

W elcome to W orship  
St. John's E vangelical  
Lutheran C hurch

A  
D  
V  
E  
N  
T



2

December 8, 2024

CHURCH: 419-293-3445

[SJLCMcComb@gmail.com](mailto:SJLCMcComb@gmail.com)

PASTOR:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**December 8, 2024**

**Welcome:** Thank you to those who join us for Worship. We hope you will be blessed as we pray and sing together, as we hear God's Word read and proclaimed. We gather as equals in the sight of God, who loves us, forgives us, and is WITH US. Peace be with you.

**Serving at Worship Today:**

READER: Lori McDaniel

ACCOMPANIST: Linda Ross

**Your Servant Leaders:**

Worship Leader: SAM Paul Brooks

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dave Sharninghouse, 419-293-2322 Hm.  
419-429-2391 Cell

NWOS BISHOP: The Rev. Daniel Beaudoin

ELCA BISHOP: The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton

**St. John's email address:** [SJLCMcComb@gmail.com](mailto:SJLCMcComb@gmail.com)

**St. John's Facebook page:** <https://facebook.com/SJLCMcComb>


**Attendance Sunday: 13**

**Offering Last Sunday: \$530.00**

**Direct Deposit: \$20.00**

**Christmas Eve: \$5.00**

**Mile of Pennies: \$26.45**

**FYI - December:** The school has found 4 Christmas Families families for us this year we are giving \$200.00 to these families this year. The Giving Tree is up and waiting for your donations. The school suggests we donate items like Shampoo, Deodorant, Body Wash & Sprays, for the older kids from grades 5 thru 12. She said the boys really like AXE. She suggests hats, gloves, mittens, & socks for the younger children. Thank you for giving. 

*Worship Assistants*

# Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2024

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.*

*\*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.

---

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Forgiving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to forgive."*

### THE GREETING

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

### \*ADVENT PROCLAMATION

Leader: These are the days of expectation, the days of watching and waiting. God has promised us a Savior who will change our lives and make us new. Today we light the candle of peace. In a world where peace often seems difficult to find, we know that we have been given the Prince of Peace, and he dwells with in us. Let us light the candle of peace, praying for God's peace in our hearts and in the hearts of all of God's children.

### \*GATHERING HYMN #253

HE CAME DOWN

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desire known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the

inspiration of you Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

*Please take a moment for personal reflection.*

Leader: Gracious God,

**ALL: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **ALL: Amen.**

## \***KYRIE**

Leader: In Peace let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

# \*GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in the Prayer of the Day.

**ALL: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

MALACHI 3:1-4

Reader: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM READING

(responsively)

Luke 1:68-79

Reader: Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

**ALL: You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.**

Reader: Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, <sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

**ALL: to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

Reader: This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**ALL: free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

Reader: And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**ALL: to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

Reader: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**ALL: to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

Reader: I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you,

because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

**\*GOSPEL READING**

LUKE 3:1-6

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

Leader: There is good news for us today and it comes from the gospel according to Luke chapter 3. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**



Leader: In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.  
<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

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

*(PLEASE BE SEATED)*

## **THE CHILDREN’S PROGRAM**

UNWRAPPED

**HYMN OF THE DAY #242** AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN

## **\*THE NICENE CREED**

**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 proceeds from the Father and the Son, 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 INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Trusting that you hear our prayers, we lift up to you now John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene Eva,

Eric, Lise, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Ashley, Pat, Kelli, Gordon, Becky, JoLynn, Rick, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Eli, Riley, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, and Cindy. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their lives, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together,

## **\*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US**

**All: 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**

## \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**ALL: and also with you.**

*Please feel free to shake hands as you share God's peace.*

Leader: Let the peace of Christ reign among us.

## INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: As we present our tithes and offerings today, we remember that everything we have comes from God. Let us give with gratitude for all we have received remembering the greatest gift of all, Christ Jesus.

## \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

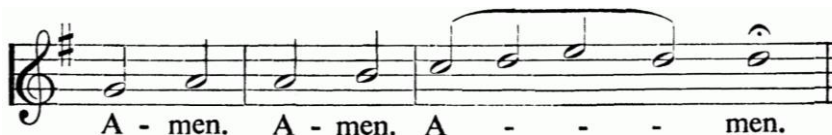
Leader: Let us pray together.

**ALL: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

## \*BLESSING

Leader: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## \*THE AMEN



## \*SENDING HYMN #279

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

# \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Share the good news. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

# POSTLUDE

~~~~~

---

## TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

---

Designated liturgical and music texts, Prayers of the People, back-page devotions are from *Sundays and Seasons.com* © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission: Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS18497. All rights reserved.

---

**All Scripture Readings:** New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

---

*Christmas Eve*  
*Worship*

*December 24,*  
*2024*

Set every peak and valley.

*Humming with the Word*

the Lord is coming!  
(ELW248)

**St. John's Lutheran  
Church in McComb**  
7:00 p.m.

**St. Luke's Lutheran  
in North Baltimore**  
9:30 p.m.

50 years ICA World Hunger

### **Calendar of Events:**

**Sun. Dec. 15 - 8:00 A.M. Worship**

**Sun. Dec. 15 - 9:30 A.M. Sunday School**

**Tue. Dec. 10 - 6:30 P.M. Lion's Dinner Meeting**

**Wed. Dec. 11 - 5:30 - P.M. Church Council Meeting**

**Tue. Dec. 24 - 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Wed. Dec. 25 - Christmas Blessing to Everyone**

**Thur. Dec. 27 - Newsletter Deadline**

**Tue. Dec. 31 - Happy New Year! "Stay Safe"**

### **Readers for December:**

**Dec. 15 - Carol Cary**

**Dec. 22 - Linda Ross**

**Dec. 24 - David Sharninghouse**

**Dec. 29 - Carol Cary**

**Jan. 5 - David Sharninghouse**

**Jan. 12 - Lori McDaniel**

**In Our Prayers: John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Paul & Sue Maki, Betty Hornbeck, David Cary, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Bob, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Pat Newell, & Kelli Sterling, Gordon Myers, Stephanie Smith. Pray also for the victims of natural disasters, our shut-ins, others absent from our worship this morning, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.**

**Prayers for the people affected by Hurricane Helene: We need to continually pray for these people, that they will receive the help they need. There are a lot of volunteers there helping them, and they will be there for a longtime. The weather is cold and a lot of them are still in tents, and Christmas is upon them. God, please bless the families and the vounteers that are there helping them. Amen**

# Sermon Notes

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.

# Your Kingdom Come on Earth



Luke sets the preaching of John the Baptist clearly in the midst of the political and religious environment of his day. We are told the names of the emperor, governor, and other political rulers of the day. They are the ones who are supposed to care for the welfare of the citizens of their territories. Although John gave his message while he was in the wilderness, it was intended to have

its impact in the farms, villages, and cities where the ordinary and the powerful live out their daily lives. John is not satisfied with the way things are, and his words help prepare us for the coming of one who will turn the world upside down. John's words tell us to examine our own lives and the world around us. We should not be complacent in the face of injustice, but instead seek forgiveness and strive for lives that bear fruit according to God's vision for the world.

We all have the potential to "over-spiritualize" the Bible and our faith, so that they become disconnected from the real needs of the world around us. This potential can be even greater in the days around Christmas, as we may seek to justify over-spending on gifts, excessive eating and drinking, or simply desire to escape from the difficulties of ordinary life for a time. John provides a warning about ignoring the truth about our sinfulness and the brokenness in the world. But John also repeats the promise that God ultimately will not settle for the way things are in the world, and that God's salvation will be made known in the one who is to come: Jesus.

203 West South Street, PO Box 786, McComb, Ohio 45858-0786  
419-293-3445 [SJLCMcComb@gmail.com](mailto:SJLCMcComb@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/SJLCMcComb/>