

**Fourth Sunday in Advent –  
A BLESSING COMES DOWN:  
THE ULTIMATE  
VICTORIOUS WORD**

**Pastor Zietlow's Sermon:  
Luke 2:15-18 –  
A Blessing Comes Down:  
The Ultimate  
Victorious Word**

**WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!**

We pray that you find comfort, peace, and motivation through God's Word today. In our worship bulletin, you will find an outline of **today's order of worship**. The entire service can be found in the hymnal, up on the screen at St. John's and Emmanuel and livestreamed at [www.stjohnsmontello.org](http://www.stjohnsmontello.org) and also at St. John's in the Lower Level. At St. John's, the **restrooms** are located in the link way, out the church entry way, to the left and down the stairs. At Emmanuel, they are located in the Parish Hall. You may also find a **nursery changing station** in the lower level of St. John's.

**ST. JOHN'S & EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCHES-WELS**

**December 22, 2024**

**Emmanuel: Sun. 8:00am**

**St. John's: Sun. 10:00am**

## **A BLESSING COMES DOWN: THE ULTIMATE VICTORIOUS WORD**

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word meaning "to come to". The Advent season reminds us how Jesus comes to us: in the flesh at Christmas, in grace now through His Word and in glory at the final Judgment. Our services this Advent season will use the alphabet broken into 7 parts to develop the main message of this season. ABCD - A Blessing Comes Down! In our last service we heard about the message that the angels and Jesus bring: "Of Peace, Quiet Rest, Sing." In today's service we hear about the word of God's eternal blessing come down to the world. And now it must be seen and shared and understood: The Ultimate Victorious Word.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP:** Setting Three with communion, pp. 188-203

**HYMNS:** 335, 363, 334, 361

**PSALM:** 85 "LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer"

**SERMON:** Luke 2:15-18 - A Blessing Comes Down: The Ultimate Victorious Word

**OPENING HYMN:** 335 "To Shepherds As They Watched By Night"



1 To shep - herds as they watched by night ap - peared a  
2 "At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, as Mi - cah  
3 O then re - jice that through his Son God is with  
4 What harm can sin and death then do? The true God



host of an - gels bright; "Be - hold the ten - der  
did of old make known. It is the Christ, your  
sin - ners now at one; made like your - selves of  
now a - bides with you. Let hell and Sa - tan



babe," they said, "in yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,  
Lord and King, who will to all sal - va - tion bring."  
flesh and blood, your broth - er is th'e - ter - nal God.  
storm and rave, Christ is your broth - er— you are safe.

5 Not one he will or can forsake;  
his promise he will never break.  
Let ev'ry scheme the tempter try,  
you may his utmost pow'rs defy.

6 You shall and must at last prevail;  
God's own you are, you cannot fail.  
To God forever sing your praise  
with joy and patience all your days.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.  
Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## CONFESSION

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.** *James 4:6,10*

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

**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*

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

**But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.** *Psalms 130:3,4*

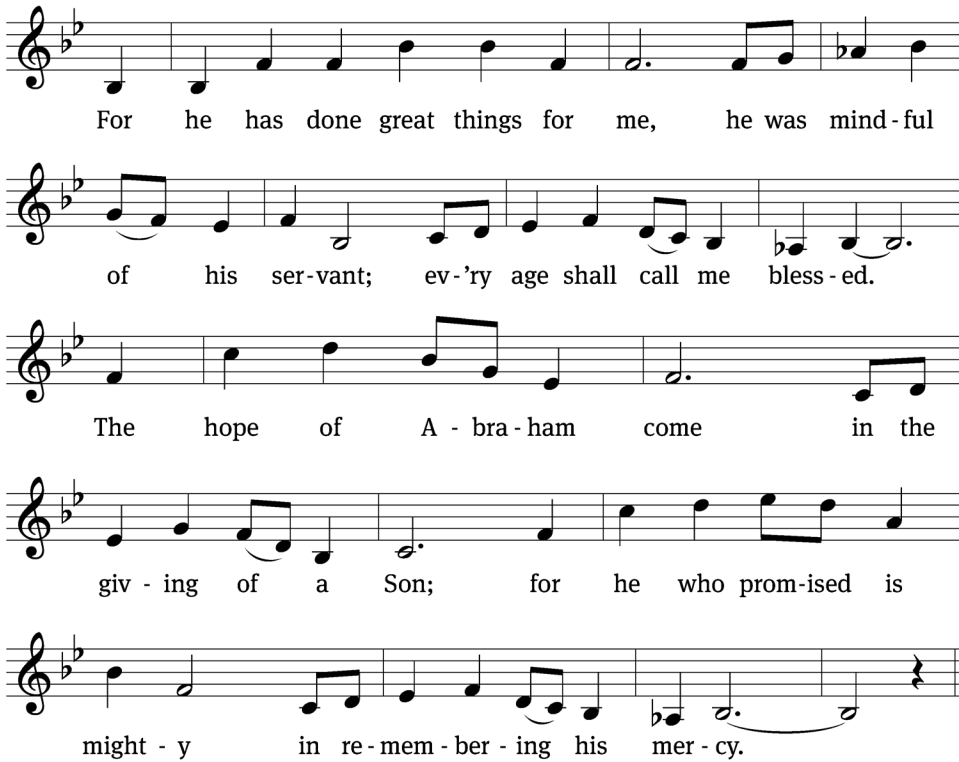
## 975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord



1 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord; I re - joice in God my



Sav - ior, in the won - der of his fa - vor.



For he has done great things for me, he was mind-ful  
of his ser-vant; ev-'ry age shall call me bless-ed.  
The hope of A-bra-ham come in the  
giv-ing of a Son; for he who prom-ised is  
might-y in re-mem-ber-ing his mer-cy.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor,  
so that we through his poverty might become rich.      2 Corinthians 8:9**

Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# 975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

CW 975 st. 2

2 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord for his grace to those who  
fear him through ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.  
The proud he scat - ters to the wind as the rul - er's  
strength is bro - ken, and the rich are left with noth - ing.  
The hum - ble lift - ed high, and the  
hun - gry sat - is - fied; our por - tion and our  
treas - ure, our hope and help for - ev - er.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(Fourth Sunday in Advent)*

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Romans 8:31-39

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** 85 "LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer"

*Refrain*



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

*Tone*



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people  
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath  
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,  
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;  
he promises peace to his / people.

Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,  
that his glory may dwell / in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;  
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.

**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. *Refrain***

Text: Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

<sup>50</sup>I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup>in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup>“Where, O death, is your

victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

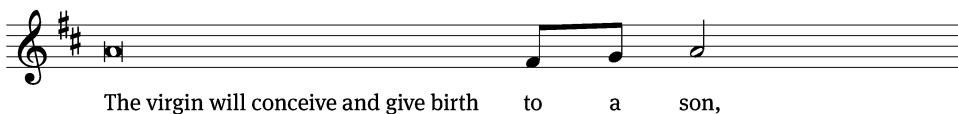
Matthew 1:23



*Refrain*



*Tone*



*Refrain*

Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722228

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 2:15-18(Sermon Text)

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**



## HYMN OF THE DAY: 363 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;  
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.  
3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa - ther's grace di - vine.  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;  
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty  
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.  
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-1874, alt.; Latin and German, 14th cent.  
Tune: German, 14th cent., alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON:** Luke 2:15-18 - A Blessing Comes Down: The Ultimate Victorious Word

**NICENE CREED:** Hymnal page 196

**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.**

**OFFERING, FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS, ALTAR PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT:**

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

**Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.**

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

**Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.**

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

**Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.**

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

**Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.**

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

**Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.**

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

**May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence. *Silent prayer*

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**


**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS** (bulletin p. 17)

**THE SACRAMENT** Hymnal Page 199

For our Communion Practice see p.\*

**Preface**


CW 199



The Lord be with you.



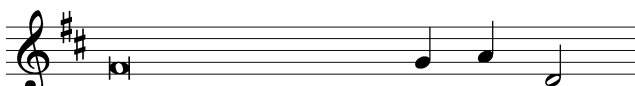
And al - so with you.



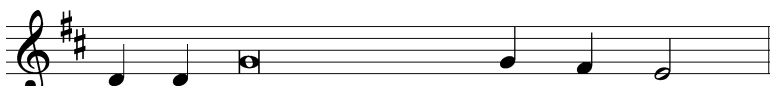
Lift up your hearts.



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.**

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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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

CW 200



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin. We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus

Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.**

### **Lamb of God**

CW 202



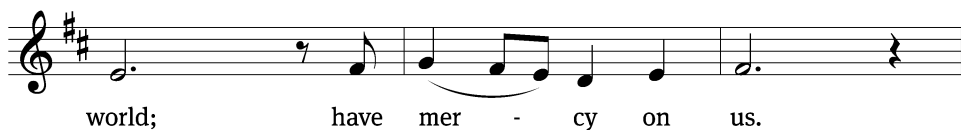
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.



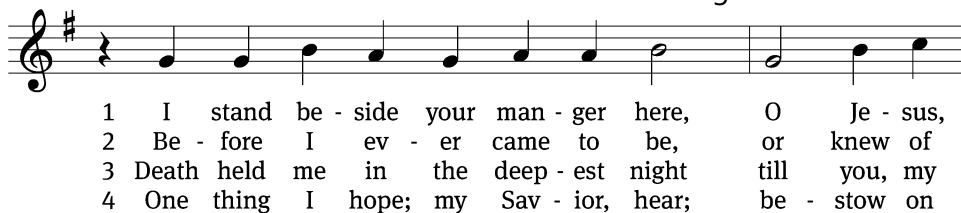
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



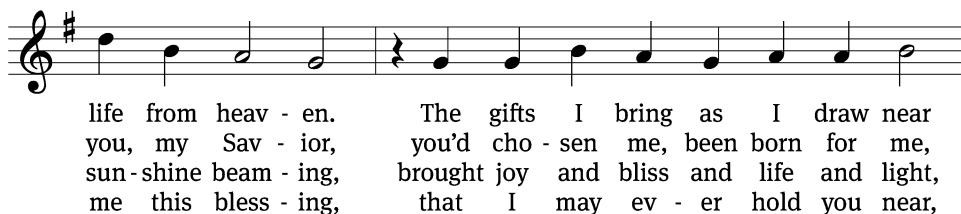
world; grant us, grant us peace.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

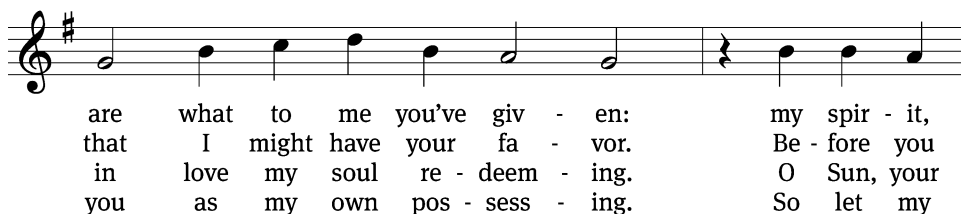
### DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 334 "I Stand Beside Your Manger Here"



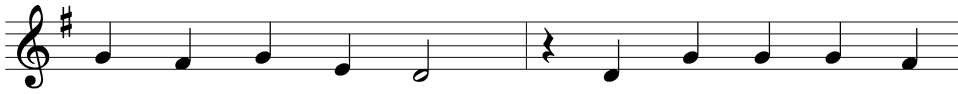
1 I stand be - side your man - ger here, O Je - sus,  
2 Be - fore I ev - er came to be, or knew of  
3 Death held me in the deep - est night till you, my  
4 One thing I hope; my Sav - ior, hear; be - stow on



life from heav - en. The gifts I bring as I draw near  
you, my Sav - ior, you'd cho - sen me, been born for me,  
sun - shine beam - ing, brought joy and bliss and life and light,  
me this bless - ing, that I may ev - er hold you near,



are what to me you've giv - en: my spir - it,  
that I might have your fa - vor. Be - fore you  
in love my soul re - deem - ing. O Sun, your  
you as my own pos - sess - ing. So let my



cour - age, mind, and heart— take all I am, take  
 formed me by your hand in grace you had al -  
 rays so warm and fair have made my dark - ness  
 heart your man - ger be; come, ho - ly Child, lie



ev - 'ry part; in mer - cy let it please you.  
 read - y planned how I would learn to love you.  
 dis - ap - pear— faith's pre - cious light is shin - ing.  
 down in me with all your joy - ful trea - sures.

Text: tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.  
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug  
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 Tune: Public domain

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.**

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

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 T give you peace.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN: 361 "Go, Tell It On the Mountain"



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain  
Tune: African American spiritual  
Text and tune: Public domain

\* "GIFT OF GOD" Christmas Season promo video shown after announcements\*

### THEME FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

First Sunday after Christmas - THE GIFT OF GOD: GOD GIVES BOTH SUBSTITUTE  
AND SACRIFICE

#### Acknowledgments

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St. John's is looking for a few good men to help as Ushers! If you'd like to join the usher crew, please talk to Jerre Duerr, James Wachholz, or Matthew Kath. Thanks!!





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## This Week: December 22-28, 2024

|           |                |                          |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Monday    | Through Friday | NO SCHOOL                |
| Monday    | 6:30 p.m.      | Adult Choir SJ           |
|           | 7:30 p.m.      | Adult Bible Study SJ     |
| Tuesday   | 4:30 p.m.      | Christmas Eve Worship EM |
| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m.      | Christmas Day Worship SJ |

## Next Sunday: December 29, 2024

|            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Emmanuel Worship             |
| 8:30 a.m.  | Sunday School St. John's     |
| 8:45 a.m.  | Adult Bible Study St. John's |
| 9:00 a.m.  | Adult Bible Study Emmanuel   |
| 10:00 a.m. | St. John's Worship           |

|                     | Budget              | Offerings           | All Income          | Expenses            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>November</b>     | <b>\$40,014.98</b>  | <b>\$21,829.30</b>  | <b>\$29,646.05</b>  | <b>\$37,904.77</b>  |
| <b>Year to Date</b> | <b>\$200,074.90</b> | <b>\$121,201.90</b> | <b>\$163,734.94</b> | <b>\$182,123.57</b> |

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **2 Corinthians 9:7***

### LL, CALA and Sunday School Singing Schedule

| Date    |                        |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1/19/25 | LL/CALA K-8 PRINCETON  |
| 2/16/25 | Sunday School MONTELLO |

### Attendance

| Date     | EM | SJ |
|----------|----|----|
| 12/14/24 | -  | -  |
| LL       |    |    |
| 12/15/24 | 30 | 71 |
| 12/18/24 | -  | -  |

**GriefShare in Montello will begin a new 13-week session on Thursday, January 9, 2025. If you would like more information, or wish to attend GriefShare, please contact Mark Emond at 608-697-1600.**

**COMMUNION PRACTICE:** Today our congregations will be receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who are members of Emmanuel, St. John's, another WELS church, or a church in full doctrinal agreement with the WELS, are invited to attend. Others are politely asked to refrain until communion fellowship is established. There are two Scriptural reasons we distribute the Lord's Supper this way. 1.) Receiving the Lord's Supper improperly results in harm, not blessing, to the recipient. (1 Cor. 11:27) Like a prescription it must be administered with care. 2.) Recipients of the Supper publicly proclaim their unity in the faith. (1Cor. 10:17) Members of other denominations have, by joining those church bodies, publicly declared their allegiance to the teaching of those churches. By also communing here at this altar it would send a confusing message regarding not only what they believe, but also what the Bible teaches and what this church and its members believe and confess. We'd love to speak to you about this more fully so that all are prepared and speak with one voice as we proclaim Christ to the world. For more information, and especially if you are interested in becoming a communicant member of this congregation, please speak to Pastor Zietlow.

### **CALA HOSTS WALL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FEB. 2025**

On Feb. 15 & 16, Christ Alone Lutheran Academy will host the annual WALL basketball tournament at WLA in Fond du Lac, WI. We need all hands on deck! If you are looking for a way to support and serve your school, please consider giving your time. You do not need to be a sports family to serve. Areas that we will need help in are concessions, admissions table, bookkeeping, scoreboard, and providing baked good items. All proceeds made that weekend will go to CALA. From these proceeds, CALA also plans to give back by making a monetary donation to the WLA new school building project. Thank you for your consideration!

**Please follow the link to sign up or contact Ciara in the Princeton office:**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1l\\_a4peA3NGuriLFfEuz4wGz9WPZOIVZ2Bspd8jA32RA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1l_a4peA3NGuriLFfEuz4wGz9WPZOIVZ2Bspd8jA32RA/edit?usp=sharing)

At our December 18th Call meeting the voters present voted unanimously to extend a call to Mrs. Laura Jaeger. Her husband Ryan has also received a Call for principal and 6-8 grade teacher at CALA.

Following is some information about them:

Laura is 43 years old, a graduate of MLC and has a Wisconsin teachers license. She is presently teaching preschool at St. John's Lutheran School in Two Rivers WI. She has been gifted with musical abilities. Ryan and Laura both attended Lakeside Lutheran High School in Lake Mills. The Jaegers have four children Joseph age 18, Matthew age 14, and twins Silas and Levi aged 10. As a child Laura grew up in Columbus on a vegetable farm and sold produce with her parents at the Princeton Flea Market. In a statement about herself from her bio sheet she says "I have a heart for and love working with younger children. One of my strengths is working with young families. I love making Bible lessons come to life, seeing children I teach be baptized, and planning special events for children such as VBS, Christmas Camps, Easter for Kids, and Trunk or Treats." The Jaegers own their home.

Ryan is 44 years old, a graduate of MLC and has a Wisconsin teachers license. His birth place is Watertown WI. He is presently the Principal and teacher at St. John's Two Rivers WI. He is also the adult and youth choir director.

Laura Phone: 920-629-5793 (cell)

email: [laura.jaeger@sjtworivers.org](mailto:laura.jaeger@sjtworivers.org)

Ryan Phone: 920-657-1163 (home)

email: [ryan.jaeger@sjtworivers.org](mailto:ryan.jaeger@sjtworivers.org)

Address:

6716 Sunset Dr.

Two Rivers WI 54241-9613

Please pray for them and reach out to them with encouragement through cards, texts, emails, or phone calls as they deliberate where they can best use their gifts to promote the saving Gospel. Please keep both congregations and all of our called workers in your prayers, as we work together to carry out our Gospel ministries.

Additionally some church finance information. We are moving from challenged to critical. In order to support our present ministries our income needs to improve. As God has blessed you, please consider an end of the year **special gift**. We are committed together to provide a path to bring the Good News of Jesus to the children among us as well as their families.

**"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."** If we can't provide a path, we are in essence hindering them.

May you find the true Joy that Jesus brings as we worship together regularly.

Christmas day service at St. John's is at 9:00.

In Christ,

Jerre Duerr

St. John's Chairman

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

| <b>St. John's</b>   | <b>Usher's Schedule</b>                             |
|---|---|
| <b>Sunday, Dec 22<br/>Wednesday, Dec 25</b>   | <b>Sunday, Dec 22<br/>Tuesday, Dec. 31</b>          |
| <b>Paul Van Treeck<br/>Matt Borzick<br/>Ken Borzick<br/>James Henke<br/>Haiden Van Treeck<br/>Nolan Van Treeck<br/>Brody Henke<br/>Milo Henke</b> | <b>Jerre Duerr<br/>Kevin Kaul<br/>Gordon Krause</b> |

**CHURCH RECORDS**

In coming months we will be updating our Church records and need your help! Office volunteers will be contacting you to update contact information and Church records. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

The 2025 Emmanuel offering envelopes are now available to be picked up in the parish hall. If you may have any questions, please contact Brian Ninneman.

The 2025 St. John's offering envelopes are now available on the table in the linkway. If you have any questions, see Matt Kath, James Wachholz, Jerre Duerr or Pastor Zietlow.

**Thank you** to Kay Maass, Marilyn Riemer, and Diane Eisermann for donations for the Christmas wreaths hanging on the church's front doors. And thank you to Ashley Henke for creating the lovely wreaths. She also contributed the pumpkins and gourds that beautified our autumn décor. We appreciate it very much! We serve our Lord in many ways and are blessed in doing so.



## The Sixteenth Annual of His Word Conference

**Keynote:** Pastor Earle Treptow

“Forge Ahead in Faith”

**Worship Band:** Koine’

14 Challenging Breakout Sessions

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and

Convention Center – Oshkosh, WI

Register at: [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org)

## FORGE AHEAD IN FAITH – Philippians 3:14 2025 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Speaker and Session details available at [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org)

1. Forge Ahead in Faith in a Political World
2. Forge Ahead in Faith as a Father
3. Forge Ahead in Faith as a Businessman
4. LIFT-ED (Living Integrated Faith Therapy)
5. Journey from War to Peace
6. Forge Ahead in Men's Ministry
7. A Post-PG 13 World
8. Lutheran Worship: What Now?
9. Forge Ahead in the Face of Loss
10. Dad, Husband, Volunteer, Employee - Being a Man of His Word No Matter the Title
11. Forge a Stronger Marriage
12. Acknowledge and Embrace Diversity as We Forge Ahead in Faith
13. More than a Movement: A Biblical/Relational Approach to LGBTQ Discussions
14. Certified non-toxic masculinity

## ***Help us stay in touch!***

*Scan the code below using your smartphone camera and fill out the prompted information. Don't have a smartphone? That's ok! Fill out an attendance card located at the end of each pew and place it in the offering plate located at the entry of each church.*



**Welcome to our visitors!**

**Find & Like us on Facebook**

**Visit our website:** [www.stjohnsmontello.org](http://www.stjohnsmontello.org)

**Pastor Pete Zietlow:** 608-408-7830, **Email:** [zietlowPL6@hotmail.com](mailto:zietlowPL6@hotmail.com)

**Principal & 6-8 Grade Teacher:** Larry Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext.102

**Email:** [principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:principal@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**3-5 Grade Teacher:** Beth Barenz: 920-481-9002 ext.103

**Email:** [bbarenz@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:bbarenz@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**1-2 Grade Teacher:** Shelley Myers: 920-481-9002 ext.201

**Email:** [smyers@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:smyers@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**Kindergarten Teacher:** Liz Wolter: 920-481-9002 ext.202

**Email:** [ewolter@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:ewolter@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**Little Lambs Director:** Lynn Sellnow: 920-481-9002 ext. 203

**Email:** [littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:littlelambs@stjohnsmontello.org)

**CALA Secretary/Office:** Ciara Neuhauser: 920-481-9002

**School Email:** [secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net](mailto:secretary@crystalonelutheranacademy.net)

**Church Office:** Matthew Kath 608-297-2866/608-494-0167

**Church/School Address:** 313 E Montello St. Montello, WI 53949

**Church Email:** [scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org](mailto:scsecretary@stjohnsmontello.org)