

December 12 & 15, 2019



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

Juneau

Salem-Lowell

Horicon

# 3rd Sunday in Advent

## INTRODUCTION

## OPENING HYMN 702

## "Prepare the Royal Highway"



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and  
own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -  
greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry  
comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall  
All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness



sa - cred sto - ry:  
doubt as - sail you! Ho - san - na to the  
now a - dore him!  
so a - bound - ing:



Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

- P: We rejoice, heavenly Father, that you have stirred up your might and have come to save us.
- C: **Our spiritual eyes turn toward Bethlehem, the birthplace of your Son, as foretold by the prophet Micah.**
- P: We accept with joy the fulfillment of your prophecy.
- C: **As John the Baptist recognized your Son before he was born, help us also to recognize him as your Son and our Savior.**
- P: In a most marvelous manner, you prepared a sacrifice for our sins in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
- C: **Send us your Holy Spirit that we may truly believe and accept this miracle of your love.**
- P: As we anticipate with joy the celebration of his birth,
- C: **Grant us your grace that we may see in him the greatness of your love for us. Amen.**

♪ All glory be to God on high,  
Who has our race befriended!  
To us no harm shall now come nigh,  
The strife at last is ended.  
The Father's love, the Savior's birth,  
Bring peace, good will, to all the earth;  
Oh, thank him for his goodness! (CW 263)

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P: We confess, almighty God, that we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
- C: **We have followed our own ways and the desires of our hearts instead of your will and way.**
- P: We have broken your commandments and neglected your righteous decrees.

**C: We have offended you, our mighty and eternal God.**

P: There is no health in us.

**C: O Lord, have mercy on us.**

P: For the sake of your great mercy, O Lord, forgive us. Spare us the just punishment our sins deserve according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**C: And grant that for his sake, we may live sober, upright and godly lives to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

♪ O Jesus Christ, the only Son  
Of God, your heav'nly Father,  
You did for all our sins atone,  
And your lost sheep you gather.  
O Lamb of God, to you on high  
From depths of woe we sinners cry,  
Have mercy on us, Jesus! (CW 263)

P: God, our heavenly Father, has taken away your guilt and punishment. Because of the living and dying of God's appointed Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, he has forgiven you and restored you to your Father's house. May God grant you peace and joy as you await his return from heaven to gather his people home.

**C: Amen.**

## ADVENT LITANY

P: We light three Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

**C: We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

P: We hear his call and rejoice.

**C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Three Advent candles are lit as the congregation sings.*

♪ Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high,  
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel! (CW 23)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 35 (EHV)

The wilderness and the desert will be glad.

The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus.

<sup>2</sup> It will bloom lavishly,

and there will be great joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.

It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.

They will see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,

and make the shaky knees steady.

<sup>4</sup> Tell those who have a fearful heart:

Be strong. Do not be afraid.

Look! Your God will come with vengeance.

With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,

and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.

<sup>6</sup> The crippled will leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.

Waters will flow in the wilderness,

and streams in the wasteland.

<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,  
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.  
There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts  
of jackals once lay.

<sup>8</sup> A highway will be there,  
a road that will be called the holy way.  
The impure will not walk there.  
It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.  
Wicked fools will not wander onto it.

<sup>9</sup> No lion will be there,  
nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.  
They will not be found there,  
but only the redeemed will walk there.

<sup>10</sup> Then those ransomed by the Lord will return.  
They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,  
and everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Happiness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

## **EPISTLE LESSON**

**James 5:7-11 (EHV)**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. <sup>8</sup> You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup> Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. <sup>11</sup> See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

Junior Choir Sings 9:30 AM Service

“A Winter Night”

*Please stand*

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

**Matthew 11:2-11 (EHV)**

<sup>2</sup> While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup> Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup> So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup> Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

*Please be seated*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY 353**

**“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”**

## **SERMON**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

**When Faith flickers, Jesus is there for you.**

*Please stand*

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **APOSTLES CREED**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

*Please be seated*

## OFFERING

*Please sign the Friendship Registers located in the pews. Then, pass the book down the pew for other worshipers to sign. Thank you!*

*Please stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT

P: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

P: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

P: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

P: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

P: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

**P: And we join together and pray**

**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.**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

Adult Choir

9:30 AM

“My Heart, Your Bethlehem”

## **BLESSING**

**M: The Lord bless you and keep you.**

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

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN 14**

“Arise, O Christian People”

Preacher: Joel Luetke

Liturgist (Juneau): David Brandt

Organist: Ruth Affeld / Madeline Horton

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**Installation of Ryan Kummerow:** Next Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the 8am and 9:30am services, Ryan Kummerow will be installed as our Sunday Bible Class teacher. There will be a reception following the 9:30am service at Salem-Lowell that all are invited to attend and meet Ryan! Ryan was trained as a Staff Minister at Martin Luther College. He will begin teaching on January 5<sup>th</sup> our St. John’s Sunday morning Bible Study at both Salem-Lowell and Juneau. May God bless the ministry of Ryan as he shares God’s Word with us!

## **Christmas Checklist**

- ✓ Signup for Poinsettias at Juneau Campus
- ✓ Purchase a gift for a Family in Need and/or the Seminary Family
- ✓ Signup for Christmas for Kids
- ✓ Bring Christmas Cards for our Called Workers
- ✓ Attend LLHS Concert at 7:00 this Sunday or our School concert on Monday at 1:30 or 7:00
- ✓ Invite your friends and family to an upcoming Christmas service

## **Upcoming Christmas Services**

Saturday, December 21 5:00 PM	Christmas Candlelight @ Horicon
Monday, December 23 1:30 PM	Children's Christmas Service @ Juneau
Tuesday, December 24 6:30 PM	Children's Christmas Service @ Juneau
Tuesday, December 24 6:30 PM	Sunday School Christmas Service @ Salem-Lowell
Wednesday, December 25 9:00 AM	Christmas Worship @ Juneau
Wednesday, December 25 9:30 AM	Christmas Worship @ Salem-Lowell
Sunday, December 29 - all services	Christmas Lessons and Carols Service

**Adopt a Seminary Family deadline for gift drop off extended to Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon!** The St. John's Ladies Aid will again be sponsoring a seminary family this Christmas and invite you to be a part of this special Christmas gifting! We have been given the name of a deserving family by the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary staff (this couple has 2 small children – 18 mos and 1 mos). Their Wish List can be found in the December Welcome. To participate, purchase any item(s) off the list, wrap it, include a card with Christmas wishes if you like or it can be anonymous, and bring it to church no later than Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon. There will be a drop box in the St. John's Juneau narthex. What a blessing it is to be able to help this young family working on their way into the ministry!

*If you would like a set of 2020 **church envelopes** and you haven't already picked one up, please stop by the Juneau church office, call 386-3313 or contact Bev Gullickson at Salem-Lowell.*

### **Worship Attendance (12/8 Weekend)**

492 (36, 55, 223, 45, 133)

### **Bible Class Attendance**

Sunday Juneau Bible Class:	42
Sunday Lowell Bible Class:	6
Tuesday Morning Bible Class:	11
Clearview Bible Class:	17
Tuesday Night Bible Class:	10
Total:	86

### **Offerings given to our Lord 12/8**

General	\$16,211.96
Debt	\$874.00
Improvement	\$60.89
Lakeside	\$88.35
Missions	\$842.39
Total	\$18,077.59

Joint Advent Service Free-Will:

Hmong Ministry - \$698.80

Candy Bag Free-Will (Juneau): \$126.50

# **This Week at St. John's**

## **Sunday (12/15)**

- 8:00 AM Worship @ Juneau
- 8:30 AM *Sing to the Lord* Bible Class & Sunday School @ Lowell
- 9:15 AM *Sing to the Lord* Bible Class, Sunday School & Confirmation @ Juneau
- 9:15 AM Blood Pressure Screening @ Juneau
- 9:30 AM Worship @ Lowell
- 10:30 AM Worship @ Juneau

## **Monday (12/16)**

- 1:30 PM St. John's School Christmas Concert @ School Gym
- 6:30 PM *Connecting Sinai to Calvary* Bible Class @ Lowell
- 7:00 PM St. John's School Christmas Concert @ School Gym

## **Tuesday (12/17)**

- 8:15 AM *When Christ Walked Among Us* Bible Class @ Juneau
- 10:00 AM Luke Bible Class @ Clearview
- 1:30 PM Jesus Cares @ Clearview
- 6:30 PM Church Council @ Juneau

## **Wednesday (12/18)**

- 9:00 AM Mid-Week Worship @ Matthew's Place
- 10:00 AM Mid-Week Worship @ Clearview
- 11:00 AM Mid-Week Worship @ Juneau
- 5:00 AM Confirmation @ Juneau
- 6:30 PM Sunday School Mtg @ Lowell
- 7:00 PM Adult Choir @ Juneau

## **Thursday (12/19)**

- 6:30 PM Worship w/ Communion @ Juneau

## **Saturday (12/21)**

- 10:30 AM Christmas for Kids @ School
- 5:00 PM Christmas Candlelight Worship @ Horicon
- 6:30 PM Euchre/BINGO Night @ Juneau

## **Sunday (12/22) Kummerow Installation!!!**

- 8:00 AM Worship w/ Communion @ Juneau
- 8:30 AM *Sing to the Lord* Bible Class & Sunday School @ Lowell
- 9:15 AM *Sing to the Lord* Bible Class, Sunday School & Confirmation @ Juneau
- 9:30 AM Worship w/ Communion @ Lowell
- 10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion @ Juneau
- 10:30 AM Kummerow Reception @ Lowell

# Welcome to St. John's

## Pastors

David Brandt 608-343-2206  
Paul Schupmann 920-344-9839  
Joel Luetke 920-285-1351  
Sr. Asst. Matt Hatzung 612-386-6131

## Principal

Richard Cody

## Worship Services

*(same service at all locations)*

### **Thursday**

6:30pm Juneau

### **Saturday**

5:00pm Horicon

### **Sunday**

8:00am Juneau

9:30am Lowell

10:30am Juneau

## Bible Class & Sunday School

Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School

Juneau Campus 9:15-10:15

Salem-Lowell Campus 8:30-9:15 AM



## **WELCOME**

We are so glad you joined us to worship our Lord Jesus today! St. John's is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are happy to answer your questions about our service, our beliefs, or communicant membership in either of our congregations. Please join us again soon!

## **PERSONAL PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP**

Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you. Amen.

## St. John's Locations

### **Juneau Campus**

920-386-3313  
400 S. Main St.  
Juneau, Wisconsin

### **Horicon Campus**

920-386-3313  
716 Clinton St.  
Horicon, Wisconsin

### **Salem-Lowell**

920-386-3313  
105 Juneau Rd.  
Lowell, Wisconsin

### **School Office**

920-386-4644  
402 S. Main St.  
Juneau, Wisconsin

[www.stjohnsdodgecounty.com](http://www.stjohnsdodgecounty.com)

*If you have difficulty hearing, we have a hearing loop installed at the Juneau Campus. Simply turn your hearing aid setting to "T" and it should pick up the frequency. If you don't have that setting on your hearing aid or don't have a hearing aid but need help listening to the service, there are a limited number of listening devices that you can pick up in the narthex. An usher will be able to help you locate them.*