: Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN: 518 “By All Your Saints in Warfare”

1 By all Your saints in warfare, For all Your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus, Forevermore be blest!
For You have won the battle That they might wear the crown;
And now they shine in glory Reflected from Your throne.

18 We praise You for the Baptist, Forerunner of the Word,
Our true Elijah, making A highway for the Lord.
The last and greatest prophet, He saw the dawning ray
Of light that grows in splendor Until the perfect day.

3 Then let us praise the Father And worship God the Son
And sing to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne,
Ascribing pow’r and glory And praise to God alone. **A-men.**

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(5 p.m. and 8 a.m.) **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT:** page 208ff.

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.**

(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.)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: (*please be seated*)
 (Saturday) Anthem: "Hark the Glad Sound" Bell Choir

347 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"



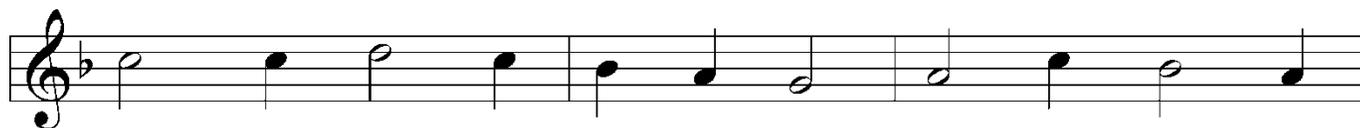
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



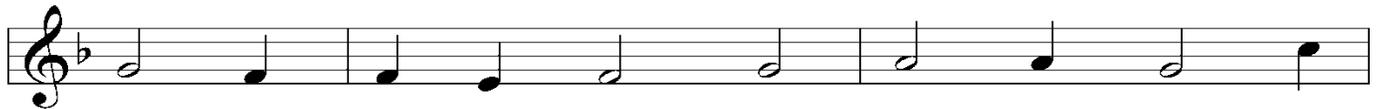
sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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623 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray That we may
 2 Give us, who share this won - drous food, Your bod - y
 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the
 4 One bread, one cup, one bod - y, we, Re - joic - ing
 5 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray: O keep us



feast on You to - day; Be - neath these forms of
 bro - ken and Your blood, The grate - ful peace of
 gift of love re - told; All that You are we
 in our u - ni - ty, Pro - claim Your love un -
 stead - fast till that day When each will be Your



bread and wine En - rich us with Your grace di - vine.
 sins for - giv'n, The cer - tain joys of heirs of heav'n.
 here re - ceive, And all we are to You we give.
 til You come To bring Your scat - tered loved ones home.
 wel - comed guest In heav - en's high and ho - ly feast.

936 "Sing Praise to the God of Israel"



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
 2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
 3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
 4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
 oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
 way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
 lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
 Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
 His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
 And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
 liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
 grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
 foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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NUNC DIMITTIS: “Song of Simeon” page 211 (*please stand*)

**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. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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: page 212

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. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: 518 “By All Your Saints in Warfare”

**1 By all Your saints in warfare, For all Your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus, Forevermore be blest!
For You have won the battle That they might wear the crown;
And now they shine in glory Reflected from Your throne.**

**18 We praise You for the Baptist, Forerunner of the Word,
Our true Elijah, making A highway for the Lord.
The last and greatest prophet, He saw the dawning ray
Of light that grows in splendor Until the perfect day.**

**3 Then let us praise the Father And worship God the Son
And sing to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne,
Ascribing pow'r and glory And praise to God alone. A-men.**

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POSTLUDE: "People, Look East"

arranged by Steven Wentz

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(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.)

This Week With Our Lord, December 4-11, 2022

SUNDAY, December 4-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Adult and Youth Bible Classes and Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Noon Decorating of the church for the Christmas season

Monday, December 5-

3:15 p.m. School faculty meeting in the library

6:00 p.m. Boys' basketball home vs. ICS

7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, December 6-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference at Ruma

6:00 p.m. Girls' A & B basketball home vs. Steeleville

Wednesday, December 7-

8:30 a.m. Kdg.- Grade 2 Christmas Service in the old gym

9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
 3:00 p.m. Office Staff meeting
 3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Public School Confirmation at school
 7:00 p.m. Kdg- Grade 2 Christmas Service in the old gym
 8:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education in school library
Thursday, December 8- School Picture retake day
 3:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Church
 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony
 6:00 p.m. Girls' basketball away at Valmeyer
 6:00 p.m. Men's Club Christmas gathering in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 9-

10:00 a.m. Grades 3-5 sing at Garden Place
C Team basketball tournaments: Boys' at RBC; Girls' at RBL

Saturday, December 10- 9:00 a.m. Elder Basket deliveries

5:00 p.m. Divine Service; Acolyte: Case Hess

SUNDAY, December 11-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service; Acolyte: Lilly Meyer
 9:30 a.m. Adult and Youth Bible Classes and Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion; Acolyte: Macie Brown
 6:00 p.m. Nursery-Grade 1 Sunday School Christmas Service

THE LATEST ALUMNI NEWSLETTER is available in the entryway!

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL:

To have flowers in worship please call the office at 282-2394 to notify the committee and to have proper thanks in the bulletin of those donating.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:

Worship: 279; Communion: 75; Adults: 35; Youth/Sunday School: 39

Grades 3-5 Christmas Service: AM- 270; PM- 315

And let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

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

We join together in the grace of giving. 11/27- General: \$20,018; Debt: \$500; Lutheran Witness: \$162; Scholar Help: \$75; School: \$175; Automatic Giving: \$3,765. *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2nd Corinthians 9:7)*

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: LCMS Stewardship Resources

Matthew 3:1-2 – “In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. When Jesus’ ministry was complete and He rose from the dead, He sent His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never

outgrow our need for repentance, examining our lives, turning away from our sins, and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive His forgiveness and strength for a renewed, holy life.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Sunday ABC meets from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with refreshments provided. We continue Bible survey with a focus on 1st Timothy.

WEEKDAY BIBLE CLASSES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Wednesday Women meet at 9:30 a.m. Both Wednesday evening and Thursday morning classes now are on a break until the first week of January. Men's Bible Breakfast next meets on Saturday, December 17 to study "Proverbs: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Living."

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE PRACTICE:

ATTENTION PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL THROUGH 1ST GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS: This Sunday, December 4, and next Sunday, December 11, we will meet in the front of the church sanctuary to practice our Sunday School Christmas Service. We will begin practice at 9:25 a.m. and will dismiss from there at 10:15 a.m. This Christmas service will be held on Sunday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. at the church. Thank you!

EPISTLES:

The December edition of our congregation's newsletter, *The Epistle*, is available in paper copy on the tables in the entryway. It also is on our website and has been emailed to everyone for whom Pastor has an address.

PORTALS OF PRAYER:

The next quarter's issue of *Portals of Prayer*, our daily devotional booklet, is available in the racks by the church's front door. Sonshine Visitation members, please take a copy for those whom you visit.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023:

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2023 are on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not find one for yourself and would like to have one, please contact Leslie in our church office at 282-2394. Thank you!

ADVENT DEVOTIONS:

Two types of Advent devotions are available on the tables in the entryway. The one from LCMS Office of Worship is meant for brief use at the family table. The other devotional booklet is from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT THIS YEAR:

Our international mission project is Bible Books for Families in Ukraine through Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Only \$5 provides a Ukrainian family with a Bible storybook, Small Catechism, or other Bible resource in their language! To support this project, please direct your offering to the attention of the Sunday School.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING AT CHURCH:

We will decorate the church for the Christmas season this Sunday, December 4, beginning at noon. All help is welcomed and appreciated! 7th and 8th graders may use this for their Service Activity Reports. Pizza will be provided.

EVENING GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY:

We will gather on Tuesday, December 6 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a potluck dinner with games and fellowship. Please bring a covered dish. The Evening Guild will provide fried chicken. Husbands and guests are welcome. Devotions will be by Betty Schmitz.

AFTERNOON HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE:

We return during the winter months to our monthly afternoon Holy Communion services. The first one will be this Thursday, December 8 at 3 p.m. in church. Worshippers will sit every other pew and remain seated throughout the service. Holy Communion will be served in the pew.

MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS GATHERING:

This Thursday, December 8, our Men's Club will gather at 6 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall for a pork sausage & sauerkraut dinner with brief meeting and fun fellowship to follow. We ho, ho, hope to see you there!

ELDER BASKETS:

Members of our Board of Elders will deliver baskets to our homebound and nursing home members on Saturday, December 10. If you would like to contribute to this project, please place an envelope marked "Elder Baskets" in the offering plate at church or bring it by our office at school. Thank you!

SCRIP CARDS:

The holiday season is quickly approaching. If you plan to give the gift of gift cards this year consider shopping through our scrip program. Every card purchased earns money for our school. Cards are available for hundreds of retailers and restaurants including Amazon, Walmart, Texas Roadhouse and many more. Orders can be placed by stopping by or calling the office. Select cards are kept on hand but are sold on a first come first serve basis. Orders will be placed on Mondays through December 12th. That will be the last order placed before Christmas so please plan to order early.

PARISH NURSE NOTE: from LCMS *Better Health*

When We Have a Cold- Still exercise if your symptoms above the neck (nasal congestion), but not if they are below the neck (chest, stomach, chills).

CONGRATULATIONS:

+Local VFW Teacher of the Year for the lower grades level is St. John's Kindergarten teacher Betty Schmitz. She is moving on to district consideration for the same award.

+Teacher of the Month for September is St. John's member and Red Bud High School teacher Katelin Uffelmann. This is a program of Edward Jones agent Conner Guebert.

WURSTMARKT THANK YOU:

"Thank you to all those who donated, attended and helped in any way to make our 69th Wurstmart a success after that beautiful Saturday snow. We are grateful for our Senior and Junior Youth members who helped us serve 658 people." *St. John's Lutheran Men's Club*

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES:

Wed. Dec. 7, 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Grades K-2 Christmas Service (school)

Thu. Dec. 8, 3:00 p.m. Afternoon Holy Communion Service at church

Sun. Dec. 11, 6 p.m. Nursery-Grade 1 Sunday School Christmas Service

Wed. Dec. 14, 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Early Childhood Christmas Service

THE PRAYER CHAIN:

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. To serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact her at dvheller@htc.net or 618/521-7417. Call our office 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).

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT:

Red Bud Care Center: Ellery Byer, Alice Smith, Jody Winkelmann; Ruma R&R: Fern Schnepel; Waterloo Magnolia Terrace: June Lawrence and Jean Menke; Bria-Columbia: David Burgdorf; Randolph County Nursing Home: Donald Kueker

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT GARDEN PLACE:

Kathryn Chunn, Elaine Guebert, Margaret Hanebutt, Dorothy Heizer, Omer/Neva Liefer, Vernon Muench, Lorine Reinhardt, Paul Schrieber, Arlin/Helen Winkelman, Carl/Flo Zschiegner

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH CONFINED IN-HOME:

Robert Burgdorf, Wil Guebert, Don/Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, Kenneth/Geri Koester, Joyce Lopez, Ed Luttmann, Edna Moeller, Viola Muench, Harold Thies

COOKIE WALK:

Trinity Lutheran, 503 E. Washington, in Millstadt will hold a Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Cookies will be sold by the pound (\$12 or \$13). Calling Shirley at 618/476-1113 to place an advance order.

CUSTODIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED:

+A part-time paid position is available in our church custodian rotation for about 8 - 12 hours every 2 weeks. We need someone for Saturday evening service ONLY and/or Sunday morning services. Trained provided. This involves the opening and closing of the building for worship, lighting, setting temperatures, ringing the bell, and light cleaning. See John Preston or Pastor.

"THE WARMING TREE":

Our school lobby tree needs some Christmas cheer and so do those in need. Help us "warm-up" the Christmas season by bringing in new or gently used hats, gloves, scarves, coats, and socks to the school lobby. You can hang them on the tree or place them underneath. Donations will be accepted through December 21st. All donations will benefit local children in need!

FINANCIAL NEED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT:

St. John's member and Red Bud High School senior Ashlynn Crafton has been diagnosed with leukemia. We can provide some financial assistance for her treatments at her GoFundMe account <https://gofund.me/3579ba87> or at an account set up with Buena Vista National Bank Account #272745. Thank you for considering how you can help during this difficult time.

SENIOR YOUTH FUNDRAISER:

Our Senior Youth is selling greeting cards (all occasions) for \$1. Cards are on display in the Fellowship Hall. A money box for payment (honor system) is next to the card display. We also have full boxes of greeting cards for sale. They cost \$30 for 30 cards and come with a lovely storage box.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!:

12/4- Kathy Dannenberg, Kristopher Williams, Karson Liefer; 12/5- Patty Salger, Todd Wagner, Scott Heller, Riley Candler, Jack Valentine; 12/7- Brandy Crafton, Andrea Voss, Kayla Kelley, Erica Unnerstall, Elizabeth Unnerstall, Lily Kent, Morgan Kent, Sage Pensoneau, Claire Doeding; 12/8- Jennifer Moeller, Trevor Stellhorn, Joshua Voss, Wiley Minemann; 12/9- Kenneth Koester, Larry Ehlers, Christian Stechmesser, Emma Kiefer, Evan Kiefer; 12/9- Whitley Henry, 12/10- Ron Liefer, Delonda Kelley, Leo DuFrenne. *Please call with corrections!*

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

Our sinfulness once left us lifeless as stones, but God has taken us for His own beloved children (Matthew 3:9) by becoming a little one among us Himself (Isaiah 11:6). Now we get to welcome others as Christ has welcomed us. We proclaim the sanctity of every human life to defend the cause of the poor, and we put it into practice to give deliverance to the children of the needy (Psalm 72:4).

DAILY BIBLE READINGS: *from Lutheran Bible Translators*

Readings for the year are on the tables in the entryway. December 4- Isaiah 10:12-34; December 5- Isaiah 11:1-12:6; December 6- Isaiah 14:1-23; December 7- Isaiah 24:1-13; December 8- Isaiah 24:14:25:12; December 9- Isaiah 26:1-19; December 10- Isaiah 26:20-27:13.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT PEACE:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kolb, Professor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, will preach at the German Christmas Service, Sunday, December 11, 2:30 pm at Peace Lutheran Church in Lemay. He will be accompanied by music from the Liederkranz, Men's Chorus and Frauenchor, Ladies' Choir of the St. Louis German Cultural Society. They will render seasonal numbers in the German language. Peace Lutheran Choristers will sing carols in English. The festive setting, including congregational singing, will be in German; however, English helps will be provided. Fellowship and ethnic refreshments follow.

ISSUES, ETC.:

SACRED MUSIC FOR THE ADVENT SEASON... Issues, Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Decision Theology; The Incarnation of God & the Value of Man; 4th-Century Bishop Nicholas of Myra; Man & the Metaverse and more. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis or listen at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

KFUO AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:

KFUO Radio AM850 & **kfu.org**, a media ministry of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you on AM850 & **kfu.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at **kfu.org** and wherever you get podcasts! Find us on social media @KFUO.org, Facebook, **Twitter**, and **Instagram**. This week on KFUO and kfu.org: Enjoy music for the season of Advent, study Advent hymnody on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.), learn about St. Nicholas and St. Ambrose on The Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9 a.m.), and hear Advent Midweek Service from Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, MO, on 12/7 at noon. Programs are on demand at kfu.org or the KFUO Radio app!

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL- 618/853-7300

Club Basketball: We are scheduled to play at First Baptist Academy in O’Fallon on December 8 at 7:15 p.m.

FFA Fundraiser: The COS FFA is selling Stonie’s Snack Sticks. Contact the school, a COS FFA member or Lisa Luebkekmann to order.

22nd Annual Trivia Night: Join us for this year’s “Decades” Trivia Night & Silent Auction on January 20 at 7:00 p.m. in our gym. Adults \$15 ea., 5th-8th grade students \$6 ea., and 9th-12th grade \$10 ea. with a limit of eight people to a table. Reserve your table by calling 618-853-7300. Table proceeds from the evening will support Prom and Post-Prom at COS. The silent auction will benefit the next Mission Trip.

School Hours: The office is open Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The mission of Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School is to provide a Christ-centered and academically excellent education.

St. John’s Lutheran Church – LCMS 508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois

Church Office & School: 808 S 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 618/282-3050

Associate Pastor Brian Nowak 708/369-7741

Principal – Mr. Justin Palm 618/214-1103

Director of Parish Music – Mrs. Lindsey Hudak 618/340-6055

Director of Christian Education & School Librarian – Mr. Bill Becker 618/282-2958

Secretaries – Mrs. Leslie Froemling and Mrs. Sara Shepherd

Senior Youth – Kirk and Stephanie Liefer 618/967-0804

Matthew Foster, Principal, Christ Our Savior Lutheran High, 618/853-7300

Faculty and Staff

Preschool – Cindy Steele Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz

Aides: Nola Jean Vallett, Shawn DeRousse, and Elizabeth Schaefer

First Grade – Rachel Miller Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer
 Third Grade and Junior Youth – Stephanie Valleroy
 Fourth Grade and Before/After School Care – Cindy Nebel
 Fifth Grade – Amanda Ruhmann Resource Teacher – Judy Stephens
 Sixth Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Doreen Schnepel
 Seventh Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Nancy Whelan
 Eighth Grade Homeroom: Bill Becker Athletic Director – Scott Voss
 School Custodians – Wil Krick and Bob Schramm
 Cooks – Jill Gross and Marilyn Oettle

Day Care

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Lisa Quinn, Ashley Brittingham, Megan Diercks, Nicole Kadlec, Patty Brewer, Kristi Martel, Courtney Schoenbeck, Brittney Eichholz, Pam Henry, Eileen Seibold, Christy Deterding, Melissa Schilling, Kaleigh Johnston, Amy Williams, Kaitlin Schmitz, Haley Ehler, Hailey Guebert, Courtney Schaefer, Brittany Smith, Callen Reitz, Kailyn Moeller, Kendall Williams, Madison Falkenhain, Ashlynn Crafton, and Geraldine Thompson

Church Council

Chairman: Kevin Liefer Vice-Chairman: Michael DeRousse
 Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Ray Wagner Board of Finance: Jill Gross
 Elder Chair: Eric Fritsche Parish Education Chair: Karen Liefer
 Trustee Chair: John Preston Estate Fund Chair: Brian Guebert
 Lutheran High School Board: Kathy Valleroy and Rebekah Liefer

Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Nebel; Organist/Choir Director: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak
 Lectors: (8 a.m.) Seminarian Lucas Frauenhoff; (10:30 a.m.) DCE Bill Becker
 Greeters: (5 p.m.) Virginia and Mark Moeller; (8 a.m.) Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn;
 (10:30 a.m.) Jim and Judy Guebert
 Acolytes: (5 p.m.) Colt Hess; (8 a.m.) Ian Moll; (10:30 a.m.) Olivia Candler
 Video: Eric Fritsche/Justin Palm Communion Cloths: JoAnn Yarbrough
 Flower Servers: Alverda Rahn and Jacquie Roy Paraments: Virginia Moeller