

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022**



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome on this 3rd Sunday of Advent, 'Rejoice' Sunday, a turning point near the half way mark of Advent. As we continue to prepare our home for Christmas we search our own hearts for all that may stand in the way of realizing the joy of Christ among us.

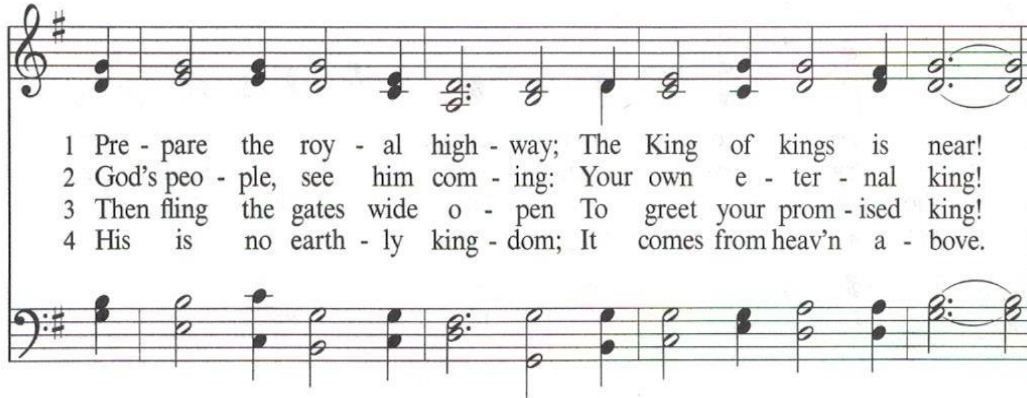
ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN ~ Prepare the Royal Highway

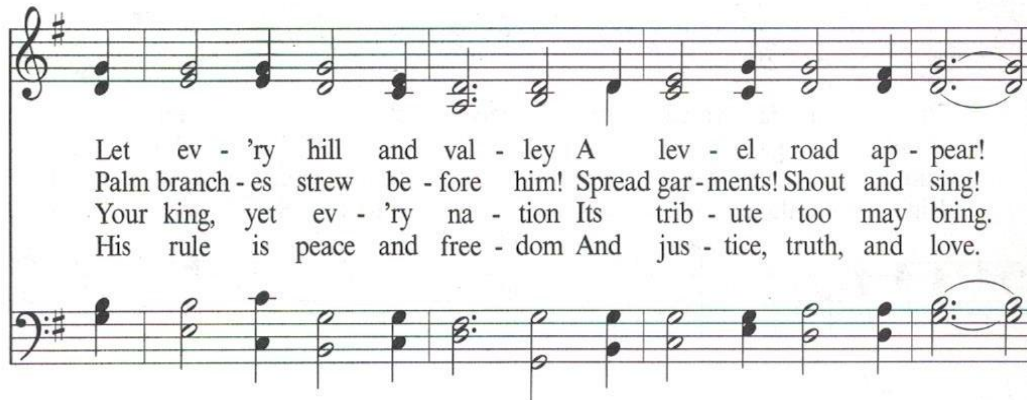
LBW # 26

Prepare the Royal Highway

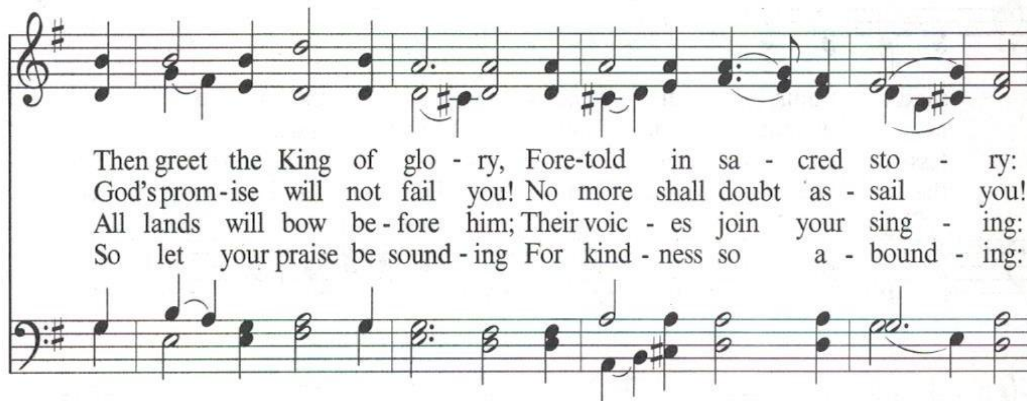
26



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; Their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

***GREETING**

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

C: **Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.**

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

C: **And also with you.**

***LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLES**

Reader: On this third Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of joy. Jesus came to give us fullness of joy and an abundant life. Joy is ours because of Jesus. His presence brings the promise of joy.

We light this candle in Hope.
 We light this candle for Peace.
 We light this candle for Joy.

People: Scripture reading from Luke 2:8-10 (*unison*) **And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.... And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.**

Pastor: Let us pray: God of Hope, Peace and Joy. Help us to perceive ways we fail to receive your joy. Bless us with the joy of Christ residing within us.

Reader: Christ brings the light of Joy

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (to the tune of #142 in blue hymnal)

We lift the light of joy, O God. Your praise is our delight!
 Your Blessings flow that all may know unbounded joy in Christ.
 Your Blessings flow that all may know unbounded joy in Christ.

***PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**



Ⓟ The Lord be with you.

Ⓞ And al - so with you.

P Let us pray...

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read. After the reading

P The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

***PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ See Celebrate**

P In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

OFFERING ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end of the front and back pews.

***OFFERTORY**


Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

***THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen**

***HYMN ~ Hark, the Glad Sound!**

LBW # 35

Hark, the Glad Sound!

35

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

*Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
 Tune: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820*

CHESTERFIELD
 CM

PRAYER for CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Organist: Seulki Susie Yoo

Today

Altar Care: Carol Fultz and Sandra Metz

Flower Delivery: Carol Fultz; **Greeter:** Jami Zook

Sound: Joe Kanagy

Next Sunday, December 18

Altar Care: Carol Fultz and Sandra Metz

Flower Delivery: Carol Fultz; **Greeter:** Carol Fultz

Lay Reader: Sandra Metz; **Sound:** Jay Byler

Church Office: 935-2032; **Email us at** secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Our Mission Statement

We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another in our homes, church, community and the world.

Our Vision Statement

To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.

The Altar flowers in St. John's are given to the Glory of God
Jim and Georgianna Buchanan in honor of
their granddaughter, Noelle Dolin's 9th birthday.

Please remember in prayer ~ Paul Byler, Richard Byler, Desa Keiser, Kathy Eckley, Fred Rodgers, Elliana Byler, Kyung Sun Yim, Bob Treaster, Andrea Kauffman, Don F. Smith, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Joyce Stuck (Greenwood Village), Betty Harmon (Celebration Villa), Don Wolfe, Carol Yoder (VVH).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MERF radio is going to be playing a recording of Lisa Griffith singing "O Holy Night" on December 23rd during their holiday tradition, "A Mifflin & Juniata Christmas". The show will air from 10 'til noon. Lisa tells us they posted the question "What is your absolute favorite Christmas song?" on Facebook, and Sara (Stover) Mattern, responded that hers was Lisa's rendition of "O Holy Night", so, the station contacted Lisa and asked her to send them a recording.

No one does it quite like Lisa, and we too were blessed to have her at many of our Christmas Eve services. If you are able, tune into MERF found on FM 95.7 and relive Christmas past.

Poinsettia order forms were included in the newsletter and can also be found in the narthex. There is no set price again this year. We will not be using the poinsettias trees. A total of 24 will be purchased and placed throughout the church.

Since Christmas day worship is now being held in the narthex, you may take yours following the Christmas Eve service.

The 2023 birthday calendars can be found in the narthex. There is no cost, feel free to take one or more.

The Offering Envelopes for 2023 have been placed in member mailboxes. If you did not receive one, please contact the church office.

The Social Ministry committee is collecting items for the Mitten Tree along with non-perishable food for the Shelter Service. More information can be found in the newsletter. Please place your food donations on/under the grey table located in the narthex.

Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex for anyone who would like to place Altar flowers next year. We will once again refrain from using them during Lent beginning Sunday, February 27 through Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 2.

Please remember to notate whether you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered. Currently, the cost remains at \$40.00.

January 1 thru December 8, 2022

Last week's attendance ~ No count taken Offering ~ \$ 1,605.00

St. John's ~ Income \$150,777.60 Expense \$156,080.96
Net Income - \$5,303.36

Daycare ~ Income \$321,888.65 Expense \$344,015.04
Net Income -\$22,126.39

*(Net income figure is result of required
2021/22 ARPA grant spending)