



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 1. 2024 9:45 am

www.stjohnwilliston.org

419-836-5514

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

An Advent Alleluia

St John Choir

CONFESSION AND FOREGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C: Amen.

(Silence for reflection)

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

P: Everlasting God,

C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

Hymn #244

4 verses

GREETING and KYRIE

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

(Tune of Come Thou Long Expected Jesus)

Piano $\text{♩} = 100$

1 Lord, have 2 mer - cy 3 on your 4 peo - ple,
5
6
7
8
9 Christ have 10 mer - cy 11 on 12 us.
13 Shine your 14 light in 15 to our 16 dark ness,
17 Fill us 18 with your 19 ho - ly 20 love.
21 Be our 22 strength in 23 times of 24 trou - ble,
25 Set us 26 free from 27 chains that 28 bind.
29 Breathe 30 new life in 31 to our 32 spir - its.
Pur - i - fy our hearts and minds.

GLORY TO GOD *(Tune of Angels We Have Heard on High)*



Glo-ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shine on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



- - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

P: The Lord Be With You. **C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

LIGHTING OF THE 1st ADVENT CANDLE RESPONSIVE LITANY

L: In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.

P: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

L: In this season of Advent, we search for God's truth.

P: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

L: In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.

P: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

L: In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.

P: Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

CANDLE LIGHTING

L: This morning we light the first candle, the candle of hope. This candle reminds us that God's promises give us reason to be filled with hope – hope for unity in a world of division, hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a world filled with anger and strife. We remember that Christ is our light and the source of our hope. **C: Amen**

SONG

Love's Pure Light

St. John Choir

CLOSING PRAYER

L: Gracious God, as we begin our Advent journey we thank you for the gift of your Son, and for sending hope into a world filled with dread. Help us remember that we are your people, and because of your promises we have every reason to be hopeful. Take away our doubt and fear, and remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of hope. **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."

The Word of the Lord... **C: Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING

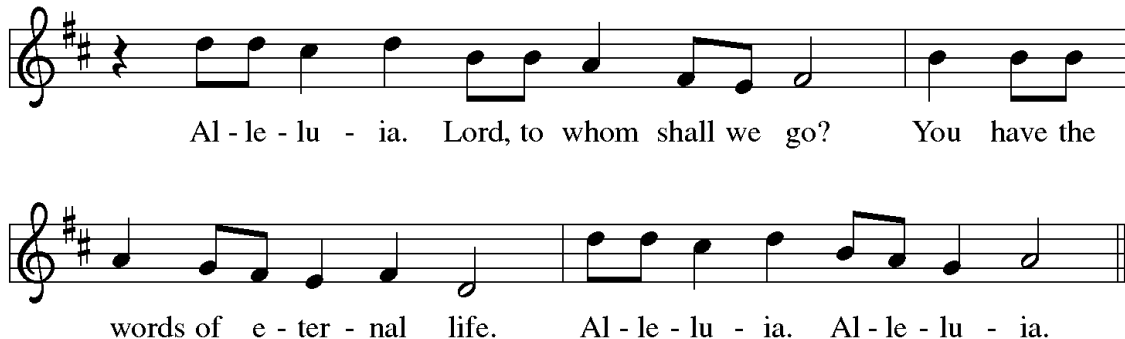
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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.

The Word of the Lord... **C: Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.... **C: Praise to You, O Christ**

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Hymn # 436

3 verses

APOSTLES' CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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.

What Child is This (for Advent)

E Minor: Em D G D B⁷ Em Am/C



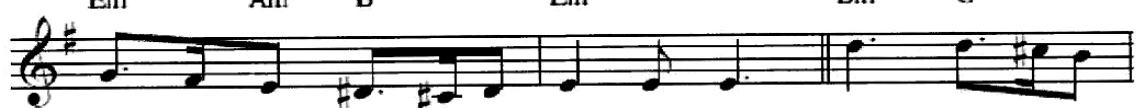
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. — Praise God, all crea - tures

B Em D G D B⁷




here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. — Praise

Em Am B Em Bm G



Fa - ther, Son, — and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this — is

D B⁷ Em Am/C B

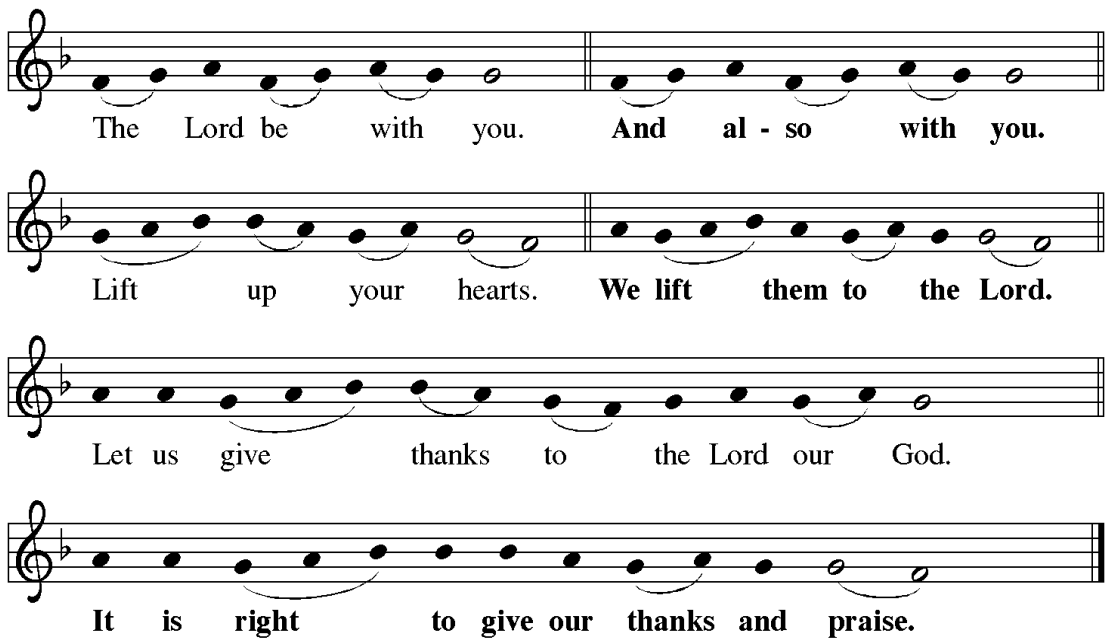


Christ the King, — whom shep - herds guard — and an - gels sing;

Bm G D B⁷ Em Am B Em (or E Major)



haste, haste — to bring him laud, — the babe, — the son — of Ma - ry.



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, Holy, Holy

(tune of Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

Piano $\text{♩} = 90$

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lo - rd, God of Pow er, God of Might.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One - God of mer - cy, God of light.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the One who comes, Bless - ed in the name of God.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Lamb of God

(Tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give_ us your



peace. Pre -pare us to re - ceive_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-



joice! Re-joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra-el.

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.

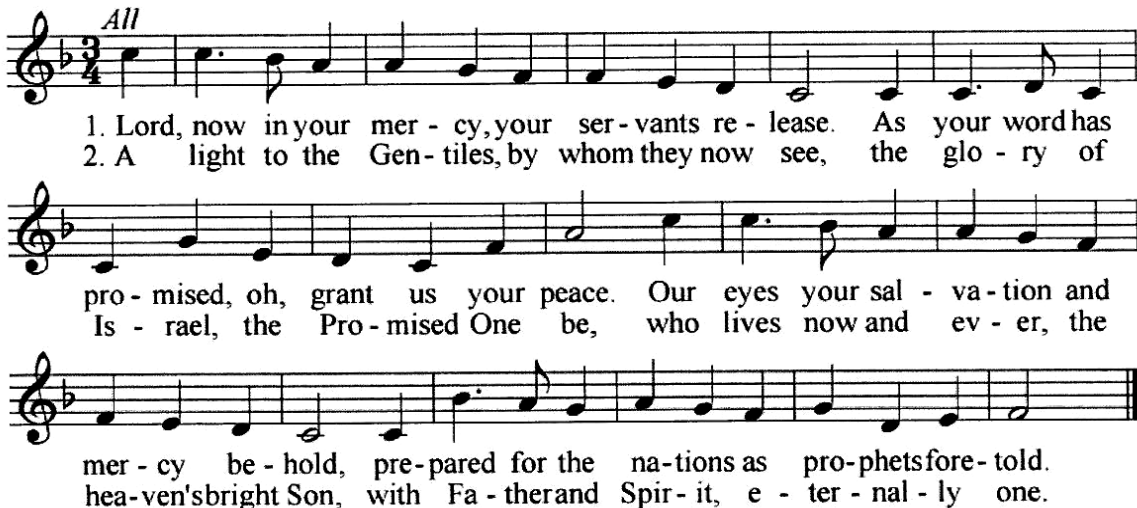
TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

POST COMMUNION SONG

(tune of Away in a Manger)

All



1. Lord, now in your mer - cy, your ser - vants re - lease. As your word has
2. A light to the Gen - tles, by whom they now see, the glo - ry of

pro - mised, oh, grant us your peace. Our eyes your sal - va - tion and
Is - rael, the Pro - mised One be, who lives now and ev - er, the

mer - cy be - hold, pre - pared for the na - tions as pro - phets fore - told.
hea - ven's bright Son, with Fa - ther and Spir - it, e - ter - nal - ly one.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Hymn # 435
3 verses

DISMISSAL

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