



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH** December 20, 2023  
Champaign, Illinois 3:30pm & 7:15pm

From the Bible: The Songs of Christmas  
Advent Midweek 3

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<i>*stand as you are able</i>	
(3:30) Prelude “ <i>Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i> ” Day School Students	
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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:** Keith Williams. **Elders:** 3:30 – Jeremy & Mike; 7:15 – Matt & Kurt. **Day School Choir Director:** Alicia Haggin.

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**Advent Dinner** – Please join us in the fellowship hall after the 3:30 worship service for lasagna, salads, and desserts served by the School Board. Come enjoy delicious food along with great fellowship.

**Christmas Service Schedule** – December 24<sup>th</sup> - *Fourth Sunday in Advent:* 9:00am; *Christmas Eve Services:* 3:00 & 5:00pm Family Service and 10:00pm Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service. *Christmas Day Service:* 10:00am Holy Communion Service. There will be no evening service on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. December 31<sup>st</sup> – *1st Sunday after Christmas:* 8:00 & 10:45am Holy Communion. *New Year's Eve Service* will be at 7:15pm.

**Tuesday/Wednesday Bible Class** will not be meeting the next two weeks (December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**2024 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.

**Lifelight** is back. Join us as we study the Gospel of Mark, a 9-week Bible study that take us into Lent. You can join us Wednesday evenings at 5:45pm or Thursday mornings at 10:00am. Classes start January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. To sign up, look for our table in the overflow or contact Matt, Donna or Bill.

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 40:1–5

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**Epistle Reading:** Acts 26:19–23

<sup>19</sup>"Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, <sup>20</sup>but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. <sup>21</sup>For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. <sup>22</sup>To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: <sup>23</sup>that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

**Holy Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:25–35

<sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

