

**Sunday Worship
Bulletin
First
Sunday
In ADVENT
10:00 a.m.
December 3,
A.D. 2017**



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
(413)568-1417

Website: <http://stjohnswestfield.org> e-mail: info@stjohnswestfield.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

Rev. David Riley, Pastor

125 Glenwood Drive

Westfield, MA 01085

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WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

The Order of Holy Communion

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

AS WE GATHER

A new Church Year! This is the First Sunday in Advent. On this day we bless the Advent Wreath with its candles of hope and light, the first candle on our journey to Christmas. With the arrival of the holy season of Advent, the Christian Church begins to tell the whole story of the Gospel again. And the first thing the world needs to know is that God doesn't wait for you to come to Him. He starts the whole process by coming to you, ready or not! This Lord comes to defeat the powers of sin and death by sacrificing Himself for us. Therefore we meet and welcome Him as the Blessed One Who brings us the blessings of reconciliation with God through the forgiveness of our sins. This King is the One Who gathers us, and would gather all people, into His kingdom of grace, mercy, and life.

✠ PRELUDE: Improvisation on "O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf" (LSB 355)

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ HYMN of the DAY NO. **331**: "The Advent of Our King"

Confession and Absolution

p. 151

✠ LIGHTING of ADVENT CANDLE

P: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**C: Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!
Hosanna in the highest!**

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

As the wreath is lit, the congregation will sing:

**Light one candle for hope, One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

Service of the Word

p. 152

Kyrie

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

C: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance;

P: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

† OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 64:1–9

(“Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down.”)

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

† EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 *(He will sustain you to the end.)*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

We Stand and sing the Alleluia (Page 156)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-10

("Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.")

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

C (sung): Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (sung): Praise to You, O Christ.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY NO. **355**: *"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"* (Sts. 1-5)

✠ SERMON: *"Come On Down!"* Isaiah 64:1-9

✠ NICENE CREED (page 158)

✠ INSTALLATION OF ORGANIST and MUSIC DIRECTOR: Jeffrey Windoloski

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us hope. Lord of hope, during this season of Advent, prepare our hearts that we would be made ready to receive Your Son as He comes in His incarnation and birth, but also in His body and blood. Make us ever ready for His final coming on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us hope.

P: Lord of hope, You have called Your Church to bear witness to Christ's redeeming work. Grant that we boldly proclaim the Good News of the One who brings joy to the world through His life, death, and resurrection, that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us hope.

P: Lord of hope, You have instructed us to pray for workers in Your harvest field. Raise up faithful and loving teachers of Your Word so that Christ may be proclaimed near and far. Make us Your instruments to encourage and equip individuals for work in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us hope.

P: Lord of hope, we ask that You stretch forth Your almighty arm to protect the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our land. Support them, granting them courage and loyalty. Strengthen them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us hope.

P: Lord of hope, You are the creator and sustainer of all things. According to Your will, grant healing to those who suffer in body and mind. Look with favor upon Your servants, and if it is Your will, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept tribulation, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us hope.

P: Lord of hope, thank You for calling us to be Your people through Holy Baptism. Make us ready to receive Your Supper as we remember the One who is truly present in this Meal as He comes to us in Holy Communion. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us hope.

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

Choir Anthem: *"Daughter Zion, Now Rejoice!"* George F. Handel

✠ OFFERTORY HYMN No. **781**: *"We Give Thee but Thine Own"* (St. 1)

Service of the Sacrament (p. 160)

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when Pastor comes to you and he will hand you a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray carried by the acolyte. If you are not a member of this congregation or a sister congregation within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it is suggested that you speak to the Pastor before partaking of Holy Communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS No. **624**: *"The Infant Priest"*

No. **628**: *"Your Table I Approach"*

**At the end of the Distribution we stand and continue with
Nunc Dimittis on p. 165**

† CLOSING HYMN NO. **350**: *"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"*

† SILENT PRAYER

† POSTLUDE: Improvised fugue on "Meinen Jesum lass' ich nicht" LSB 350

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Assistants – William Schneeloch & Paul Brose

Lay Reader – Gary Wolfe

Acolyte – Daniel Provost

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane Christianson from her daughter, Sally Sienkiewicz and family.

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (December 3, 2017)

Isaiah 64:1–9, 1 Corinthians 1:3–9, Mark 11:1–10

The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us

Although we pray that God *"would rend the heavens and come down"* (Isaiah 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves *"have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment"* (Isaiah 64:6). We have continued in our sins for *"a long time, and shall we be saved?"* (Isaiah 64:5). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (Mark 11:4–8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel, we are *"enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge,"* and so He will *"sustain you to the end"* (1 Corinthians 1:5, 8).

2017 ADVENT MID-WEEK THEME: "Songs of Advent"

Music is generally connected to special days from the patriotic songs of Independence Day to the carols of Christmas. Throughout this 2017 Advent season, our midweek services will explore the different songs associated with Advent and Christmas.

Wednesday, December 6:

"Mary's Song" (Luke 1:39-56)

Wednesday, December 13:

"Zechariah's Song" (Luke 1:57-80)

Wednesday, December 20: "Simeon's Song" (Luke 2:21-35)

The Divine Service will begin at 7:00 p.m.

A Mid-Week service will be held at 11:00 a.m. followed by a simple luncheon on Wednesdays for individuals who do not desire to drive at night.