



Dominus: Christ's Advent in Mark's Gospel  
Advent Midweek 3

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**WELCOME TO ST. JOHN!** We ask members and guests to fill out an attendance card located by the hymnals; indicate your attendance at Holy Communion. Cards may be placed in the offering plate. Note that there are two glasses in the center of each tray with diluted wine. Sunday bulletins with announcements are available on the narthex table.

**ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER:** Our congregation is a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, a family of congregations who pledge themselves to teach and to believe the same doctrines. We invite those persons who are members in good standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or of a church in fellowship with the LCMS to receive the sacrament. We want to express our sincere welcome to guests and to assure them that it is in their spiritual interest that we practice closed communion. Guests desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to make an appointment to speak with our pastor.

**SERVING TODAY - Preaching & Presiding:** Rev. Jeff Caithamer. **Organists:** 3:30 – Alicia; 7:15 – Keith Williams. **Elders:** 3:30 – Jeremy & Mike; 7:15 – Matt & Kurt.

**Advent Dinner** – Please join us in the fellowship hall after the 3:30 worship service for a variety of soups served by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade families. Donations will go towards the 2023/2024 Trip.

**Music Rehearsals** – Handbells and choirs will rehearse Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. Choirs will also rehearse tomorrow evening at 6:00pm.

**Christmas Service Schedule** – *Christmas Eve Services:* 3:00 & 5:00pm Family Service, 7:15pm Divine Service with Holy Communion, and 10:00pm Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service. *Christmas Day Service:* 10:00am Holy Communion Service (there is no evening service). There will be no evening service on Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. New Year's Eve Service will be at 7:15pm. There will be no evening service on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Epiphany Service will be at 7:15pm on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday School Christmas Program** -The Christmas Program will be presented by the Preschool - 8th grade children on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour. We look forward to their message.

**Office Email** – The church office email address is [churchoffice@stjohn-lcms.church](mailto:churchoffice@stjohn-lcms.church). Please add this new email into your email address book and remove the old address to make sure the Office receives your emails.

**Tuesday/Wednesday Bible Class** will not be meeting the next two weeks (December 20<sup>th</sup> and December 27<sup>th</sup>).

**2023 Altar Flower Chart** – The Altar Flower Chart is available in the overflow. Please print your name and leave a number for the Altar Guild Ladies to contact you. Thank you.

**Old Testament Reading:** Psalm 51:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. <sup>6</sup>Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Epistle Reading:** 1 John 1:5-2:2

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. <sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**Holy Gospel Reading:** Mark 2:1-17

<sup>1</sup>And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>3</sup>And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup>And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?" <sup>10</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup>"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." <sup>12</sup>And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" <sup>13</sup>He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. <sup>14</sup>And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. <sup>15</sup>And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>16</sup>And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>17</sup>And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."