

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

Liturgy: WS p. 12

The background of the central section is a photograph. It features a lit candle in a brass holder in the foreground, with a warm glow. In the background, an open book of hymns is visible, showing musical notation and lyrics. The overall lighting is soft and atmospheric.

Songs & SILENCE



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

100 W. Market St.

P.O. Box 98

Okabena, MN 56161

Sam Rodebaugh, Pastor

(414) 534 - 7279

sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com

www.okabenalutheran.org

✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #63

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession of Our Sins

P Pastor

C Congregation

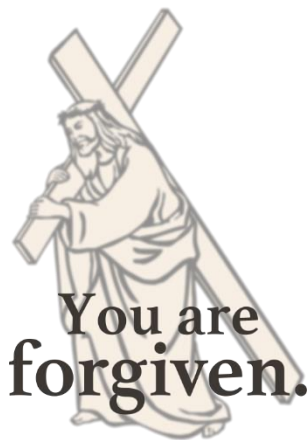
We come before God recognizing that we are sinful & need His forgiveness.

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

C Amen!



The Kyrie & The Gloria Patri

Latin for "Lord, Have Mercy" and "Glory be to the Father"





C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



Malachi 4:1-6

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."



Acts 19:1-10

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ² And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all. ⁸ And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.



Matthew 3:1-6

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴ Now John wore a garment of

camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

G *♩ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #62

"Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel!"



Luke 1:67-79

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from

the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The Song of Zechariah:

It's all about Christ.

The Offertory

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Choir

"Advent Hope"

Hymn: TLH #61

"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: TLH #97

"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

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Midweek Advent services continue this Wednesday evening at 7 pm. A finger-food potluck will follow the service.

Caroling – Congregation members are invited to join the choir in Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 22. Please bring food for a potluck immediately after the service, after which we will go and sing.

Wedding Shower – The ladies of St. John's are invited to a wedding shower for Stephanie Kazemba and Henry Lau on Friday, January 3rd at 1:30 pm in the fellowship hall. For more details, and to sign up, see the table in the back of church.

Mission Society Request – Please take a look at the two bins downstairs, one for the Helping Hand Pregnancy Center in Worthington, and the other for the school. If you are able to donate an item to either, it would be greatly appreciated.

Election Meeting Summary – At last Sunday's Election Meeting, the voters approved Pastor Rodebaugh becoming a voting member; communion assistants were appointed: Allen Jensen, Christian Kazemba, and Nathan Voit; and Pastor's housing value for income tax purposes was set. The following were elected or re-elected to serve as church officers: Brandt Wendland to the Board of Elders; Duane Voit to the Board of Trustees; Phil Strike as Chairman; Christian Kazemba as Secretary; Nathan Albrecht as Treasurer; Steve Winters to the Board of Education; Joseph Albrecht, Lance Baumann, and Don Lueck to the Finance Board; and Joe Liepold to the Cemetery Board. Installation for these men will be during the church service on Sunday, January 5. *(adapted from the meeting notes of Chairman Phil Strike)*

Ushers	12/15	Kendall B, Larry B.
	12/22	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	12/29	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
Cleaning		This Week – Ruthenbeck (Wk. 1)
		Up Next – S. DeWall, E. Bass

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 16th - 21st, 2024

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

-Psalm 119:105

Mon Luke 1:37-45 Mary humbly accepts the Lord's working in her life. She visits Elizabeth, who also has a part in the saving promises of God. Elizabeth already knows by the Spirit that Mary is the mother of her Lord.

Tues Luke 1:46-56 Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting by emphasizing the Lord's greatness and her own lowliness. The Lord brings down rulers and exalts the lowly as He keeps His ancient promises.

Wed 1 Peter 1:3-9 Through Jesus, God has given us all a new birth into a living hope (v3). Looking forward to our inheritance in Him, we rejoice even in the midst of trouble and grief, for salvation is still ours.

Thurs 1 Peter 1:10-12 The prophets of old serve us and our salvation, for by the Spirit they proclaim the sufferings and glories that were accomplished in Jesus, whose birth and life we now celebrate.

Fri Genesis 6:5-8 The Lord saw the evil in people and the wickedness done by them. Truly they deserved the judgment He pronounced. But still He looked with favor on Noah and found a way to save him . . . and us!

Sat Deuteronomy 33:1-15 Moses bids the people of Israel farewell with words of blessing, and truly every blessing upon land and people is a gift, and God blesses with the best gifts (vv13-15)!