

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEWARD, NEBRASKA

PROCLAIM AND PRACTICE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Sunday, December 3, 2023
8:30 a.m.



Pastor Scott Bruick, Presiding

Pastor Nathan Scheck, Preaching

St. John Adult Choir and Instruments
Paul Soulek, Director of Music

+ IN THE NAME OF JESUS +

LITURGY LINGO

What is liturgy and why should I care?

Liturgy contains the story of salvation—for you! The words of Confession and Absolution, readings from Holy Scripture, and Creeds tell of God's loving acts throughout history. *Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world* isn't just a reading from John 1:29—it's our confession of who Jesus is and what He does.

Liturgy is not a page in a book. Textual and musical variations occur between denominations and even congregations and are neither commanded nor forbidden by Scripture. Decisions on textual and musical changes are informed by historical practice, Scriptural integrity, and thoughtful conversation—with the goal of joining all God's people together in receiving His redeeming work in Christ.

+ IN THE NAME OF JESUS +

HYMN OF INVOCATION

Savior of the Nations, Come, LSB 332

stanza 5 is sung by the choir
we stand for stanza 8

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P As we prepare to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned. Together, as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.

(Silence for private confession)

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Holy and gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against You. Some of our sin we know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore us that we may live in peace.**

P Our gracious God and Father hears our cries for mercy and forgives us our sin. With the command of Christ and the power of the cross, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

KYRIE

The refrain begins at the same time the cantor sings the word “Lord.”

L In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain



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

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

L For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**



L Help, save, and defend us, O God.

C A - - - men.

ADVENT CANTICLE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, LSB 357 (Stz. 1)

C (*sung*) O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

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

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,
²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—
⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in

any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide, LSB 355
stanza 1 is sung by the choir

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

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

²⁴[Jesus said:] “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH ~ NICENE CREED

printed inside the back cover of Lutheran Service Book

Sit

SERMON

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Night Will Soon Be Ending, LSB 337

OFFERING NOTES

Financial gifts may be given using the baskets as you exit the sanctuary or during the week through the dropbox outside the west entry. Visit StJohnSeward.org for electronic options. Thank you for your support!

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

See page 7 for specific prayer concerns.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LSB pp. 194 ff.

Sit

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Choir: Unexpected and Mysterious

Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace.
Ever-loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace.
If we falter in our courage and we doubt what we have known,
God is faithful to console us as a mother tends her own.

In a momentary meeting of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine.
Then she learned of God's compassion, of Elizabeth's great joy,
And she ran to greet the woman who would recognize her boy.

We are called to ponder myst'ry and await the coming Christ,
To embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth,
While we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth.

Jeanette M. Lindholm (text), Calvin Hampton (music)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, LSB 621

Arise, O Christian People, LSB 354

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns, LSB 348

Stand

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P God of abundance, with this Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation You have united us with Christ, making us one with You and all Your saints. Now send us forth in the power of Your Spirit, that we may proclaim Your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, LSB 338

Stanza 2 is sung in canon; high voices begin, low voices enter one measure later



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

+ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY +

Health Concerns

Roger Reetz (father of Katy Pauley); President Richard Snow; Valorie Snow; Marlene Block; Charles Krutz

Long-term Health Concerns

Becky Sue Fick (daughter of Norma Troester); Kirk Hain; Iva Mae Roettjer; Elaine Luethke; Delbert Meyer; Bill Preuss; Barb Springer; Gene Gausman; Steve Hartmann; Rosemary Everts; Pam Hall; Jay Seitsinger; Neal Bork (brother of Ron Bork); Nancy Wolfe (sister of Joyce Sheehan); Bill von Kampen; Linda Sloup; Ronnie Ouellette (son of Dean Ouellette); Linda Eklund (sister-in-law of Julie McMeekin); Tom Ruppert; Dave Wood; Kobe Goodwin (great-nephew of Tammy Goodwin); Steve Lutringer (son of Emma Lutringer); Tracy Rumery; Jared Joyce & family (son of Mark & Glenda Joyce); Heather Meyer; Judy Meyer (wife of John)

Remembering Our Homebound

Bob Pflieger; Lee Holtzen; Connie Erks; Elaine Albright

Thanksgiving for

The marriage of Alex & Kaylee (O'Dell) Hower (granddaughter of Karen O'Dell) 11/5
New life in Christ through Holy Baptism for Eli Witt (son of Caleb and Emily Witt) 12/3
90 years of blessing in the life of Ruth Reiling 12/5
80 years of blessing in the life of Roger Glawatz 12/1

Prayers for St. John Staff

Megan Boggs - School; Emma Brand - School; Cathy Brase - Church; Jalyynn Brase - School

Mission Opportunities & Needs

Nader & Georgette Alaraj, serving POBLO in Lincoln; John Mehl & Emily Belvery, serving Mission for Christ Network; Jan Bruick working for Alaska Mission for Christ

Special Prayers & Petitions

For safety & basic needs for those in areas of conflict, violence and war
For discernment for The Rock Lutheran Church, Seward, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Milford, through vacancies and the call process

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN - December 2 – December 10, 2023

Open-to-public happenings – current as of 4pm on Wednesdays

Scan the QR code to access the weekly eNews. CUNE students — check it out!



SAT./SUN.

Alaska Mission Team Pecans, west entrance
Bell-Ringing Sign-up Table, narthex
Treats for Finals Week Sign-up, narthex

SATURDAY

3:00pm & 7:00pm Christmas at Concordia Concerts, sanctuary

SUNDAY

8:30am Communion Worship, sanctuary
10:00am Sunday School, various locations
10:00am Jr./Sr. High Service Project, meet at portables
10:00am Adult Bible Classes

The nursery is available during the education hour for 2's & under.

- Heritage Room: *Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Always True: Christ in the Divine Service*, Betsy Werner, Nov. 12 – Dec. 3; Ministry of the Prophets, Russ Moulds, Dec. 10 & 17
- Fellowship Hall: *Giving Excuses or Giving Excellence – Changing How One Gives Their Offering*, Pastor & Jan Bruick, Nov. 19 – Dec. 17
- Music Room (classroom #108): *Christ Returns – Book of Isaiah*, John Jurchen
- Classroom #202: *Studying Scripture: Romans*, group discussion

11:00am Worship, sanctuary

3:00pm Christmas at Concordia Concert, sanctuary

MONDAY

8:00pm College Student Bible Study, Pastor Nathan's House (Nathan.scheck@stjohnseward.org)

TUESDAY

6:30am Men's Bible Study, CUNE's cafeteria
10:00am Comforters, CDC lower level
7:00pm Seward Area Lutherans For Life, classroom #108

WEDNESDAY

10:00am Advent Midweek Worship, sanctuary
10:45am Women's Bible Study, Heritage Room
6:30pm Advent Midweek Worship, sanctuary
7:15pm Adult Choir, sanctuary

THURSDAY

9:30am Women's Bible Study, CDC lower level
6:00pm School Christmas Concert, sanctuary

SATURDAY

8:00am Breakfast in Bethlehem, various locations
5:30pm Worship, sanctuary

SUNDAY (Dec. 10)

8:30am Worship, sanctuary
10:00am Sunday School, various locations
10:00am Adult Bible Classes, see previous Sunday schedule above
11:00am Communion Worship, sanctuary
3:00pm CU Handbell Concert, sanctuary

REOCCURS WEEKLY: Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry: Sat., 9-11am; Mon., 3-5pm; Thur., 6-8pm