



Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's Birth
Advent Midweek Service 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. **Organist:** Alicia Haggin. **Elders:** 3:30 – Matt & Dan; 7:15 – Dan & Joe.

Advent Dinners – Dinner is served after the 3:30 service. Tonight the meal is Soups. There will be no meal on December 22nd. The St. John 7th and 8th grade families will be helping with the dinners as a fundraiser for their class trip. There is no cost for dinner but donations are welcome. Proceeds will be shared with the St. John Youth group and the St. John 7th and 8th grade class trip.

Sunday School Christmas Program – The Christmas Program will be presented by the Preschool - 8th grade children on Sunday, December 19th during the Sunday School hour. We look forward to their message.

Christmas Caroling – Tuesday, December 21st meeting promptly at 5:30pm at St John so we can caravan to homes of some of our elderly members and carol outside their windows. We will return to the church approx. around 7pm for hot chocolate, cookies, snacks and games if you'd like to stay and hang out. Please bring a snack or Christmas treat to share as you are able if you can stay. Please sign up (sheet on bulletin board outside of church office).

2022 Contribution Envelopes are available on the table in the hallway near the fellowship hall, please stop by and pick yours up. If you do not see your envelopes, please contact the church office.

2022 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.

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 29th. New Year's Eve Service will be at 7:15pm.

Old Testament Reading: Judges 6:11-24

¹¹ Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." ¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴ And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" ¹⁵ And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." ¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." ¹⁷ And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me." ¹⁸ Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return." ¹⁹ So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰ And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. ²¹ Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. ²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." ²³ But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." ²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

Epistle Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ^{5a} And he shall be their peace.

Holy Gospel Reading: Luke 22:35

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."