

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

at

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
a reconciling in Christ congregation



*First Sunday of Advent*

November 28, 2021

10:30 a.m.

**Pastor:** The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

Vicar: Jamie Edelman

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**Welcome . . .** We are grateful that you have come to be with us this morning. It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ this morning and the presence of God during our worship.

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### **Statement of Welcome**

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.—Galatians 3:28*

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John’s Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God’s gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God’s teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God’s people. St. John’s Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

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### **Statement of Mission**

St. John’s Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God’s love.

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**Communion** is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, **YOU ARE WELCOME** to participate in Communion. There are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## Announcements

### Prelude

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

**\*Gathering Hymn** *(please use your hymnal, and sing quietly)*

ELW # 259 ***“Fling Wide the Door”***

**\*Greeting**

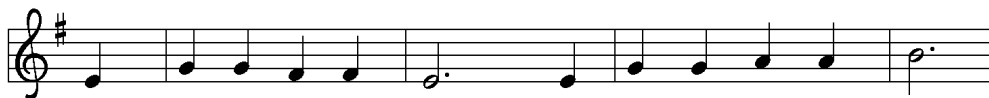
A: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with your all.

C: **And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie-** Setting 10,

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*(Congregation please quietly sing, all verses.)*



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

# \*Canticle of Praise

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(Congregation sing quietly, verse 1)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

# Lighting of the Advent Wreath -

(Candle Lighters: *Phyllis Schurz, Elizabeth Fritzo*)

P: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels.

Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.

Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

*(The first candle is now lite.)*

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### First Reading

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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."

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** 25: 1-10

*(Read Responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day  
long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of  
your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

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## \* Gospel

## Luke 21:25-36

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>“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. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

<sup>34</sup>“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, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>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.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Chat

**Sermon:** The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

## **Hymn of the Day -**

*(please use your hymnal, and sing quietly)*

ELW # 267 **“Joy to the World”**

## **\*Apostles Creed**

**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**

**A:** Let us pray. God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of mighty redwoods, mountains and fields, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, healing. . . Wait with those who struggle and suffer, watch over those who are sick, including . . . *(Those we mention on our prayer list)*, and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . . Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, this congregation cries to you. Guide us that our hearts and hands may be opened in generosity toward others. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen**

## ***\*The Sharing of the Peace***

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*(Please gesture to others near you as a sign of peace.)*

# Offertory

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

(Plainsong Mode IV)

## \* Presentation of Gifts

ELW: # 184

“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

*(please sing quietly.)*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## **\*Offering Prayer**

A: Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in the simple meal through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Great Thanksgiving**

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P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

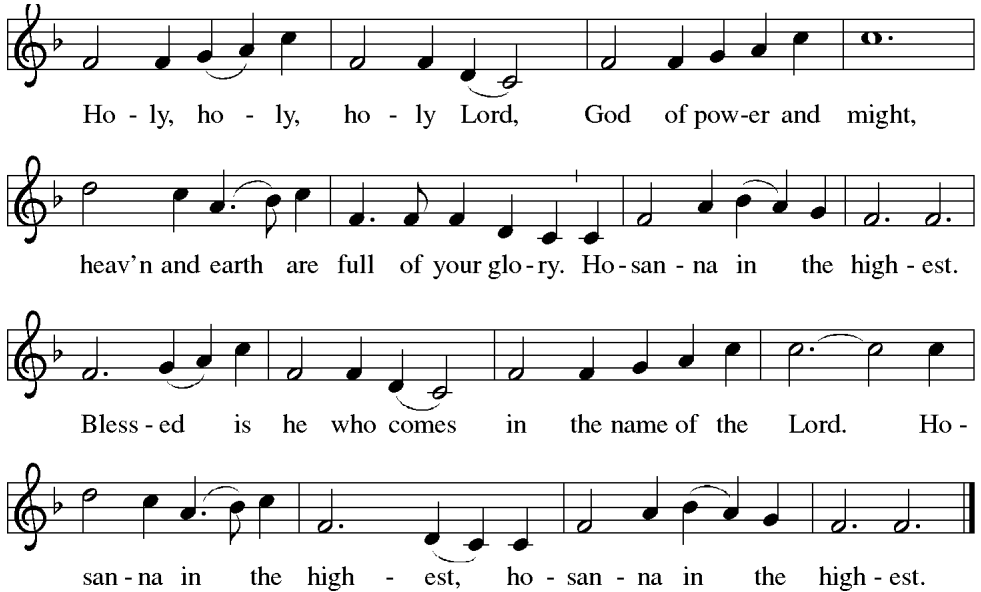
**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\* Preface**      *(Leader continues . . .)*

# Holy, Holy, Holy

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C: *(please sing quietly.)*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Communion Form

*(Leader continues ... )*

### \*Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and  
forever. Amen.**

**Holy Communion** - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table here at St. John's.*

*\*Please remain seated, communion  
will be offered to you in your pew.  
(Please ask for gluten free or grape juice if necessary.)*

### **Communion Music**

ELW #482 - *"I Come with Joy"*

ELW #492 - *"Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup"*

ELW#464 - *"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal"*

### **\* Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word. Sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C: Amen.**

# Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*(Please remain in your seat until the candles have been extinguished and the Pastor has left the Sanctuary.)*

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: Amen.

## \*Post Communion Cantic

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Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.



## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**     *“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”* by J.S. Bach  
(*“Awake, the Voice Is Calling Us”*)



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## Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

**Worship Assistant** – Joyce Petty

**Communion Assistant / Ushers** – Roger Ruggles / Jacob Ruggles

**Reader** – Steve Moyer

**Altar Guild** – Linda Kalapay / Judy Kalapay

### This Week at St. John's: Nov. 21<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>

**Today** (11/28/21) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am,  
Breakfast 8:15 am

**Today** (10/28/21) – Advent 1, 10:30 am

**Tuesday** (11/30/21) – Bible Study, Hospitality Rm., 11:00 am

**Tuesday** (11/30/21) – Advent Soup / Scripture @ St. Paul's, 6:00 pm

**Wednesday** (12/1/21) – Adult Social Time, Gallery, 6:30 pm

**Sunday** (12/5/21) – Sunday School / Adult Forum  
(Breakfast 8:15 am, Classes 9:00 am)

**Sunday** (12/5/21) – Advent 2 - Worship, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (12/5/21) – Congregational Meeting, following Worship.

*Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God,  
and in celebration of the birthdays of Pastor Sue  
Ruggles, and my grandchildren Aaron and  
Hannah Soltmann by Phyllis Schurz*



*\*The Additional Altar Flower arrangement on the Altar  
is dedicated in memory of my mother Lee Wisner-Greger  
by her daughters, Dianne, Carol, and Susan.*

**Attendance:** 11/21/21 – 58 people

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,848.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,255.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$103,298.00
Year to Date amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$105,985.00

*Please Join Us . . .*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

*Following Worship –*

LIGHT LUNCH TO FOLLOW!



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**WINTER IS COMING, AND WE HAVE HAD MANY REQUESTS FROM THE**

**COMMUNITY FOR WINTER ADULT GLOVES . . .**

**LET 'S KEEP OUR NEIGHBORS WARM . . .**



# Advent—Soup and Scripture

Please Join Pastor Sue, Vicar Jamie, and the  
Congregations of St. Paul / Good Shepherd for a Joint Advent  
Bible Study.

Tuesdays—November 30th,  
December 7th, and 14th, 2021 @ 6:00 pm,

Held at: St. Paul's Lutheran Church,  
610 W. Berwick Street—Easton, PA



**The Gallery at St. John's is Open:**

**Annual Holiday Show**  
**Sundays, 12:00 - 3:00 pm**

## ***Upcoming Events:***

### ***Find Joy in the Christmas Season***

***November 30<sup>th</sup>*** – 6:00 pm Advent Soup & Scripture @ St. Paul's

***December 7<sup>th</sup>*** – 6:00 pm – Advent Soup & Scripture @ St. Paul's

***December 11<sup>th</sup>*** – 9:00 – 11:00 am – Inside / Outside Christmas Wrapping

***December 14<sup>th</sup>*** – 6:00 pm – Advent Soup & Scripture @ St. Paul's

***December 19<sup>th</sup>*** – 10:30 am – Children's Christmas Program, during Worship

***December 19<sup>th</sup>*** – Following Worship – Sanctuary  
Christmas Decorating

***December 24<sup>th</sup>*** - 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship

