



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 2nd Sunday of Advent*

*December 9, 2018*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

Christmas is coming! Are you ready? In today's gospel reading we encounter two women who are getting ready for major life changes: the arrival of babies! But these women know that the children they will bear will be more than just statistics. They will change the world. God offers the same thing for our lives. Before God we are not statistics. We are agents empowered to do real and everlasting good. Are you ready to change the world?

### *Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn We Will Wait  
(for music, turn to Hymn 56 in the Songbook binder)

1. We will wait with ever watchful eyes.  
We will wait with ever serving lives.  
We will wait with ever open hearts.  
We will greet You.
2. We will greet You with ever thank-ful tears.  
We will greet You with ever lessening fears.  
We will greet You with ever hopeful joy.  
We will welcome You.  
We will welcome You! We will sing!  
We will welcome You! We will sing!
3. We will welcome You as prophesied.  
We will welcome You into our lives.  
We will welcome lessons that You teach.  
We will sing for You.
4. We will sing while we wait here on earth.  
We will sing to greet You at Your birth.  
We will sing to welcome You, the gift.  
We will follow You.  
We will welcome You. We will sing!  
We will welcome You! We will sing!

Text and music: Julie Hennies Clark, Larry Olson, David Lee Brown; Copyright 1992 Julia Hennies Clark/Dakota Road Music; CCLI # 1941957

## Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## Gathering Dialog (John 1)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A: In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

† WORD †

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call us to prepare your way, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen**

*As the second candle on the wreath is lit we sing:*

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

*(For music turn to Hymn 257 in the Red Hymnal)*

**1. Oh come, Oh come Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

**3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

*First Reading* Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:  
"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>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon 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 tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

*After the reading the reader may say:* The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading 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 ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

*After the reading the reader may say:* The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (2 Peter 3:8)

**C: Alleluia. With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-56

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who

believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.<sup>246</sup> And Mary said,

P: “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**C: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

P: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

**C: His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.**

P: He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**C: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;**

P: he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

**C: He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>**according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

P: And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

### Children's Sermon

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day Canticle of the Turning  
(For music see Hymn 723 in the Red Hymnal)

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west, shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

*Refrain:* **My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.**

**2. Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**3. From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**4. Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast;  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which hold us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. *Refrain***

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat, text copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc. Music: Star of Country Down; Irish Traditional.

### *Apostles' Creed*

**P:** In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C:** **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

**A:** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C:** **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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.**

*(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;**

**behold, everything has become new!**

*(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

### *Confession of Sins*

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

*(A moment of silence for reflection)*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your great compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by  
your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to  
the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen**

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through  
our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power  
of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen**



Peace

A: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

‡ PRAYER ‡

Offering & Special Music *Mary Did You Know?* by Mark Lawry & Buddy Greene/arr. Jack Schrader

Hymn of Thanksgiving *As the offering is brought forward:*

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

*For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,**

**open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,**

**where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard, break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.**

**Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Thanksgiving Prayer

A: Let us pray: Savior of the nations, come.

**C: Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,*

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

A: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Bethlehem Highway

(For music turn to Hymn 45 in the Songbook binder)

**Chorus: There is hope on Bethlehem highway  
for the ones who will journey there.  
And the hope is the child in a manger  
bringing us love beyond compare**

**1. It's a lifeline for the needy,  
It's sight to those who can't see.  
It's a freedom for the faithful  
in a child of prophecy. Chorus**

**2. Let the an-gels go before us.  
Let the darkness become light.  
Now the savior lives among us.  
Now truth has come to life. Chorus**

Text and music: David Lee Brown and James Hersch; Copyright 1992 Dakota Road Music, used with permission # 1941957

Dismissal

**A:** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Cassie Ross
Acolyte	Abbie Bullwinkle
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour	Tricia Kolczynski

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 16, 2018**

Greeters and Ushers	Sally Mansfield and Helen Crown
Acolyte	Olivia DeLeon
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann and Linda Flood
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	Babette Huber

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**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564  
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192  
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
Heidi Griffith, Music Director