

St. John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

- We are glad you are worshiping with us! If you're a visitor, please enter your name in the guestbook near the entrance and our pastor will reach out to you.
- A printed cross ✝ is an invitation to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or body. We make the sign of the cross to remember our Baptism and the promise: *"You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."*
- **Bold print** indicates a speaking part for the whole assembly.
- Restrooms are located in the Narthex to the right of the front door and through the doors behind the choir to the left.
- A nursery is available for your use. Ask an usher for directions.
- Today's liturgy is **Setting Twelve** from *All Creation Sings*.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God by the people of St. John's.

Altar flowers are a meaningful way to glorify God and honor loved ones in worship. A gift of $75 to the St. John's Flower Fund is encouraged. To sponsor altar flowers, please contact the church office.

HOLY COMMUNION

- You are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, please come forward during the distribution with your arms crossed.
- **Please note: The homemade communion bread is gluten, dairy, and nut free.** If you prefer a wafer, please indicate by raising a finger as you approach the pastor.
- Grape juice, instead of wine, is also available.

PRAYER LIST

We invite you to join us in prayer for members and friends of St. John's. A printed prayer list is available in the Narthex and is emailed each morning at 4:30 a.m. in the *Daily Cycle of Prayer*.

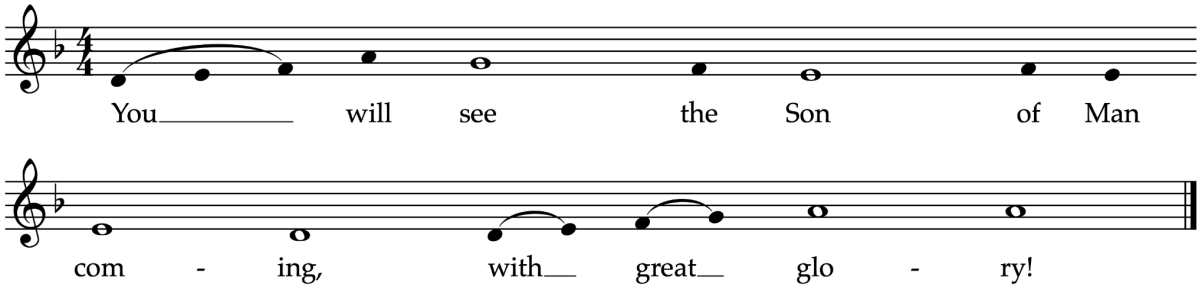
To add a name, please submit a request through our website or contact the church office.
Scan the QR code below to view the current list.

✢ GATHERING ✢

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.** *The first candle is lit.*

PRELUDE *Praeludium in C BWV 846* J.S. Bach

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

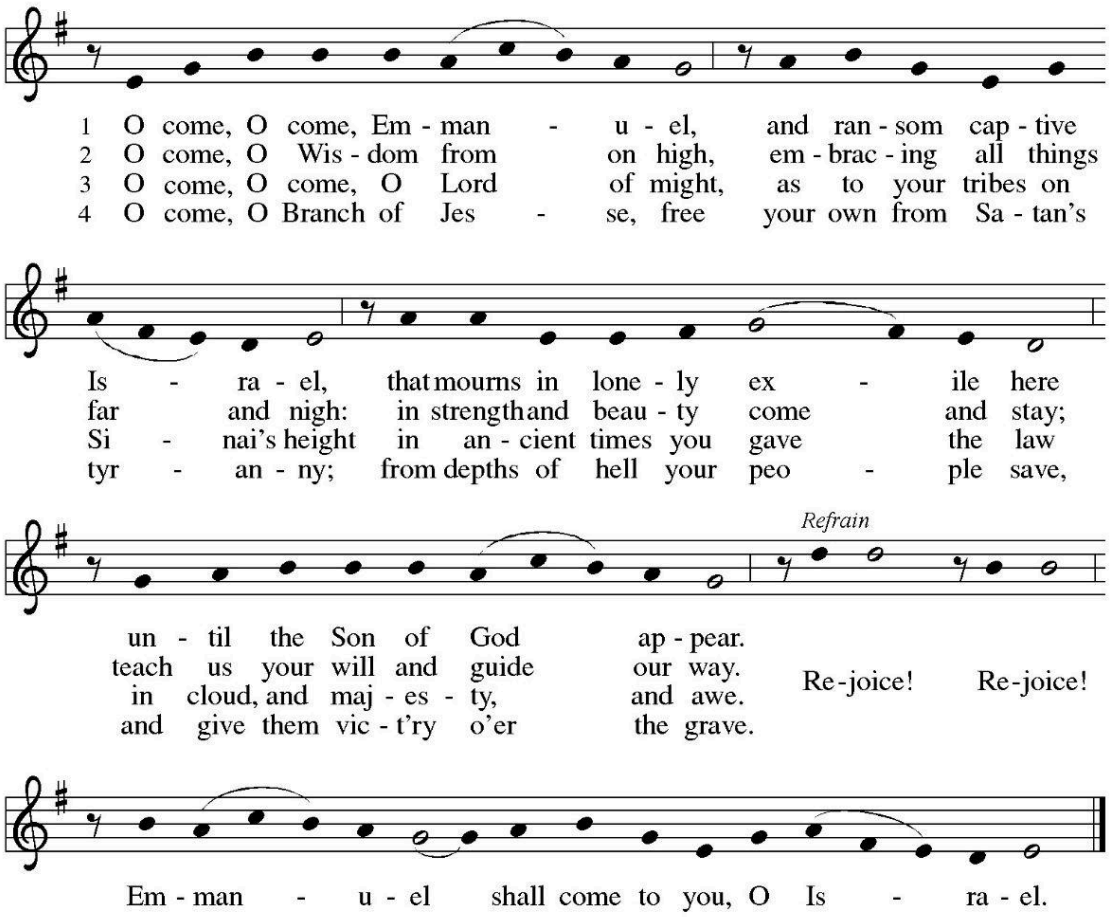
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.

Comforting God, we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. **Amen.**

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ✢ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord! **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

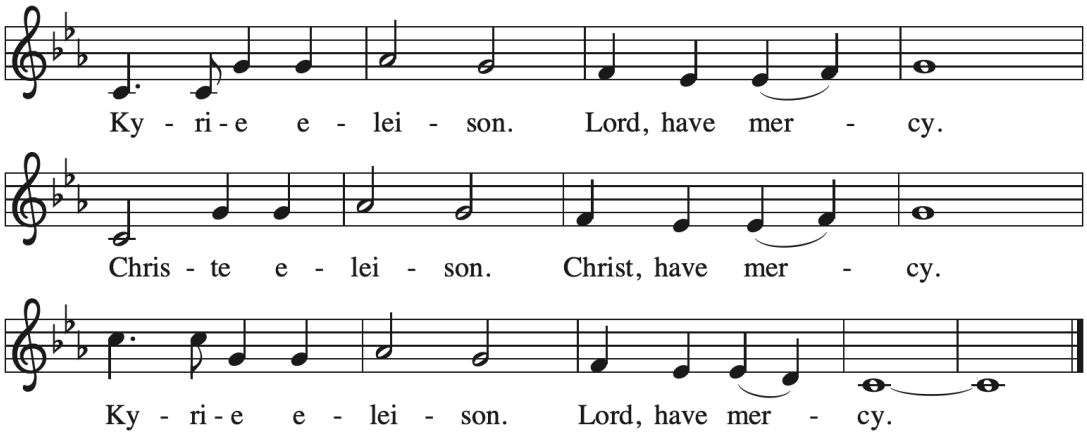
GATHERING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv.1-4)* ELW #257



GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✢ WORD ✢

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

TIME FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Children are invited to come forward for a conversation with the minister.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 64:1-9

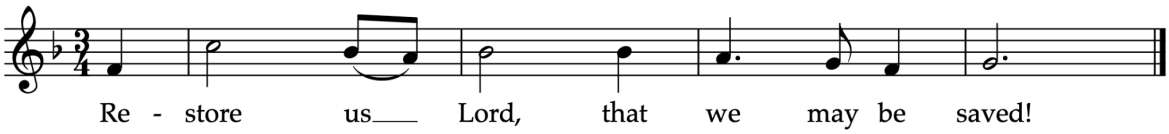
A reading from Isaiah.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The beginning of the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1–7,17–19

The assembly responds with the refrain. The Deacon reads the text.



[1] Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
[2] before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
[3] Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
[4] O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ***Refrain***
[5] You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
[6] You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
[7] Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
[17] But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself. ***Refrain***
[18] Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
[19] Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved. ***Refrain***

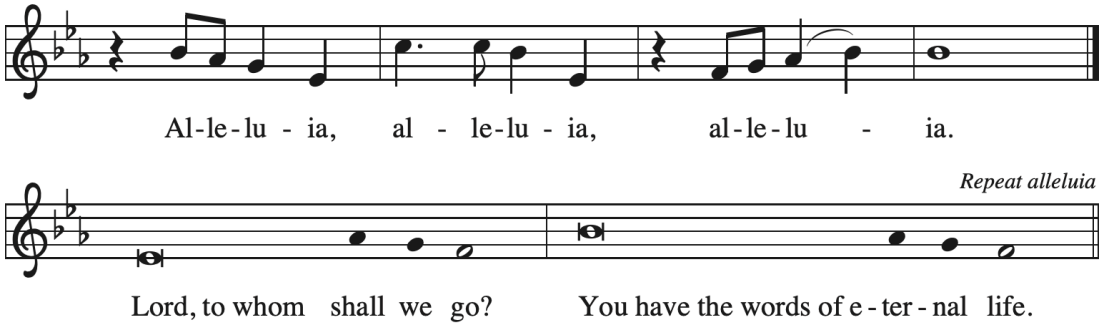
SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3–9

A reading from First Corinthians.

[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
[4] I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5] for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—[6] just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—[7] so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8] He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The beginning of the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MARK 13:24–37

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] [24] "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
[25] and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
[26] "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. [27] Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

[28] "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32] "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35] Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, [36] or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Deacon Brittany Perry

HYMN OF THE DAY *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* ELW #436



THE NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we await the coming of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Gracious God, with Mary, our souls magnify you and our spirits rejoice in your salvation. Renew your church in faith, hope, and love, that we may joyfully proclaim the coming of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, you scatter the proud and lift up the lowly. Guide the leaders of nations in the ways of justice and peace. Bring an end to violence and oppression, and teach us to seek the good of our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, you fill the hungry with good things. Remember those who are poor, hungry, lonely, or without shelter. Open our hearts and hands to share the gifts you have entrusted to us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you look with favor upon your servants. Draw near to all who are sick, grieving, anxious, or afraid, especially those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Surround them with your healing presence and the comfort of your promises. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, you remember your promises from generation to generation. Bless this congregation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior and watch for his coming again. Make us a people of welcome, generosity, and joyful expectation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of promise, with Mary and all your saints, we rejoice in your mercy that endures forever. Receive these prayers and all that we carry in our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

☩ MEAL ☩

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM Soon & Very Soon Andraé Crouch

OFFERING

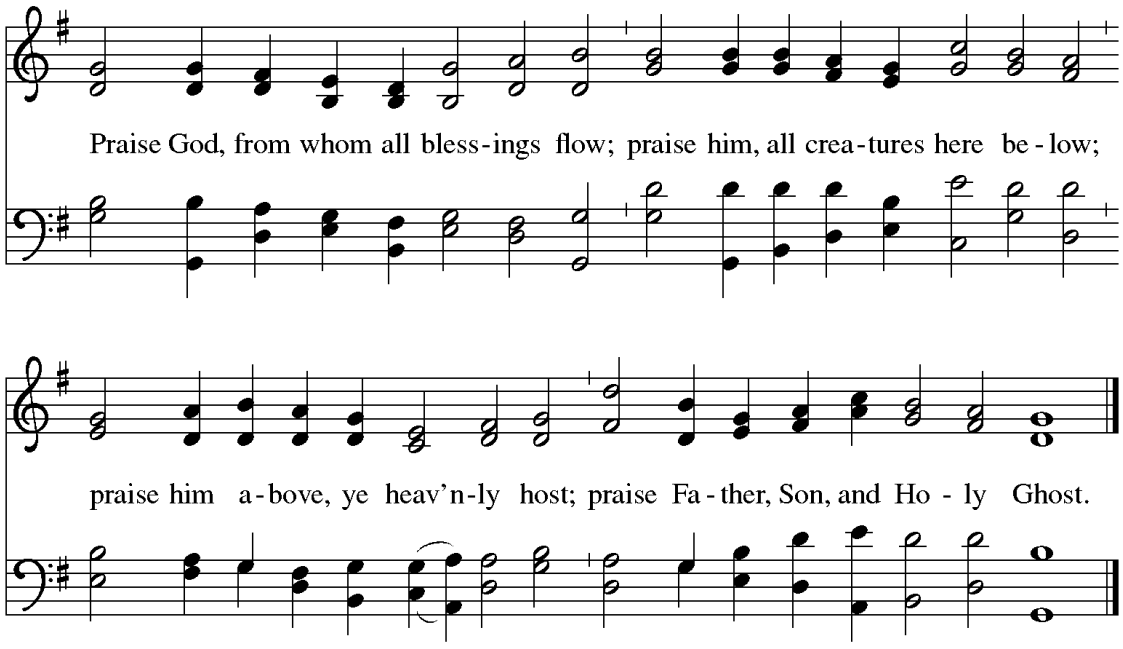
You may give online, by visiting www.stjohnsconcord.com/give or by texting "give" to (704) 706-2115.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. Holy Creator, **we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands. Take these gifts, and take our lives, and shape them for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The glory of the Lord is revealed! Come and taste God's presence.

SONG DURING DISTRIBUTION *The King Shall Come* ELW #260

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

✢ SENDING ✢

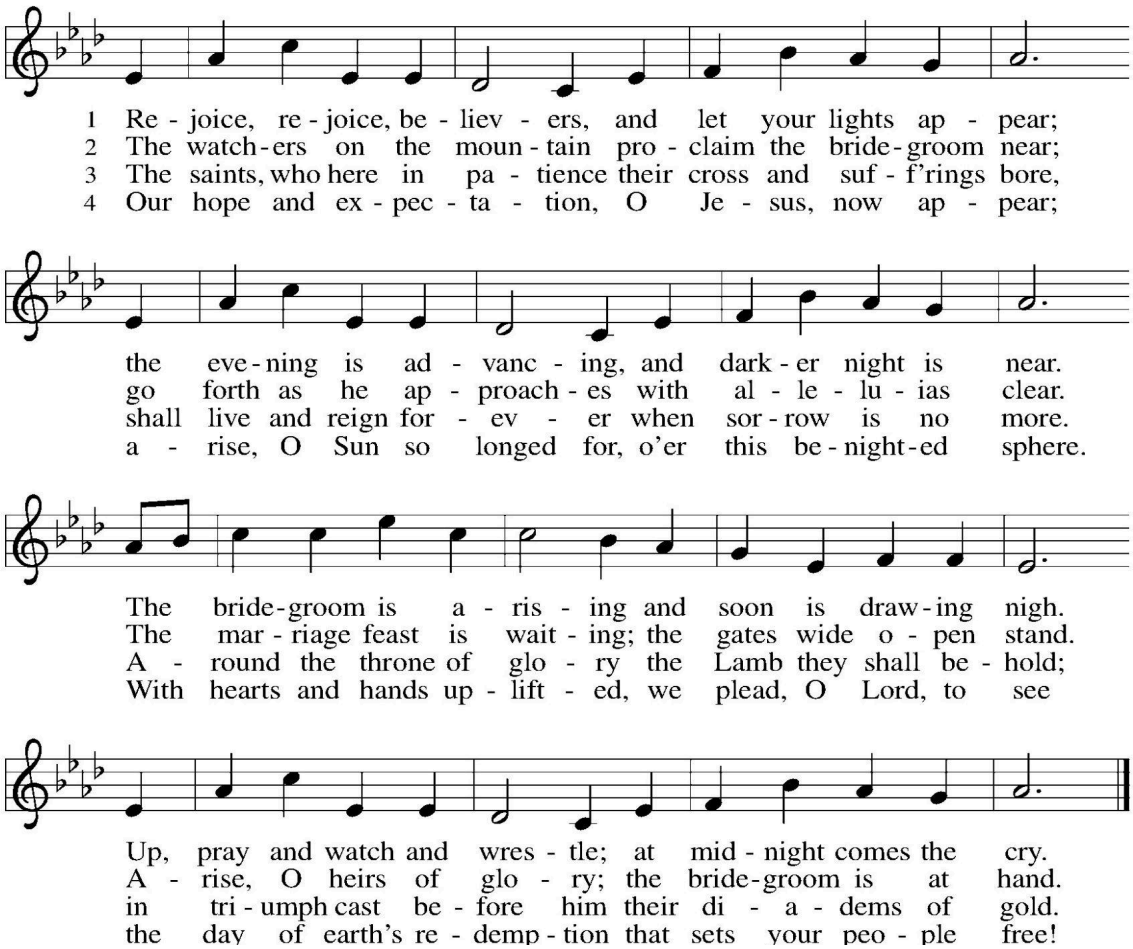
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers ELW #244



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Sortie César Franck

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen	*Presiding Minister*
The Rev. Deacon Brittany Perry	*Director of Discipleship & Outreach*
Dr. Kevin Carmody	*Director of Music*
Patti Fletcher	*Lector*
Markley Family	*Communion Assistants*
John Hartsell, David Ritchie, Jacob Sigler, Eddie Walters	*Ushers*
Hailey Fletcher	*Broadcast Team*
Steve & Vera Drye	*Altar Guild*
Raegan & Ryleigh Hartsell	*Nursery Attendants*
Kevin Edwards	*Teller Lead*

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

Church Office (704) 436-6081

ONLINE

Office Email office@stjohnsconcord.com

ON-SITE

Address 100 St. John's Church Rd, Concord, NC 28025

Church Office Hours Mon-Thu, 8am to 1:30pm; Fri, 8am to Noon

Pastor Matt's Office Hours Mon-Thu, *by appointment.*

↪ *Please note:* Pastor Matt observes Sabbath *every* Friday ↩

The mission of St. John's Lutheran Church is to share God's love through revitalization, community, and outreach.

St.John's

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