

December 7, 2025 8:00/9:30am

Second Sunday in Advent

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN "Sing Praise to the God of Israel"

LSB 936

Verse 1 sung by choir/cantor.

*Sing praise to the God of Israel!
Sing praise for His visitation!
Redeeming His people from their sin,
Accomplishing their salvation,
Upraising a mighty horn within
The house of His servant David!*

You, child, will go on before the Lord
As prophet, His way preparing;
To speak on behalf of God Most High,
His counsel of truth declaring:
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby
Iniquity is forgiven.

God spoke by the prophets long ago,
His promise on oath recalling—
To Abraham made in former years:
Of vanquishing foes appalling,
That those He delivered from their fears
Might gladly and truly serve Him.

O bright, rising Sun, now shine on us
In need of illumination;
Come scatter the shades of sin and death
And shatter their domination.
Be guiding our footsteps on the path
Of peace, in Your presence dawning!

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that numbers the days of preparation for Christ's coming again. As we light the second candle on this wreath, fill us with the peace that comes from You so that we may be lights shining in the darkness of our world.

Give us the light of Your grace, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our hearts may be prepared to welcome Him with joy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, whose coming is certain. Amen.

As we light our Advent wreath, we wait in hope for the One who comes -
Jesus, the light of the world.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

SONG**"We Light the Advent Candle"***Second candle is lit*

2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for
rest. With peace, we know that Je - sus Has
come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all
know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing. We
wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

O God, from the wilderness of lives disfigured and crushed 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.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 152

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1–10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM (8:00) "Savior of the Nations, Come" Douglas E. Wagner

EPISTLE

Romans 15:4–13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1–12

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume 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. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (8:00)

Justin Weber

Director of Christian Education

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344

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!

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.

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.

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

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.

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SERMON

“Making All Things New”

Pastor Snow

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their needs.

Come, O Lord, among us, that as people united in faith, we may witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus. With hope we pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Come, O Lord, with Your presence on earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule there be times of peace. With hope we pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Come, O Lord, and walk beside us that Your love and blessing be evident in all that we say and do. With hope we pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Come, O Lord, and bring Your response to the special concerns on our hearts today, including health and family needs and situations that are part of life... With hope we pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY**"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"****LSB 955**

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

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PREFACE**LSB 160**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

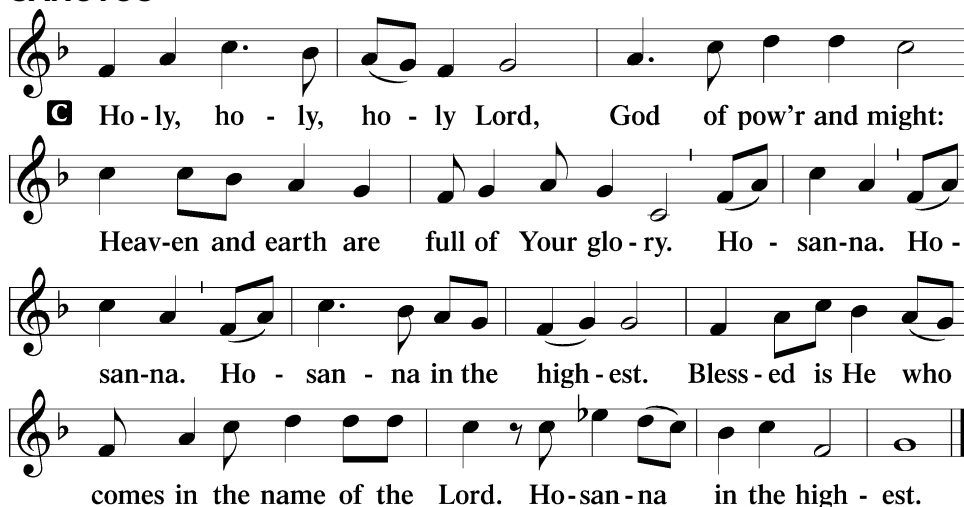
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming John the Baptist proclaimed in the wilderness and by whose death and resurrection calls us to repent, turning again and again to the font of His mercy, so that our lives bear fruit worthy of repentance.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. 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 in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank You, Lord of all creation, for this gift of our Lord's Supper, by which You prepare us to journey through the wilderness of our lives assured of Your presence and promise. Hear us as we pray in Jesus' name the very words He teaches us to pray:

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.

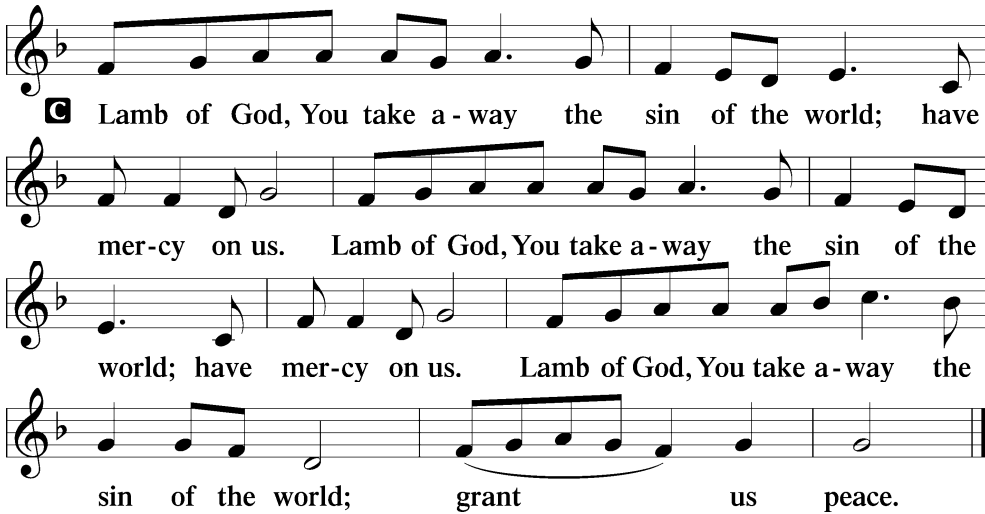
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

AGNUS DEI



C 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 peace.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood. This we eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold to a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked to first speak with the pastor or an elder. For further readings in Scripture, we suggest Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

- **Communicants will receive elements in a continuous fashion.**
- **If you would like the pastor to bring communion to you, please inform an usher anytime during the service.**
- **Children of all ages may join their parents and receive a special blessing.**
- **For those who desire it, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center ring of the tray of individual cups.**

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

"When All the World Was Cursed"

LSB 346

When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.

Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:

Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.

O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him In His eternal day.

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HYMN

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

LSB 347

"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."

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.

Text: Public domain

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.

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.

HYMN**“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”****LSB 359**

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow’ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah ’twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

Text: Public domain

This flow’r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev’rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev’ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

DISSMISAL**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Thank You, Lord, for this gift of Christ’s body and blood. Prepare our hearts by this great gift to love You and to serve our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION**Romans 15:13**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Text: Public domain

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH ST. JOHN'S TODAY! If this is your first time at St. John's, we encourage you to fill out a CONNECTCard located on the Welcome Desk. We want an opportunity to get to know you.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes: 8:00 Elizabeth Hennen/10:45 Christina Oliver

Elders: 8:00 Paul DeRocher/9:30 Pete Siedelman/10:45 Michael Johnshoy

Communion Assistants: 8:00 Chris Mundahl, Pete Siedelman, Dick Schaefer

9:30 Jim Hofer, Chris Hammons, Scott McCarty

10:45 Thomas Leier, Josh Peterson, Nathan Messer

Usher Team: 8:00 Josh Kulzer/9:30 Brian Dahlke/10:45 Brad Willmsen

Welcome Team: 8:00 Julie & Troy Herrmann/9:30 Elizabeth & Michael Bennes/

10:45 Ben Peterson

Tech Crew: 8:00 Hunter Krueger/9:30 & 10:45 Bennett McGlothlin

Coffee Hour: 9:30 Hannah Davenport

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UPCOMING WEEK	
Sunday, December 7	Advent Choral Vespers 6:30pm
Monday, December 8	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	AA 7:00pm
Tuesday, December 9	Mary Martha Guild Meeting 6:00pm
	Elders Meeting 6:30pm
Wednesday, December 10	Moms in the Word 9:30am
	Midweek Advent Worship (K-1 st Sings) 4:15pm
	Midweek Advent Worship 6:30pm
	Messengers of Praise Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
Thursday, December 11	Time to Grow Christmas Program 6:30pm
Friday, December 12	AA 6:30pm
Saturday, December 13	Colson Fellows Cohort Meeting 8:30am
	1 st – 6 th Grade Sunday School Christmas Service Rehearsal 9:00 – 11:00am
Sunday, December 14	Worship 8:00/9:30/11:00am
	Blood Pressure Screening 9:30am
	Education Hour 9:30am
	1 st – 6 th Grade Sunday School Christmas Service 11:00am

Celebrating Birthdays

12/7
 Bob Panning
 12/9
 Keegan Kelly
 Emma Schmitz
 August Zabel
 12/10
 Madison Mesebring
 Tom Thuente

12/11
 Tricia DuToit
 James Holasek
 Mike Johnshoy
 Jason Kusske
 Missy Young
 12/12
 Annika Atkinson
 Hailey Busker

12/12
 Mary Dahlke
 Jeanie Klein
 12/13
 David Dare
 Scott Eastlund
 Connor Panning
 Kate Swanson

Celebrating Anniversaries

12/11 Paul and Sandra Sprengler

12/11 John and Emily Watry

12/12 Scott and Jenny McCarty

12/13 Daniel and Kimberly Siegle

Expectant Moms

Brenda Simpson

Izzy King

Nicole Stockey

Kourtney Vipond

Katelyn Olson

Amy Peterson

Prayers for Healing and Strength

Sandy Sprengeler

Bernie Gnan

Holly Walters

Jen Angell

Marilyn Lenzen

Jolene Berg

Joann Mueller

Gary Anderson

Jack Boman

Ongoing Prayers

Carol Affeldt

John Barney

Merlin Bentz

Jimann Campbell

Julie Carver

Marguerite Craighead

Sunnie Deis

Anita Doss

Sid & Merna Fjelstad

Dennis Gaarder

Bernie Gnan

Ruth Harms

Eugene Henke

Carol Jones

Len Kallsen

Gretchen Laubach

Melinda Meuwissen

Gina Niesche

Steve Pond

Austin Rannow

Val Schlefsky

Cliff Waller

Ruth Ziegler

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The birth of a daughter, Clara Joy, to Tom and Nicole Thuente.

The birth of a daughter, Finley Noelle, to Zach and Jessica Lewis.

In Sympathy

The family of Donna Kloos, upon her passing.

Advent and Christmas at St. John's

Sundays in Advent

December 7, 14, & 21

8:00am, 9:30am, & 10:45am

December 7 (Advent Choral Vespers)
6:30pm

Midweek Advent Worship

December 10 & 17

4:15pm & 6:30pm

No Advent meals due
to renovation

Christmas Services

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Worship with Communion

2:00pm, 4:00pm, & 10:00pm (candlelight)

December 25 (Christmas Day)

Worship with Communion

9:30am

New Year's Eve Service

December 31

Worship with Communion

5:00pm

Sunday School & Day School Christmas Services & Programs

Kindergarten & Younger Sunday School Service

Sunday, December 7 at 10:45am

Time to Grow Christmas Program

Thursday, December 11 at 6:30pm

1st – 6th Grade Sunday School Service

Sunday, December 14 at 11:00am

K – 8th Grade Christmas Service

Thursday, December 18 at 6:30pm

(Streamed LIVE on our church website)

Advent Choral Vespers – Sunday, December 7, 6:30pm

Join church and school choirs for a special service featuring Advent and Christmas carols, scripture readings, and choral music.

A reception will follow the service.