Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches of Martin County, Minnesota



# Pastor John Henry

# **Second Sunday in Advent**



338

December 10, 2023

Regarding Membership and the Holy Communion:

We believe that, in the Holy Communion, the bread is truly Christ's Body and the wine is truly His Blood, given to us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive this gift individually, we profess that we are truly one body in Christ—that we are united in one faith and teaching (doctrine). Ordinarily, full participation in this Holy Communion is reserved for those who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any visitors or guests who desire to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ are asked to please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service.

# Welcome to worship The prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist call through the ages: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" This second Sunday of Advent we gather to do just that.

**Opening Hymn** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#### **Invocation, Confession & Absolution**

- $\blacksquare$  In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- ...I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **Entrance Psalm**

Isaiah 62:11



11 Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end | of the earth:\*
Say to the daughter of Zion,
"Behold, your | salvation comes.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

**Kyrie** sung; repeated five times. LSB pg. 204

**P** ...let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

# Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with your spirit.
- P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your onlybegotten 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.

First Lesson Isaiah 40:1–11

<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."

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.

 The grass withers, the flower fades
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.

 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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

# **C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm** *Psalm* 50:2–6



<sup>2</sup>Out of Zion, the perfection of | beauty,\*
God | shines forth.

<sup>3</sup>Our God comes; he does not keep | silence;\*
before him is a devouring fire,
around him a mighty | tempest.

<sup>4</sup>He calls to the heav- | ens above\*
and to the earth, that he may judge his | people:

<sup>5</sup>"Gather to me my | faithful ones,\*
who made a covenant with me by | sacrifice!"

<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare his | righteousness,\*
for God him- | self is judge!

# **Second Lesson**

2 Corinthians 5:17—6:2

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia & Verse

LSB pg. 205

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel Luke 3:1–20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways, <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

<sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusa-

tion, and be content with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon Hymn** When All the World Was Cursed **346** 

Sermon

**Nicene Creed** inside the back cover of the hymnal

The Prayers

**Offering** 

# **Offertory for Advent**

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height

In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny

That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

#### The Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with your spirit.
- **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 Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary [...] evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus LSB pg. 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord's Prayer

inside the back cover of the hymnal

#### The Consecration

# Pax Domini

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

# **Agnus Dei**

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

# **Communion Hymns**

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People	347
Once He Came in Blessing	333
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	359

Nunc Dimittis LSB pg. 211

O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

# Thanksgiving & Benediction

- Let us pray... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with your spirit.
- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.
- The Lord bless you and keep you.

  The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

  The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give + you peace.
- C Amen.

Closing Hymn Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come 350

#### Acknowledgments

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You can sponsor the bulletins (\$10 per congregation) or online broadcast (\$25) anytime throughout the year, in honor of a special event or giving thanks to God. Call the church office with your request.

**Paul & Cindy Wolter** are sponsoring the bulletins for the month of December, giving thanks to our Lord in as they celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on December 4th. May God continue to bless your marriage.

Bulletins are emailed weekly. If you are not on the list and would like to be, please contact the office. Bulletins can also be found on the website <u>silnorthrop.com</u> or <u>zionfraser.com</u>. Contact the office if you have questions.

Lutheran Schools in Martin County
St James Lutheran School
Martin Luther High School, & the Calling Committee
All Schools and places of learning

# St James

Baptism Birthdays: Cooper Steuber, Leslie Crissinger, Jaxen Garlick,

Mary Jo Hartmann

Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Marilyn Borkenhagen,

Marianne Hagen, Tom Koeritz, Sandy Kurseth

Homebound: Carl Luhmann

# Zion

Baptism Birthdays: Adley Nelson, Myrna Behrens, Wesson Morris,

Jennifer Oberdieck, Pat Stueber Seminary Student: Peter Preus

Serving our Country: Ben Peymann, Dalton Fette, Kory Brown,

Jesse Peterson, Lili Bulfer

Sick & In Distress: Greg Wallace, Lynn Schwieger, Caleb Roiger,

Marsha Peterson

Homebound: Dale Schwieger, Lenore Wendt, Norma Patsche,

Violet Lueth, Yonsey Karasek

**LYF Egg fundraiser** continues. Eggs will be available at SJL after most services or you can call/text Lynn Becker at 230-2700 to arrange a pick up from the farm. 100% of proceeds goes to LYF for expenses and future trips. Please keep returning cartons and leave in the SJL narthex.



- ⇒ Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Cancelled your landline? Please contact the office with your updated contact information.
  - Annual Reports will be due soon. In order to have them ready for the Annual Voter's Meetings in January please submit your reports to the office no later than Wednesday January 3rd. Thank you!

Are you in need of help with meals? **St James Lutheran Stewardship Committee** is starting a meal-train for SJL members who wish to have some help with meals for a short time. This could be due to an illness, a hospital stay, a birth of a child, a death in the family, or for any other reason. Contact Jody Uttech (507-236-6456) if you wish to have a meal-train started for you and/or your family. Also, if you are willing to help by furnishing a meal for a meal-train family when it works with your schedule, please let Jody know.

**Sunday School Christmas Program Practice:** SJL will practice after Sunday School until 11:30. Zion will practice for one hour after church.



- Heaven's Table Food Shelf collection of nonperishable food items and personal care items such as shampoo, soap, body wash, toothpaste, etc., now through December 17th. If you would like to contribute any of these items there is a table in the narthex at both churches for your donations. Thank you.
- Zion LWML is also collecting NEW SOCKS for Orphan Grain Train, now through December 17th.
   All sizes, styles, colors welcomed. There is a basket at the back of church for your donations. Thank you.

**St John's LWML of Sherburn** invite you to their Guest Day on Wednesday December 13th at 2pm for a program with music and dessert luncheon.

**St. Paul's Wilbert LWML** invite you to their annual Christmas Social on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. There will be a salad luncheon, program and a Bake and Craft Sale Table available.



ADVENT II: Wednesday December 13th @ SJL PTL will be serving supper from 6-6:45PM Cheesy Hashbrowns with Ham, Green Beans, Rolls, Bars and Beverages 9:00am & 7:00pm

**SJL School Christmas Program** 

Online giving is an easy and reliable method to contribute to your church while you are out of town, or if you are interested in eliminating the need to remember your envelope on Sunday morning. You can make a one time donation or save time and schedule recurring contributions. This option is available for either congregation through the website; silnorthop.com or zionfraser.com, or through the tithe.ly church app.



SJL Online Giving

"You might not be impressive by the world's standards. You might be a third-shift worker, a nameless neighbor, or a sinner who messed up in very public ways. But the angel declared good news for all people, which logically must include you. So, rejoice today! A Savior was born to you!" Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



# MARTIN LUTHER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

**Prayers are requested during the search for a new principal at MLHS.** The committee is currently in the interview process with potential candidates. We pray for the committee and for the candidates. We pray that the transition will be a blessing to everyone involved and God's will be done, all to His Glory.

**The MLHS Music Department** will present "The Joy of Christmas in Concert" on Sat, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. in the high school gymnasium in Northrop. The band will give a debut performance of a special piece commissioned exclusively for MLHS written by Kurt Heinecke, Veggie Tales composer. Heinecke will be the guest speaker at the concert and will give insight to the design of the piece. Elementary and high school musicians in band and choir will be under the direction of Mr. Phil Schult. Admission is a free will donation.





# **Adult Bible Study Opportunities**

# **Sunday morning Adult Bible Class.**

- **Zion**: 8:45am, Narthex. Please join us as we study topics in The Lutheran Witness. Please bring your Lutheran Witness magazine if possible. Extra copies are available.
- **SJL:** 9:45am, Fellowship Hall. We are using the Focus on the Family video series "That the World May Know".

Friday Morning Bible Study at 8am in the Fellowship Hall at SJL.



# Sundays on KSUM 1370AM - 9 am

- Dec 10 "On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry" Dr. Arthur Just
- **Dec 17** The Christmas Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful" Pastor Will Weedon
- Dec 24 The First Christmas Dr. Paul Maier
- Dec 31 The Christmas Hymn: "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" Dr. Arthur Just



# **THE LUTHERAN HOUR TODAY:**

#### Sundays on KSUM 1370AM- 11 am

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

"A-T Walker" A wilderness can be scary, but if someone is with you who knows the way out, you're not really lost. (Isaiah 40:3)

Those Serving our Lord				
	Greeters	Acolyte		
SJL 12-10	Dan & Lynn Petrowiak			
12-13	Ken & Rhonda Petrowiak 7pm			
12-17	Bryan Simmering & Judi Polzin			
<b>Zion 12-10</b>	Tyler & Mikaela Morris	Gavin Schoen		
12-17	Kelsey Murphy & Sarah Wirth	James Steuber		
12-20	Dennis & Debbie Neitzke 7pm			

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: Dec 10 - 17, 2023 CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - Noon

**Office phone:** 436-5289 **Pastor phone:** 219-713-1604

Email: sjlnorthrop@gmail.com Website: sjlnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com

Divine Worship **Sunday** (SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM Sunday School (Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM SS Program Practice (SJ) 10:30-11:30, (Z) 11:15-12:15 PM Tuesday Chapel (SJ) 8:40 AM Wednesday SJLS Christmas Program (SJ) 9:00 AM Confirmation Class (6th & 7th grades) (SJ) 4:00 PM Confirmation Class (8th grade) (SJ) 5:00 PM Supper (PTL) (SJ) 6:00 PM Advent II/SJLS Christmas Program (SL) 7:00 PM Thursday Chapel (SJ) 8:40 AM Friday Morning Bible Study (SJ) 8:00 AM ML Christmas Concert Saturday (ML) 7:00 PM Sunday Divine Worship (SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM Sunday School (Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM



SS Program Practice (SJ) 10:30-11:30, (Z) 11:15-12:15 PM

Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion			Dec 3, 2023
Attendance	105 (HC 70)	Home	\$2,195.00
Loose Plate	\$7.70	Missions	\$125.00
SJLS	\$50.00	MLHS	\$850.00
Zion Repairs	\$100.00	Christmas Bags	\$50.00

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			Dec 3, 2023
Attendance	93 (HC 78)	Home	\$2,630.00
Loose Plate	\$147.00	Missions	\$35.00
Online	\$396.45	Tuition	\$1,480.00
SJLS Misc	\$100.00		