

## Welcome

To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable. We are happy you chose to be with us in this service, and pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

### Those Who Serve Us

Each Member of St. John's .....	A Minister
Rev. Mike Burdick.....	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp .....	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker .....	Preschool Director
Ms. Jerry Starner .....	Organist
Amy Kohnert, Dana Keller, & Treva Brandt.....	Song Leaders
Bob Brinkopf & Holly Bray .....	Soloist
St. John's Praise Band .....	10:30AM Music
Leo Wyckoff.....	Acolyte
Mr. Todd Zeigler .....	4:00 PM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jeff Weis .....	5:30PM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jeff Stremming.....	8AM Elder on Duty
Mr. Howard Janis.....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jeff Weis 217-246-3963.....	Elder on Duty for Dec. 7 – Dec. 11, 2020
Chatelain School & Baja School .....	Our Schools for feeding in Haiti
Mrs. Julie Scott .....	(217-343-3047) Prayer Partner Coordinator
State, National & International Missions .....	through our District and Synod

**CHRIST** is important to us  
in our worship  
in our study  
in our fellowship  
in our lives.

**YOU** are important to us  
in our worship  
in our study  
in our fellowship  
in our lives.

Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

**Offerings and Attendance Cards can be placed in the boxes at the doors.**

## **As We Gather**

What was it that made not only a couple or a few but, as Mark says, “all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem” come out to be baptized by the Baptist and to confess their sins? Well, what is it that made you get up and come to church today? Notice that today not all do come. Though occasionally during wartime or some great catastrophe more tend to come, the catechism explains, “I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.” “But,” it continues, “the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel.” Some think believing is impossible for them. But believing is not on you; it is a gift from God, overflowing with forgiveness, life, and salvation. God was with John by the Jordan River. God is here with you by His Word and Sacraments.

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*You will find the songs for our 10:30am Service in italics.*

### **Born That We May Have Life**

### **Preservice #1**

*No reputation, no stately bearing  
No palace bed for royalty  
But a star in the heavens  
A sign full of wonder  
Announcing the coming of the King of kings*

*Rejoice! O, world Your Savior has come  
Through the love of a virgin's womb  
Son of God, Son of Man  
Born that we may have life  
You were born that we may have life*

*A throne in a manger, the cross in a cradle  
The hidden revealing this glorious plan  
A child who would suffer  
A child who would conquer  
The sin of every woman, the sin of every man*

*Rejoice! O, world Your Savior has come  
Through the love of a virgin's womb  
Son of God, Son of Man  
Born that we may have life  
You were born that we may have life*

*Rejoice! O, world Your Savior has come  
Through the love of a virgin's womb  
Son of God, Son of Man  
Born that we may have life*

*Rejoice! O, world Your Savior has come  
Through the love of a virgin's womb  
Son of God, Son of Man  
Born that we may have life  
You were born that we may have life  
You were born that we may have life*

"Born That We May Have Life" written by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Maher 2009 worshiptogether.com songs Scripture Reference: John 3:16 CCLI Song: 5601839 CCLI License: 51072

## **How Many Kings**

**Preservice #2**

*Follow the star to a place unexpected  
Would you believe after all we've projected  
A child in a manger  
Lowly and small the weakest of all  
Unlikeliest hero wrapped in His mother's shawl  
Just a child  
Is this who we've waited for 'cause*

*How many kings stepped down from their thrones  
How many lords have abandoned their homes  
How many greats have become the least for me  
And how many gods have poured out their hearts  
To romance a world that is torn all apart  
How many fathers gave up their sons for me*

*Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior  
All that we have whether costly or meek  
Because we believe  
Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure  
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer  
Do you believe  
Is this who we've waited for*

*How many kings stepped down from their thrones  
How many lords have abandoned their homes  
How many greats have become the least for me  
And how many gods have poured out their hearts  
To romance a world that is torn all apart  
How many fathers gave up their sons for me*

*How many kings stepped down from their thrones  
How many lords have abandoned their homes  
How many greats have become the least for me  
How many gods have poured out their hearts  
To romance a world that is torn all apart  
How many fathers gave up their sons for me*

*Only one did that for me*

"How Many Kings" written by Jason Germain, Marc Martel © 2006 Centricity Music Publishing Scripture Reference: John 6:42 CCLI Song: 5351880 CCLI License: 51072

## Bells / Prelude / Welcome

### 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

*(Stand)*

- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore

Text: Public domain

### ***'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus***

### ***Opening Song***

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at His Word;  
Just to rest upon His promise,  
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"*

*Refrain:*

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!*

*Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to trust His cleansing blood;  
And in simple faith to plunge me  
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!*

*I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that He is with me,  
Will be with me to the end.*

"'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus" written by Louisa M. R. Stead; Mark Hall; William James Kirkpatrick My Refuge Music; Club Zoo Music; SWECS MusicScripture Reference: Proverbs 3:5-12, Romans 8:26-30CCU Song Number: 5749760CCU License # 51072

## Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

P Prepare the way of the Lord. Recalling our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sins to God in the full assurance of the gift of forgiveness by the mighty sacrifice of His Son.

C **O God, from the wilderness of lives ruined by the devil, our own sin, and the sins of others, we cry out to You for the forgiveness of our sins -- those that trouble us as well as those of which we are not aware. Restore our life and faith by Your own command for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## Lighting the Advent Candle

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C **and illumine Your Church.**

## We Light the Advent Candle *(solo)*

*st. 2*

2 We light the Advent candle  
And thank the Lord for rest.  
With peace, we know our Jesus  
Has come to be our guest.  
This peace beyond all knowing  
Within our hearts is glowing.  
We wait with growing light  
Till God makes all things right!

Text: © 2013 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110001224

## Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

*Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 9*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
**you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
**you covered all their sin.**

<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;  
**you turned from your hot anger.**

<sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
**and put away your indignation toward us!**

<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?  
**Will you prolong your anger to all generations?**

<sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again,  
**that your people may rejoice in you?**

<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.**

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

**that glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

**righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

**and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

<sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

**and our land will yield its increase.**

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him

**and make his footsteps a way.**

## Children's Sermon

### Epistle

*2 Peter 3:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story: *Refrain*

2 God's people, see Him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

### *Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!

3 Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him!

*Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding:

*Refrain*

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001224

## Holy Gospel

*Mark 1:1–8*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**



### 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

- 1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over."
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many\_a day,  
Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That His Word is never broken.

Text: Public domain

### **King Of Kings**

*In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
Till from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes*

*To fulfil the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt*

*Praise the Father  
Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory  
Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

*To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross*

### **Sermon Song**

*For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died*

*Praise the Father  
Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory  
Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

*And the morning that You rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death*

*And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored*

*And the Church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel shall not faint*

*By His blood and in His Name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me*

*Praise the Father  
Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory  
Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

"King Of Kings" written by Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood© 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia Scripture Reference: Revelation 17:14 CCLI Song: 7127647 CCLI License: 51072

## Sermon

*"The Voice of Comfort"  
Is 40:1-11*

## Our Offerings and Offertory

*(In Advent, we pause to remember the vital role of our regular and joyful thankofferings to the Lord. Though we continue to place our offerings in the Lord's hands through the boxes at the doors and the electronic portal on our website, we remember during Services that stewardship is the act of faith in God and love for our neighbors.)*

### 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own

st. 2

**2 May we Thy bounties thus  
As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,  
To Thee our firstfruits give!**

Text: Public domain

## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Benediction

### 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

**1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing,  
And darker night is near.**

**The Bridegroom is arising  
And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
At midnight comes the cry.**

2 The watchers on the mountain  
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as He approaches  
With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
The Bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience  
Their cross and suff' rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever  
When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before Him  
Their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for,  
O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption  
That sets Your people free!

Text: Public domain

### **Nothing But The Blood**

### **Closing Song**

*What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

*For my cleansing this I see Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
For my pardon this my plea Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*

*Nothing can my sin erase Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
Naught of works, 'tis all of grace Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*

*This is all my hope and peace Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
This is all my righteousness Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*

"Nothing But The Blood" written by Robert LowryPublic DomainScripture Reference: Romans 3:24-25CCLI Song License # 2132CCLI License # 51072  
Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### **Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.