



FOURTH SATURDAY OF
ADVENT

*Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Fourth Saturday of Advent * December 21, 2024*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

Wake Up

Chorus

**Wake up, sleeper arise, wake up and I will give you life.
Wake up, sleeper arise, rise up from death and find new life.**

When you hear me call-ing, calling you.
To a life that you are ... sleeping through.
When you hear me call-ing ... when you hear me calling. **Chorus**

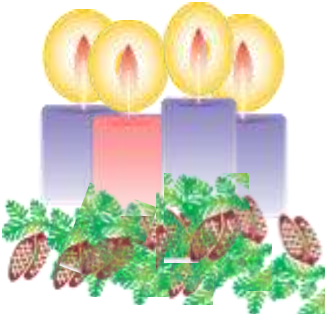
There's a new sun ris-ing ... breaking through.
Lighting up the darkness ... cov'ring you.
There's a new sun rising ... There's a new sun rising. **Chorus**

ADVENT CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: God of light...

C: our lives reflect the season, seeming like a long, dark hallway with no end in sight. We struggle from one step to another, stumbling in the darkness, trying not to fall. God of light, swing wide the doors! Open the windows! Let in the new light of your love. Light the paths we walk so we can understand where we have been and be confident of the direction we are headed. Illuminate our lives with the light of your Word, so we can live in forgiveness and be free to live life to the fullest in service to others.

P: Our God is a great God! God has provided for our every need. The darkness of our sin has been changed by the light of the love of Jesus. God's gift of faith is the beginning of a new direction as every darkened corner of our life is filled with light and every unspeakable sin is forgiven. We are free to walk by faith in the light of God's never ending love. **C: Amen**



LIGHTING OF THE 4th ADVENT CANDLE

L: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.

As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles,
and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good,
and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel,
your promised child and our Savior. C: Amen

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."



SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**All: We believe in God,
the Creator of all life,
the source of all love,
and the giver of every good and perfect gift.
We believe Jesus Christ is God's own Son.
Born of Mary, he lived a life of kindness and concern.
He died a cruel death on an executioner's cross
and was raised to new life on the third day.
We believe Jesus' death and resurrection has given us new life
and we will live with him now
and in the age to come.
We believe in the Holy Spirit--God with us.
We have been called by the Spirit,
enlightened by the Spirit,
and gifted for service by the Spirit.
God is at work today
and the Holy Spirit is the means by which God
continues to demonstrate love and concern for all humanity.
We believe we can know and experience God in prayer,
forgiveness, the Sacraments,
and the community of faith.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Lord, in Your mercy

C: receive our prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God,

C: you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING SONG

He Brings Peace

What can a ba-by do in this world? It seems so out of control.
What can this tiny baby of God, bring to a world dark and cold?

Refrain

**He brings peace ... He brings love ... he brings hope to a world in need.
He brings peace ... He brings love ... he brings vic-to-ry.
And his hope calms our fear, and his love never ends,
He brings peace ... love ... hope and victory.**

What can this child a-lone in this world, do to correct what is wrong?
God in our flesh became one of us, if we believe, we will know. **Refrain**

HOLY COMMUNION

P: We declare Jesus is the Messiah; the one who has come and is coming into the world.

All: Jesus is the embodiment of God's love.

P: We come to the table celebrating the gift of his forgiveness and trusting our chain of guilt can be broken.

All: Jesus, the love of God made flesh, comes to bring us new life.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

All: Jesus is the true gift of love from God.

Welcome!

St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the Pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the Pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the Pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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 DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord ... tell ev-rybody about Him.

Prepare the way of the Lord ... tell ev-rybody He's coming.

Shout for joy Je-ru-salem ... Shout for joy you nations of God.

Je-sus is com-ing to save the world ... Prepare Him a place in your heart.

Pre-pare the way of the Lord.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE



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**We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church.
We are...“creating and nurturing life changing relationships
based on the love of God in Jesus Christ,
so that we may grow in faith, serve God,
and serve our neighbor.”**

LisaAnne Gregg, Office Administrator
Church Office Hours: M-T-W 9am—3 pm
Thurs. hours may vary * Office closed Friday
Email: office@stjohnwilliston.org

Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 pm
Confirmation Class: Sunday 8:30 am
Sunday School for all ages...
1st Sunday of the month at 8:30 am
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am

