

St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



The Second Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024

Serving Us Today:
Pastor Rob Schrader
Organist: Nancy Wallner
920-361-9935
www.stjohnberlin.org

Large Print Bulletin

COMMUNION STATEMENT... To Our Guests: The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sin. In joyful obedience to the clear teaching of our Lord Jesus those are invited to His table who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. They show forth His death until He comes. Because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, please speak with the Pastor before service. Please note that there are cups in the middle of each tray which contain wine diluted with water for those who prefer.

AS WE GATHER... In this month of December, we find ourselves getting ready and preparing for many things, such as gatherings with family and friends, gifts to get and give to others, traditional treats to be made, and decorations for the season. The foremost preparation, of course, is for our Savior's birth. Today we are reminded of another time of preparation that would be after Jesus' birth and prior to His earthly ministry—that of John the Baptist, who would prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In our busy times of preparing to celebrate this season, today we draw our focus on and give thanks for the one who would raise valleys, level mountains, and make straight the paths for Him.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS... Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and

older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

Pre-Service Music

Ringing of the Bells

The Welcome

Confession and Absolution

349 Hark the Glad Sound

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Text: Public domain

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth
is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature
sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal**

punishment. 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.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!

O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

But my people did not listen to my voice;

Israel would not submit to me.

Oh, that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 43:1–10

¹Now the famine was severe in the land. ²And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little food." ³But Judah said to him, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' ⁴If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. ⁵But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.'" ⁶Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?" ⁷They replied, "The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'" ⁸And Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. ⁹I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. ¹⁰If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 7:18–22

¹⁸On the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

²⁰And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, ²¹but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:

“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
‘You are a priest forever.’”

²²This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44–49

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
 In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
 And drives away our fear.

- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
 And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
 And to the weary, rest.

- 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
 My shield and hiding place;

My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,
How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Offertory

LSB 159

**C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord
now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house,**

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface*LSB 160*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 161

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

**C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me

1 Baptismal waters cover me
As I approach on bended knee;
My Father's mercy here I plead,
For grievous sins of thought and deed.

2 I look to Christ upon the tree,
His body broken there for me;
I lay before Him all my sin,
My darkest secrets from within.

- 3 Lord, may Your wounded hand impart
Your healing to my broken heart;
Your love alone can form in me
A heart that serves You joyfully.

- 4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word;
Your shepherd speaks, but You are heard;
Through him Your hand now stretches out,
Forgiving sin, destroying doubt.

- 5 Baptismal waters cover me;
Christ's wounded hand has set me free.
Held in my Father's strong embrace,
With joy I praise Him for His grace.

Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, 1969 Text: © 2003 Kurt E. Reinhardt.
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628 Your Table I Approach

- 1 Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there.

- 2 Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands.

- 3 Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.
- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy,
1828–1915, alt. Text: Public domain

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

**C Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ryone what He has done.**

**Let all who seek the Lord
rejoice and proudly bear His name.**

He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy

with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,

Only hope for sinful mortals!

Come, O Savior of the world!

Open are to Thee all portals.

Come, Thy beauty let us see;

Anxiously we wait for Thee.

2 Enter now my waiting heart,

Glorious King and Lord most holy.

Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
 Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!

3 My hosannas and my palms
 Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
 Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
 Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
 Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull,
1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Attendance Last Week: 227
General giving last week: \$18,189.00
Budget giving needed: \$ 7,500.00

PASTOR ROB'S NUMBER: If you or a loved one are hospitalized or going through something difficult and need to speak with a pastor, please call or text Pastor Rob at any time at (920) 539-4603. He would be happy to speak with you and set up a time to visit.

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

9 Monday	Board of Education	6:00 pm
9 Monday	Board of Trustees	6:30 pm
10 Tuesday	Board of Elders	6:30 pm
11 Wednesday	Weekday Advent Service	6:30 PM
11 Wednesday	Senior Choir after service	
14 Saturday	Church Decorating	9:00 am
15 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
15 Sunday	Adult Bible Class	10:15 am
15 Sunday	Sunday School Program Practice	10:15 am

ASLEEP IN JESUS: Alice Janes fell asleep in the arms of her Savior on Thanksgiving Day, November 28th, and received a Christian funeral from St. John on Friday, December 6th. May the Lord comfort those who remain with His words: "BECAUSE I LIVE, YE SHALL LIVE ALSO."

CHURCH DECORATING: Come and help! The Ladies Aid is decorating the church on Saturday, December 14th at 9:00 am. We could use some help!

DESSERTS NEEDED! St. John is slotted to make food for and give a devotion to students of Berlin High on Thursday, December 12. The student's favorite part is dessert! If you're willing to make a dessert, please sign up on the sheet in the back and bring it to church by Thursday morning. Thank you for your help!

SCRIP NEWS: Scrip is now carrying Hy-Vee (3%) in \$25 and \$50. We also have Meijer (3%) in \$25. Help support the church and use Scrip cards for Christmas gift giving.

TRUSTEES NEEDED: Are you handy? Do you have a desire to our church looking nice and running well? If so, we could really use your help on our Board of Trustees. They have a meeting once a month, and get together as needed to fix things around the church and keep it running well. Please consider and pray about joining this board; if you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Rob or Keith Krause.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL IS HOSTING AN 1:55 BOOKFAIR: This is a Christian bookfair with 3K-8th grade appropriate books. We will be open on the following dates and times if any congregation members are interested in looking at the books for sale. Dec. 2,3,5,6 from 3:30pm to 5pm; Dec. 4 from 3:30pm to 6:15pm and Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10:30 to noon.

DO YOU NEED A FEW HOURS TO WRAP GIFTS? Bring your kids to Christmas VBS! It will be held at the school on Saturday, December 21st from 9am - 1pm. All children are invited. We will be celebrating Jesus' birthday by learning about His birth, playing games, making crafts, and singing His praises. We will also be packing boxes for children in African orphanages at this time. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Please register by December 7 via QR code or calling the school.



WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH COLLECTING ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS VBS. Please consider donating items for the children to pack into boxes for orphans in Africa. A collection bin is in the card room. There are boxes and lists in the Narthex if you would also like to pack your own box.
God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10

WEEKLY COPIES OF THE *BADGERBYTES*, the school newsletter, are available in the information rack in the Narthex.

Sermon Notes – 12-8-24 – Judah to Jesus

-No matter where you look, on every page of the Bible you can find _____.

-Let's take a closer look at Genesis 43 to see where Jesus is on that page of the Bible and what we'll learn from him today.

-“I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever” (Genesis 43:9).

-“Please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers” (Genesis 44:33).

-First, Judah became a _____ of safety.

-Second, Judah became a blame bearer.

-Finally, Judah became a _____.

-Even here on this seemingly insignificant page of Scripture, we still see Jesus!

-As Benjamin's pledge of safety, Judah pointed forward to our pledge of safety, the ultimate guarantee – Jesus. Hebrews 7:22 says, “This makes Jesus the _____ of a better covenant.”

-Second, we said that Judah was a blame bearer – and in this, he points forward to the ultimate blame bearer – Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

-Finally, as Benjamin's substitute, Judah pointed ahead to the ultimate substitute – our substitute – Jesus. 1 Peter 2:24 says, “He himself bore our _____ in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”

-I think it's pretty amazing that here, 1,700 years before the birth of Jesus, we have such a clear depiction in Judah of what Jesus would do for us.

-I think by telling us about Judah and Benjamin, God is also helping us to better understand and comprehend what _____ has ultimately done for us.



St. John Lutheran Church and School

168 Mound Street Berlin, WI

Wednesday Evening Advent Services

will be held on Wednesday nights, starting at 6:30 pm:

Wednesday, December 11

Wednesday, December 18

Friday, December 20th 6:00 pm

**St. John School Pageant at
Berlin High School**

Saturday, December 21st

Christmas VBS

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, December 24th
Children's Christmas Program at 4:00 pm

**Candle Service on Christmas Eve
at 6:30 pm**

Wednesday, December 25th
**Christmas Day service
with Holy Communion
at 9:00 am**

Tuesday, December 31st
**New Year's Eve Service
with Holy Communion
at 6:30 pm**