

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

*A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

**711 Court Street Pekin, IL 61554-1735**

**(309) 347-2136/2137**

**Web site: [stjohnpekin.com](http://stjohnpekin.com) Email: [stjohnsec@grics.net](mailto:stjohnsec@grics.net)**

*Rev. Daniel J. Bishop, Pastor*

*Dan Rees, Principal - Good Shepherd Lutheran School - 347-2020*

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

*December 20, 2020*

---

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS: We receive the Lord's Supper, believing the Word of Jesus, that He gives into our mouths His true body and blood, miraculously united to the bread and wine, to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His Word, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love one another, even as He forgives and loves us.

God's Word teaches us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm, and that this Holy Communion is a confession of the faith that is confessed in this church. Therefore any who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or are members of a congregation not in the fellowship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to commune, are asked to kindly speak with the pastor ahead of time. (*Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:17-34*)

---

**(Bold – Congregation speaks**

**Bold Italic – Congregation sings or chants**

**Hymns are in folder)**

### **The Confessional Service with Holy Communion**

**Prelude**

**Hymn of Invocation – #95**

*“Savior of the Nations, Come”*

**The Invocation & Versicles & Responses**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

***Amen.***

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

***Make haste to help me, O Lord.***

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

***A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.***

**Introit**                      *Ps. 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Is. 45:8a, b*

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit. **The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.**

**In them he has set a tent for the sun,**  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

**The Confessional Address or Exhortation**

**The Corporate Confession of Sins and Absolution**

Having now heard the Word of God, let us make confession of our sins:

**O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

I now ask you before God, Is this your sincere confession, that you heartily repent of your sins, believe on Jesus Christ, and sincerely and earnestly purpose, by the assistance of God the Holy Ghost, henceforth to amend your sinful life? Then declare so by saying: Yes.

**Yes**

**The Absolution**

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the

command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**Amen.**

### **The Collect for the Day**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

### **The Epistle: Romans 16:25–27**

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

### **The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26–38**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O

favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

### **The Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Hymn #274**

**"Praise We the Lord This Day"**

### **Sermon – "Trust the God Who Does the Impossible" Luke 1:37-38**

- I. Nothing will be impossible with God.
- II. We should humbly believe His word and submit to His gracious will.

### The Offertory (*stand*)

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.***

### Presentation of the Offerings

#### The General Prayer

#### The Preface ~ The Agnus Dei

The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

***It is meet and right so to do.***

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance, that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He cometh again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab-a-oth; Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.***

#### The 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.***

#### The Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **The Pax Domini**

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**Amen.**

***O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.***

### **Communion Distribution**

Hymn #645 "Behold, a Branch is Growing"

Hymn #98 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Hymn #114 "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"

### **The Nunc Dimittis**

***Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

### **The Thanksgiving**

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

***And His mercy endureth forever.***

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**Amen.**

### **The Salutation & The Benedicamus**

The Lord be with you.

***And with Thy spirit.***

Bless we the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**The Benediction**

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

***Amen, Amen, Amen.***

**Closing Hymn - #645 (7:00 p.m.)**

“Behold, a Branch is Growing”

**Silent Prayer & Postlude**

**+ SOLI DEO GLORIA +**

**DAILY READINGS**

December 20: Is. 40:18–41:10; Rev. 8:1–13; 21: Is. 42:1–25; Rev. 9:1–12; 22: Is. 43:1–24; Rev. 9:13–10:11; 23: Is. 43:25–44:20; Rev. 11:1–19; 24: Is. 44:21–45:13, 20–25; Rev. 12:1–17; 25: Is. 49:1–18; Matt. 1:1–17; 26: Is. 49:22–26; 50:4–51:8, 12–16; Matt. 1:18–25.

The Introit, Collect, and Gradual are from Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book, © 2006 CPH. All Scripture quotations, including those from Lutheran Service Book, are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

© CPH Printed in USA Concordia Publishing House • Your church's publisher • Visit us at CPH.org 20123