

The Fourth Sunday in Advent



Saint John Lutheran Church

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

December 18, 2022

Welcome!

"How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us!" (1 John 3:1).

We are thankful you are joining in the worship with the people of God this day. We are glad to assist you at any time.

To better your experience while at St. John:

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located on the right in the lobby and down the bell tower hallway to the right towards the fellowship hall.
- Prayer requests may be written on the white cards in the pew rack and given to an usher before worship begins, or as you leave.
- A self-staffed nursery is available to parents as needed, past the wooden double doors on the left.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner as you enter the sanctuary.
- If this is your first visit, please sign our Guest Book located in the lobby near the Sanctuary.

Surprise the World!
Love. Like. Jesus. + Hope for the City.



Saint John Lutheran Church

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Like Us on Facebook: [Oktoberfest Hattiesburg](#)

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Like Us on Facebook: [Longleaf Heights Neighborhood Association](#)

We are imperfect people and we live in an imperfect world. We are all in this together. So when we believe or act wrongly towards someone, or when we feel that another has wronged us, we commit ourselves to the humble teaching and forgiving pattern of Jesus in Matthew 18.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Order of Worship

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Advent is the four-week season that begins the Church's liturgical year. This penitential season prepares us both for Christmas, the first coming of the Messiah in human flesh, and for the Second Coming of our Lord in glory. Advent's somber side reflects this message of repentance: Prepare to meet your Maker! Advent's joyful side reflects its message of grace: Prepare to receive God's gift...Himself! This Advent, let God speak to you and satisfy your needs for deeply-felt repentance and joy.

Our preparation for worship follows an ancient custom of the Church. We turn our backs to the Lord's altar to match symbolically what we have done to the Lord spiritually in our sinning. Once forgiven by the Lord, we then turn to him with joyful singing.

+ GATHERING +

Prayer As We Begin — *Please remain seated.*

☑ Heavenly Father, as we come before you this morning in Jesus' name, we pray all that we say and do in our worship will give you glory. Help us, Lord, to focus our thoughts on you, so your Word will find fertile ground in our minds and hearts. May the worship service today accomplish in us the purpose you desire. Amen.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;





Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thyne all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Please stand and turn away from the Altar

The Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

- L** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

- L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.

- L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.

- L** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

- L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Prepare the Way of the Lord (3 times) — *Turn to face the altar.*

Calmly (A)

Pre - pare the way of the Lord, pre -

(B) (C)

pare the way of the Lord, and all peo - ple will

(D)

see the sal - va - tion of our God. — Pre -

Kyrie

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect Prayer

- L** The LORD be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** We pray together...
- C** **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated for the lighting of the Advent Candles and readings from the Scriptures.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE

L Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Joy. We light it and the candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Love. God's love is a perfect love. It holds nothing back. God, in love, gives us everything we need to live a life of hope and peace and joy.

This is what love is like: Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance.

We light the Candle of Love to remind us that Jesus brings us God's love and shows us how to love others. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling — Lighting of Wreath Candles

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.

L Let us pray together

C Thank you, God, for the love you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your love with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

+ WORD +

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

L The Old Testament Reading for the fourth Sunday in Advent is from Isaiah, Chapter Seven, Verses 10-17. The miraculous birth of the Messiah is foretold.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary

my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

L This is the Word of the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

L *The Epistle is from Romans, Chapter One, Verses 1-7. Paul declares God's plan from the beginning.*

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

Magnificat — *Please stand. "Magnify the Lord, O My Soul!"*

Ma - gni - fi - cat, Ma - gni - fi - cat, Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - mi - num.

Ma - gni - fi - cat, Ma - gni - fi - cat, Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

℣ The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the Eleventh Chapter.

☩ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"
(which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

℣ This is the Gospel of the LORD.

☩ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

ℙ The holy Church throughout the world confesses this faith:

☩ **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.**

Please be seated.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Refrain
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice!
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice!
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - jice! Re - jice!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - jice! Re - jice!
And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - jice! Re - jice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

The Message — Mr. Mark Keyl

The Prayers of the Church and The Our Father — *Please stand.*

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 +

Benedicamus and Blessing

L Let us bless the LORD.

C Thanks be to God.

L We speak the Romans 15 blessing to one another:

**May the God of HOPE
 fill you with all JOY and PEACE
 as you TRUST in him,
 so that YOU may overflow with HOPE
 by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.**

L 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

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



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 should 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, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 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!

THIS WEEK

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	12pm AA	12pm AA	12pm AA	12pm AA	12pm AA	10am AA 10:30am Christmas Eve Service



Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule



Sundays in Advent: 10:30am	December 18
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 10:30am	Saturday, December 24
The Christ Mass:	No Sunday services December 25

The Avenues Study Group — (Even Week Wednesdays) Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 10am at Saint John. They are studying Be Still & Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge. The next meeting will be January 11, 2023.

Love

Take Home Announcements — Sunday, December 18, 2022

Serving the Lord Today

Pastor	Rev. Gary Weier 228.256.2791 garyweier@yahoo.com
Altar Guild	Shirley Thone and Christina Keiper
Organist	Jason Sims
Lector	Christopher Longman

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:00am-12:00pm
Altar Flowers: Dennis & Lillian Smith — In Celebration of 50th Wedding Anniversary.
Eternal Candle: Pat Potesta Birthday celebration for Vivian & Roxanne

Scriptures The Nativity of Our Lord: Isaiah 7:10-14 Isaiah 9:2-7 Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 2:1-7 Luke 2:15-20
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Today's Theme

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel"
(Isaiah 7:14).*

A stunning truth, unthinkable circumstances for a child, expectant mother, and pensive father. All are faithful, yet all would be shunned. And yet, no one well-intentioned, unnerved, or suspect would redirect God's plan of salvation. Mary bore Jesus, Joseph named Him Jesus, and Jesus is the very Son of God—in the flesh, for the salvation of sinners.

Birthdays

Jason Sims	12/18
Julie Radavich	12/19
Nick Weiss	12/23
Thomas Hesselgrave	12/24
Eric Reid	12/24

Baptisms

Ruth Robinson	12/19
Diahn Lee	12/21

Wedding Anniversaries

Kerry & Debbie Geroux, 40yrs	12/18
Dewey & Lisa Case, 10yrs	12/22
Dennis & Lillian Smith, 50yrs	12/23
Eric & Jean Martin, 60yrs	12/24

Live Streaming of Worship Services — www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com.

Online Giving — Online giving is available to members and friends of Saint John via the 'Give' tab on our webpage. Thank you for supporting our work together in Jesus' name.

Poinsettia Forms — Please have your forms and payments turned in today. Poinsettias are a traditional part of our decorations and a lovely way to honor and remember loved ones and events. They may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Reminder — No Sunday services will be held on December 25th this year.

Angle Tree Ministry — A big thank you to all you for supporting the Angel Tree this year! You are sharing the Love that Jesus teaches us.



Prayers Needed			
Chris Thiel	Serving Stateside (FL)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	10/1/16
Kelly Thiel	Serving Stateside (NC)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/16
Cory Thiel	Serving Overseas (Germany)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/22
Matt Geroux	Serving Stateside (TX)	Son of Kerry and Debbie Geroux	04.09.2022
Scott Chaney	Serving Stateside	Member	5/6/18
Bailey Walters	Serving Overseas	Member	10/31/18
Darrin Torrey	Serving Stateside	SIL of Jerry & Helga Herrington	10/31/18
Bill Lowry	Serving Overseas	Member	4/15/19
John Krahlung	Recurring Cancer	Son of Joyce Coll	7/15/18
Dennis Smith	Cancer; Chemotherapy	Member	10/6/19
Eric Martin	Cancer	Member	10/6/19
Kenneth Johnson	Prostate Cancer	Brother of Wayland Johnson	10/18/20
Family of Richard Radavich	Died in the Lord	Husband of Julie Radavich	11/25
Lisa Case	Health and Strength	Member	12/1/18
Warner Boortz	Health and Strength	Member	3/24/21
DuWayne Lemke	Lung Cancer	Brother of Shirley Thone	1/26/22
Doug Taylor, Bo Cleveland, Judy Lacey	Seriously ill	Friends of Don Shields	10/19/22
Faye Hill	Health and Strength	Mother of Chris Keiper	4/20/22
Campus Mission	For its advance and increase	For all students and educators	7/26/20
Pastoral Leadership	For wisdom, discernment, and courage	Transition and Calling of Next Pastor	7/26/20
Caregivers	Strength, Support, Encouragement	All those in need	6/29/22
Yvonne Lee	Health and Strength	Mother of Patrice Lovdahl	9/11/22
Josephine Nwachuku	Prayers for Health and Strength	Member	10/9/22
Ian VanWinkle	Crohn's Disease	Nephew of Terry & Patrice Lovdahl	11/15/22
Mike Tisher	Cancer	Scout friend of Bob Cubley	12/12/22