

Welcome to Worship

St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church

December 14, 2025



Third Sunday of Advent

CHURCH: 419-293-3445

SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

Pastor: SAM Paul Brooks - 419-722-8625

and Rev. Ken Pollitz

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

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. Yehiel Curry

*Worship
Assistants*

St. John's email address: SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 12

Offering Last Sunday: \$415.00

Direct Deposit: \$20.00

Memorial Money: \$0.00

The Giving Tree: Today is the last day for bringing in gifts. These gifts will go to McComb, Mohawk, and Liberty Benton. McComb School said they have a need underwear this year, also deoderant and body wash.

Christmas Families: Thanks to some very generous donors, we have reached and surpassed the amount needed for the Christmas Families. We will be giving \$265.00 to four families this year. Thank you to everyone that donated. God Bless You!

Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2025

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.*

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, "God of light." When you exhale, pray, "help me to shine for Jesus."

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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: Joyful Creator, you labored through love to create all that is around us.

ALL: All of creation joyfully sings your praises!

Leader: In this time of cold and waiting,

ALL: let our anticipation for the Christ child fill our lives.

Leader: You are our source of love, hope, and peace O God.

ALL: Let your light shine though us for all to see.

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Joyous Light of heavenly glory. You are the source of life, love, hope, and peace. Guide our thoughts, words, and deeds to be centered on you and all the ways you call us into community together. Help us to be your hands and feet in this community. We

pray this in your son's name, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #272

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: In divine love, God sent Christ Jesus to save us from our sins and from eternal death. God invites us to accept divine, holy grace. We therefore make our confession to the One who offers us this forgiving grace.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Long-expected God,

ALL: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

Leader: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior, in the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE

THIS IS THE FEAST



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in prayer.

ALL: Save us when we find ourselves spiritually thirsty. Help us walk your road with your purpose, strengthened by your living water. Amen.

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 63:1-8

Reader: O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

ALL: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Reader: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

ALL: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

Reader: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night, for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

ALL: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

***GOSPEL READING**

JOHN 4:13-14

Reader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 4. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Reader: Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

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

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 55:1-13

Leader: Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #253

HE CAME DOWN

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Loving God, on this third Sunday of Advent, we lift up your church scattered across the globe, especially those clinging to your grace amidst doubt.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: For victims and families of the Hong Kong apartment fire. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Prayer Leader: For all affected by flooding in Thailand, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER**

Prayer leader: For all victims of violence, exploitation, and abuse. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER**

Prayer Leader: For access to affordable and reliable health care. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER**

Prayer leader: For those who live with seasonal affective disorder. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Prayer leader: We pray for the sick and suffering, surround them with your healing touch, ease their pain and let them feel your presence in every struggle. We lift to you this day John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Don, Ashley, Brandt, Mary, Pat, Gordon, Vicki, Jim, Josh, Linda, Ruth, Steve, Karen, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Diana, Nina, Judy, Sean, Christina, Mike, Riley, Dennis, Anita, Amy, Nickie, Eli, Riley, Eli, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Michael, and Cindy. Let your peace flood their days. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Prayer leader: For those who cannot find peace or joy in this season. Lord in your mercy, **ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Prayer leader: Comfort the grieving, and spark renewal in stagnant faith communities, all in the name of Jesus, your living Word who taught us to pray saying,

*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 our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please share God's peace with those worshipping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: As we present our tithes and offerings today, let us open our eyes, ears and hearts to the mission of God's church in this community and worldwide. May we be empowered with the knowledge that our giving is an act of trust in God's unfailing promises.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #188

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff covers the first line of the response, and the second staff covers the second line.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

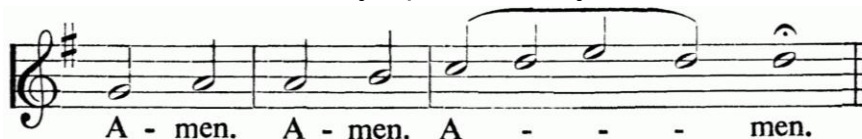
ALL: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here with us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

*BLESSING

Leader: Live without fear. Your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you like a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

Almighty God, Father, ✕ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

*The Amen



A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

*SENDING HYMN #256

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go and joyfully share the Good News. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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## TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" TEXT: German carol, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4 Music: *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesange*, Koln, 1599; arr. Michael Prastorius, 1571-1621

"He Can Down" TEXT: Cameron traditional Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949 Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" PUBLIC DOMAIN

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People" TEXT: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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## The Angel visits Joseph



**Calendar of Events:**

Tue. Dec. 16 – 6:30 P.M. Lion's Club Dinner Meeting

Sun. Dec. 21 - 8:00 A.M. Worship Service

Sun. Dec. 21 – 9:30 A.M. Sunday School

Wed. Dec. 24 – 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Communion

Thu. Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas everyone

Sun. Dec. 28 – 8:00 A.M. Worship Service

Wed. Dec. 31 – Have a safe and Happy New Year

**Readers for December:**

Dec. 21 – Carol Cary

Dec. 24 – Carol Cary

Dec. 28 - Linda Ross

Jan. 4 - David Sharninghouse

Jan. 11 - Lori McDaniel

**In Our Prayers:** John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Paul & Sue Maki, Betty Hornbeck, Carol & David Cary, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Brandt Edler, Mary Scroll, Pat Newell, Gordon Myers, Vicki Shoop, Jim Cary, Josh, Linda Hoops, Jan Gilley. Please pray for the victims of all natural disasters, our shut-ins, others absent from our worship this morning, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.

**Hometown Christmas:** McComb Community Partnership and 16 others hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hometown Christmas last Sunday. They had a wonderful turnout and a great time was had by all.

**Food Pantry for January:** We will be asking for Soup and Crackers in response to Souper Bowl Sunday. **We won't be doing the Food Pantry in Dec. due to other giving.**



## **Sermon Notes**

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

1.

2.

3.

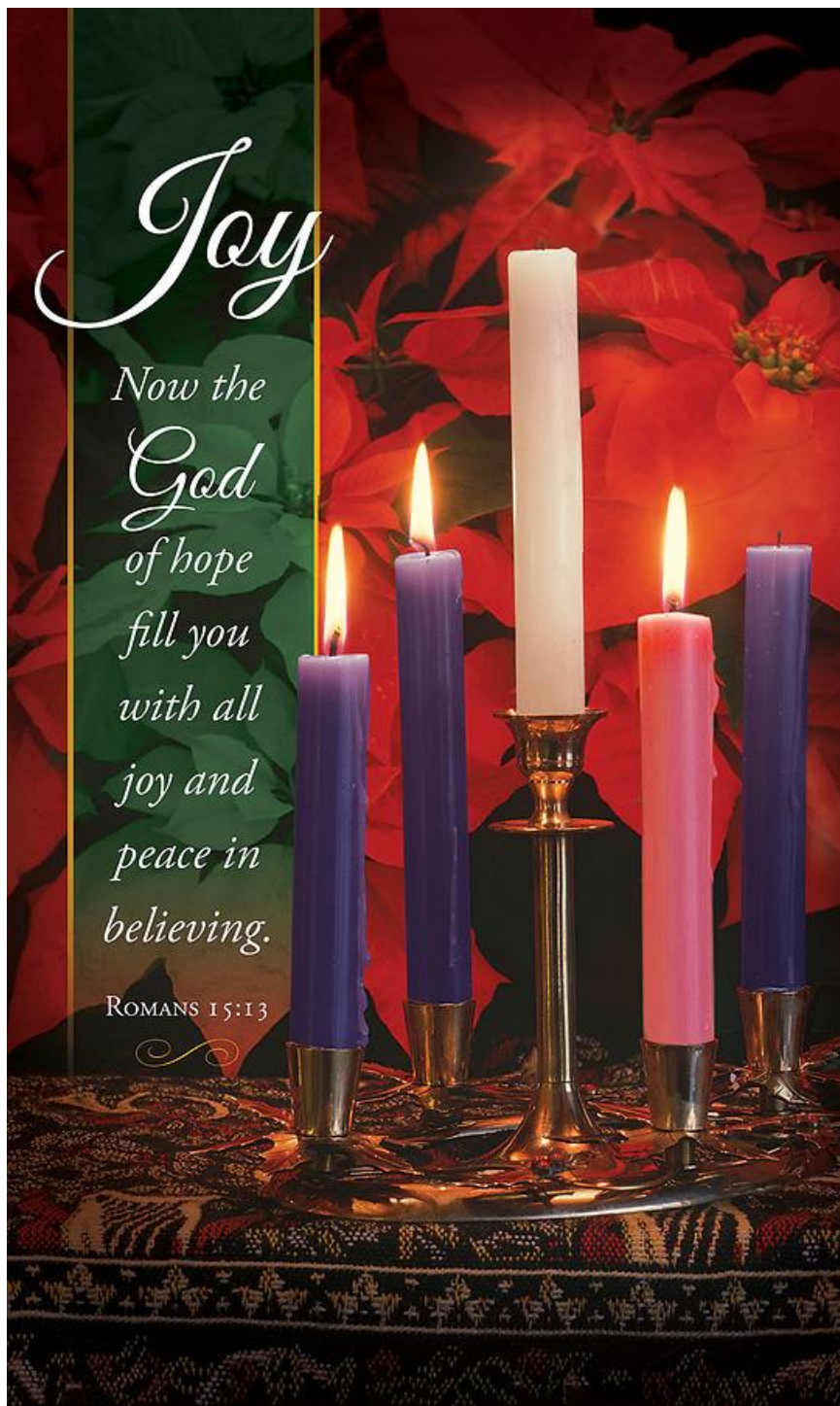
Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.

# Joy

*Now the  
God  
of hope  
fill you  
with all  
joy and  
peace in  
believing.*

ROMANS 15:13





# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Seek the Lord while [God] may be found, call upon [God] while [God] is near.

—Isaiah 55:6

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **How do the Bible passages this week highlight the beauty and order of all of God's creation?***

|           |                     |                         |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday    | Isaiah 55:1-13      | Seek the Lord           |
| Monday    | Proverbs 8:1, 22-26 | Wisdom in Creation      |
| Tuesday   | Proverbs 8:27-31    | Wisdom at Creation      |
| Wednesday | Psalms 8:1-9        | A Psalm of Creation     |
| Thursday  | Isaiah 11:1-9       | Prophecy of the Messiah |
| Friday    | Luke 1:26-38        | The Annunciation        |
| Saturday  | Luke 1:46-55        | The Magnificat          |
| Sunday    | John 1:1-18         | The Word Became Flesh   |

*If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. **Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!***

## SERVICE CHALLENGE

*SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.*

Create "Blessing Boxes" filled with personal care items (hygiene items, socks, adhesive bandages, etc.) and find a way to give them to those who need them.

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