



St. John's Lutheran Church

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

First Sunday of Advent **December 3, 2023**



Welcome!

Out of a broken and divided world, all people are welcomed into the whole body of Jesus Christ at St. John's. As children of one God, together we join in worship to experience the transforming love of our Savior.

All who seek the Lord are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine with his own body and blood, to gift us with grace, mercy, forgiveness, community, and new life.

In addition to gathering in person when possible, St. John's will continue weekly streaming of worship on Facebook. You can find the stream at our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StJohnsBeaufort

Because we are not all able to gather in person, we also celebrate Holy Communion together in streaming worship. Households who are unable to gather in person may prepare elements of bread and wine for the celebration, taking them together as a community gathered, even while distanced. Any kind of bread or cracker and any kind of wine or juice may be used.

Personal Listening Devices and Large Print Bulletins are available.

www.StJohnsBeaufort.org

First Sunday of Advent - December 3, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

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. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

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My Lord, What a Morning is in the Public Domain.

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

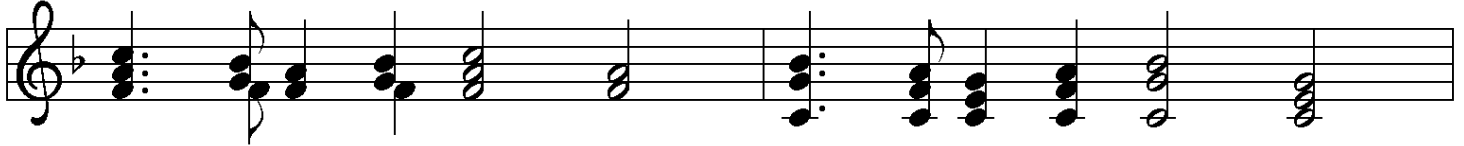
Refrain

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 *We sing verses 1 and 3 in Greek. We sing verse 2 in English.*



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Immanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.
O Immanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields into soccer fields. O Immanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant hope within us. O Immanuel,

Wake us up to your coming.

Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

The first candle is lit while we sing.

**O come and hear the songs by prophets borne
When home was lost and ev'ry hope was torn:
A righteous Branch and leaves on the tree,
God's signs so small we often fail to see.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Take heart and do not fear;
God's promised one, Immanuel draws near.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah:

^{64:1} If only you would tear open the heavens and come down! Mountains would quake before you ² like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil. If you would make your name known to your enemies, the nations would tremble in your presence. ³ When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations; when you came down, mountains quaked before you.

⁴ From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him! ⁵ You look after those who gladly do right; they will praise you for your ways.

But you were angry when we sinned; you hid yourself when we did wrong. ⁶ We have all become like the unclean; all our righteous deeds are like a filthy rag. All of us wither like a leaf; our sins, like the wind, carry us away. ⁷ No one calls on your name; no one bothers to hold on to you, for you have hidden yourself from us, and have handed us over to our sin.

⁸ But now, LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand. ⁹ Don't rage so fiercely, LORD; don't hold our sins against us forever, but gaze now on your people, all of us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-26

The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, ²⁴ "In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. ²⁵ The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

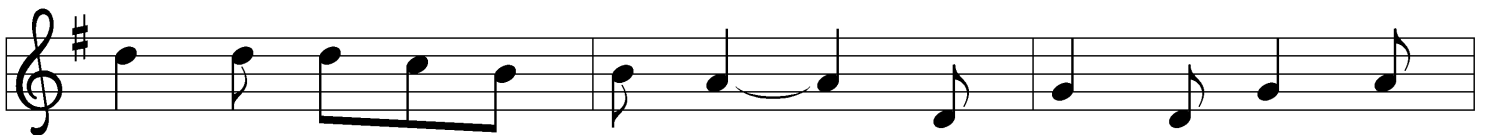
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

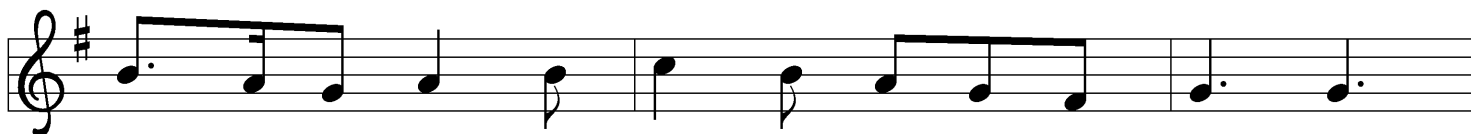
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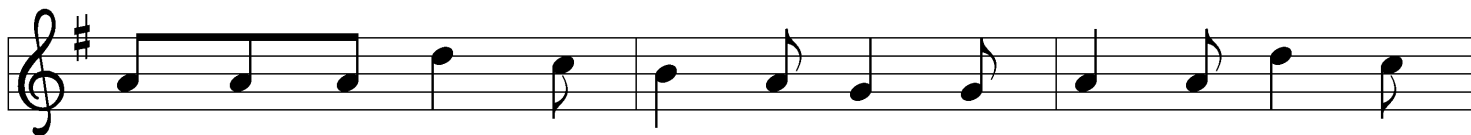
1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

APOSTLES CREED

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 power of 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 INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*Each petition ends: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.***

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

PEACE *We share the peace with those who are with us in our homes or wherever we are located. We also pray for peace for and with all those with whom we join in worship, despite the fact that we are scattered.*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

During this time, as church together we are all dependent on one another to each make an extra effort to meet the financial needs of the church. We encourage you to consider alternate means of sharing your offerings.

Options include:

- + *mailing checks to the church office*
- + *using your personal bank's online bill payment system to set up a recurring gift*
- + *using St. John's online giving system which allows you to make one time and recurring gifts, using either a bank draft or a credit card.*

To access this online giving system, you can scan this QR code with your phone or tablet camera or navigate to www.SJBft.org/GiveToStJohns on any browser.



ANTHEM

OFFERING PRAYER

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 our Savior. Amen.

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who seek the Lord are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine with his own body and blood, to gift us with grace, mercy, forgiveness, community, and new life.

Because all are not able to gather in person, we also celebrate Holy Communion together in streaming worship. Households who are unable to gather in person may prepare elements of bread and wine for the celebration, taking them together as a community gathered, even while distanced. Any kind of bread or cracker and any kind of wine or juice may be used.

Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms at your heart.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

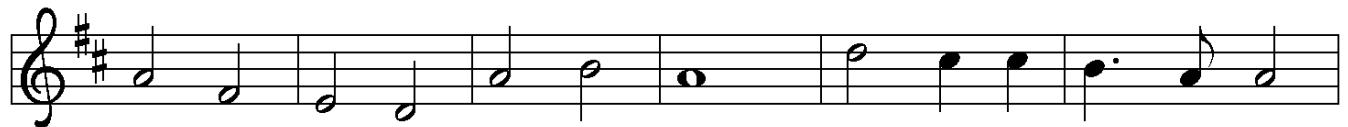
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The King Shall Come

ELW 260-LBW 33



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

St. John's Lutheran Church

157 Lady's Island Drive
Beaufort, South Carolina 29907

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info@StJohnsBeaufort.org

Pastor P. Shannon Mullen

Deacon Katie Justice

Pastor Craig Boehlke, part time assisting pastor

Josh Overby, Director of Music

Gloria Bockelman, Worship Accompanist

+ + +

Mission Statement:

Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love

Core Values:

We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.

All are welcome and valued, with no exceptions.

We serve and help our neighbors, community, and those who are in need.

We love, care for, nourish, and support one another.

We are boldly generous with time, talents, space, and resources.

+ + +

The Altar Flowers are given by Nancy McHale

to the Glory of God and

in loving memory of James McHale.

The flowers were arranged by Claria Gorgen.

www.StJohnsBeaufort.org