



FIRST Saturday of
ADVENT

*Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
First Saturday of Advent
Saturday, November 30, 2024*

**PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

OPENING SONG

Rise and Sing

Rise and sing praises to the Father.
Rise and sing praises to the Son.
Rise and sing praises to the Spirit,
Give thanks in all you do
For what God's done for you.

(Repeat)

Rise and sing.

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 ADVENT CANDLE

P: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C: Amen

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

Thank You, Lord

I come before You today ... and there's just one thing that I want to say
Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord.
For all you've given to me ... for all the blessings that I cannot see.
Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord.

Chorus

**With a grateful heart ... with a song of praise ...
with an outstretched arm ...
I will bless Your name.**

**Thank You Lord.. I just wanna thank You Lord ...
Thank You Lord.. I just wanna thank You Lord ... Thank You, Lord.**

For all You've done in my life ... You took my darkness
and gave me Your light ...
Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord.
You took my sin and my shame ... You took my sickness
and healed all my pain ...
Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord.

Chorus

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.

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



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.

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

Jesus is the Answer

If you have some questions in the corner of your mind,
traces of discouragement and peace you cannot find,
reflections of the past seem to face you every day,
but this one thing I do know- Jesus is the way.

Refrain

Jesus is the answer for the world today.
Above Him there's no other. Jesus is the way.
Jesus is the answer for the world today.
Above Him there's no other. Jesus is the way.

I know you've got mountains that you think you cannot climb.
I know your skies are dark, you think the sun won't shine.
In case you don't know that the Word of God is true,
and everything He's promised He will do for you. **Refrain**

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

