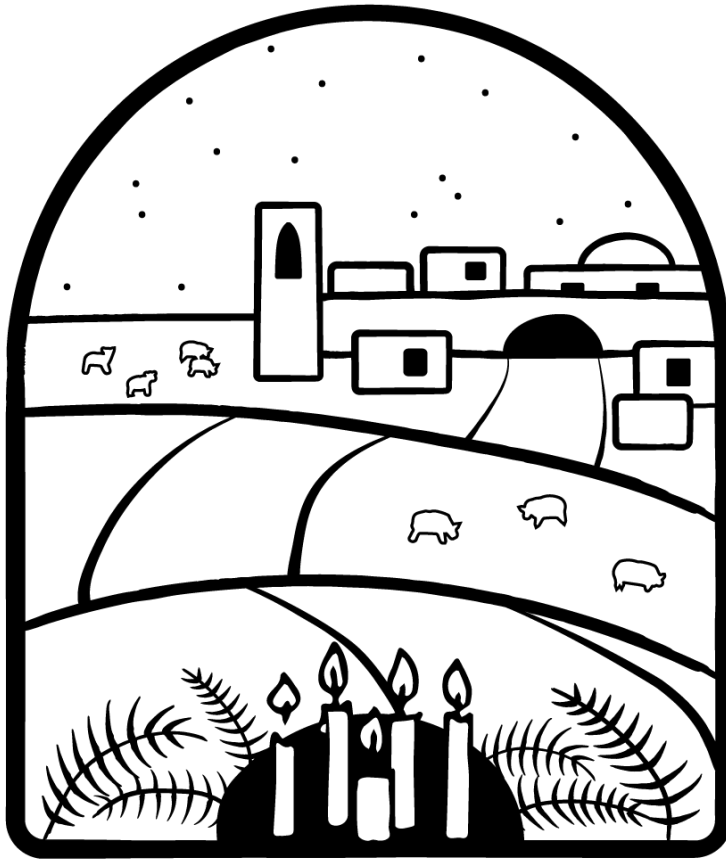


Third Sunday in Advent

December 14 and 15, 2025



ADVENT
IMMINENT ARRIVAL

Imminent Arrival of the Messiah



198 Westridge Avenue, Burlington, Wisconsin
262-763-8229 | stjohnsburlington.org
Pastor Kirk Lahmann | Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

Prepare for Worship

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord's Supper, read through the "Christian Questions" on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

Today's Focus for Worship – Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

"Messiah" is the same word as "Christ" or "Anointed One." He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now we look at a time when his arrival is imminent! The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that. We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Guest Preacher: Pastor Robert Johannes

Accompanist: Allison Sorensen

Acknowledgments

Today's service is adapted from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*, © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House – "The Service, Setting Eight" (available through *Service Builder*). Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by *Christian Worship: Service Builder* © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. The Prayer of the Church is reprinted from *Praying with the Readings...* © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. The Closing Collect is reprinted from *Now and Forever: Contemporary Collects...*, © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission.

The Service

Setting Eight (German melodies)



Opening Hymn

Arise, O Christian People | 310
Please stand to sing the final stanza.

Invocation

Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9; 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Advent Candles

We light three Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

We hear his call to see the light.

We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

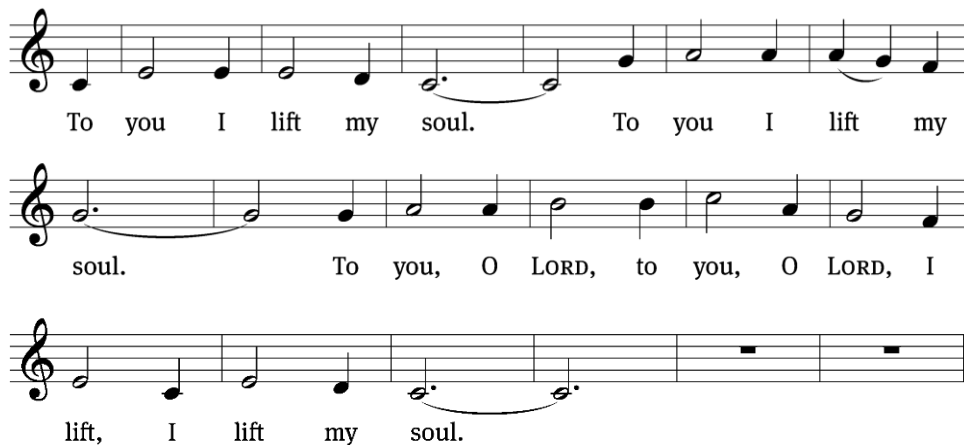
Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Advent Verse

To You I Lift My Soul | Psalm 25-C

During the season of Advent, we replace the jubilant "Gloria in Excelsis" with a more reflective Advent verse, as we light the candles of the Advent wreath.

Three Advent candles are lit. After the introduction, the congregation sings the Advent Verse three times.



The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Praise the LORD! Sing Hallelujah | 146-C st. 1-3



1 Praise the LORD! Sing hal - le - lu - jah! Come, our
2 Hap - py are the ones pro - fess - ing Ja - cob's
3 Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the



great Re - deem - er praise. I will sing the glo - rious
God to be their aid. They are blest whose hope of
mourn - ing pris - 'ner free, rais - es those bowed down with



prais - es of my God through all my days.
bless - ing on the LORD their God is stayed.
an - guish, makes the sight - less eyes to see.



Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor on
Heav'n and earth the LORD cre - at - ed, seas and
God our Sav - ior loves the right - eous, and the



hu - man help de - pend. They shall die, to dust re -
all that they con - tain. He de - liv - ers from op -
stran - ger he be - friends, helps the or - phan and the



turn - ing; all their thoughts and plans shall end.
pres - sion; right - eous - ness he will main - tain.
wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.

Second Reading

James 5:7-11

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Praise the LORD! Sing Hallelujah | 146-C st. 4

4 Praise the LORD! Sing hal - le - lu - jah! Come, our
great Re - deem - er praise. I will sing the glo - rious
prais - es of my God through all my days.
O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er; through all
a - ges he is King. Un - to him, your God, O
Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷ As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | 324

Sermon

Matthew 11:2-11

The Advent Question: “Are You the One?”

Stand

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Isaiah 35:3

O God, you are the Holy One of Israel. You can make the desert blossom. Drive out our fear with your promise of power.

Strengthen our feeble hands. Steady our weak knees.

With the hearing of your Word and the work of your Spirit you give us faith. Give us hope as we wait for our Lord's second coming, patience as we deal with hardship, and compassion as we deal with those who suffer.

Strengthen our feeble hands. Steady our weak knees.

Open the eyes of the spiritually blind with your message about Christ. Lead us all in the way of repentance and make straight your way to us.

Strengthen our feeble hands. Steady our weak knees.

Guide those you have established as authorities over us. Give them wisdom, mercy, and eagerness to serve the people in their care.

Strengthen our feeble hands. Steady our weak knees.

All healing of body and soul comes from you. We pray for all who are sick or suffering or enduring losses. Heal their diseases, relieve their pain, restore their strength if it is your will.

Strengthen our feeble hands. Steady our weak knees.

Dear Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.

The Sacrament

Stand



Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136:1

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Tune: ELLACOMBE



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Matthew 26:26

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

Words of Institution *Verba*

Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

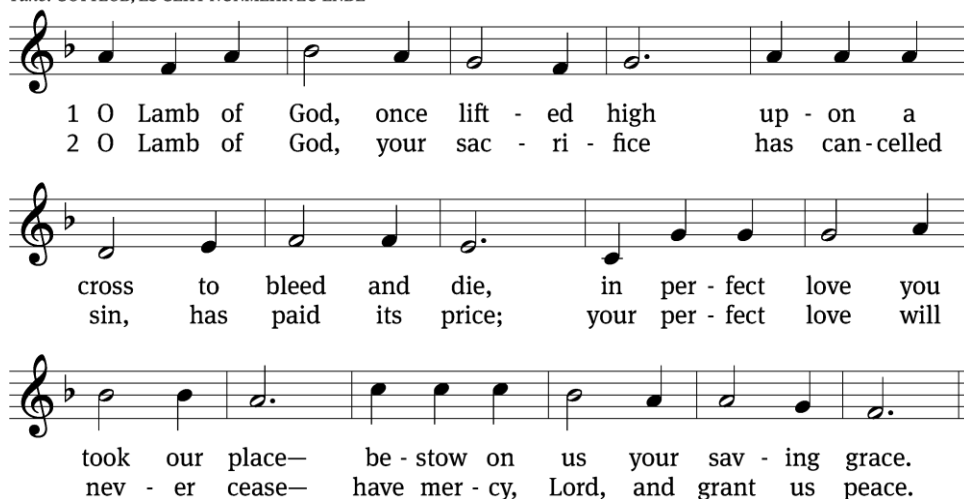
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

Tune: GOTTLÖB, ES GEHT NUNMEHR ZU ENDE



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will

took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Be seated

Holy Communion Distribution

St. John's Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of St. John's, or members of a church in fellowship with St. John's, come forward for Communion. Our pastoral staff would be happy to set up a time to discuss this, and any teaching of Scripture, with you.

Distribution Hymns (Sunday)

As Angels Joyed with One Accord | 320
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | 493
Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring | 319

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lord Jesus Christ, your coming moves us to sing and shout with joy. Remove all anxiety from our hearts, that we live in joyful obedience because you are near; you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | 313



2025 Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Third Sunday in Advent	Sunday, December 14, 8:00 am and 10:30 am Monday, December 15, 6:30 pm
Children's Christmas Service	Sunday, December 14, 4:00 pm
Midweek Advent Vespers	Wednesday, December 17, 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm
Fourth Sunday in Advent	Sunday, December 21, 8:00 am and 10:30 am Monday, December 22, 6:30 pm
Christmas Eve	Wednesday, December 24, 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25, 9:30 am
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	Sunday, December 28, 8:00 am and 10:30 am <i>No Monday night service, December 29</i>
New Year's Eve	Wednesday, December 31, 4:30 pm