

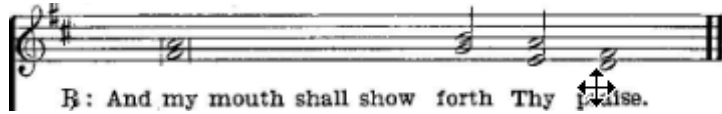
ST. JOHN'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Prayer

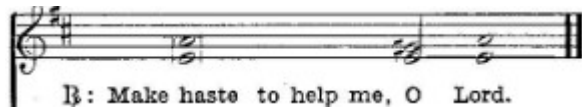
Opening Hymn: (See the insert)

PASTOR In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. O Lord, open Thou my lips.

CONGR.



PASTOR Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



CONGR.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Ho - ly Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er
shall be: world with - out end. A - men. Hal - le - lu - jah!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE ADVENT PSALMODY

p. 25 in the Worship Supplement Hymnal

ADVENT

PSALM 24:1-2; 7-10

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S

Antiphon

Let the Lord en-ter; He is King of glo-ry.

Psalm Tone

The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness.*
The world and those who dwell therein.
For He has founded it upon the seas,*
And established it upon the waters.

Antiphon

Lift up your heads, O you gates!
And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!*
And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?*

The LORD strong and mighty,
The LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates!
And lift them up, you everlasting doors!*
And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?*

The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.

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.

Antiphon

TWO SCRIPTURE READINGS

(See the insert)

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

The Second Article, Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)

"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, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

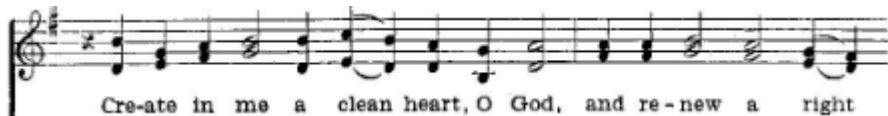
This is most certainly true!"

Hymn of praise *(See the insert)*

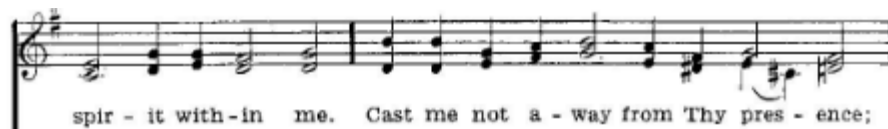
THE SERMON

(See the insert)

THE OFFERTORY



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 Thy pres - ence;



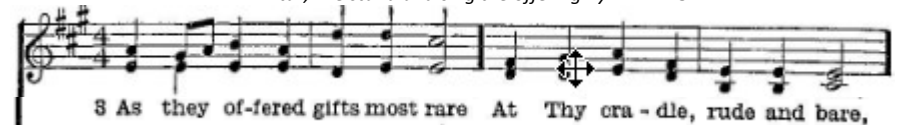
and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the



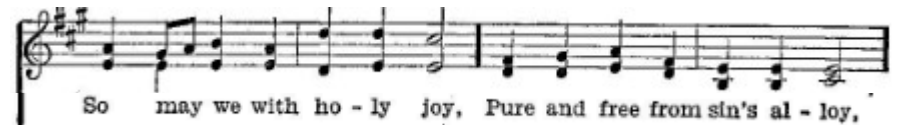
joy of Thy sal - va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. While the ushers present our offerings at the Lord's Altar, we stand and sing the offering hymn 127:3



3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy ora - die, rude and bare,



So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,



All our cost - liest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'ny King! A - men.

THE GENERAL PRAYER

(Pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

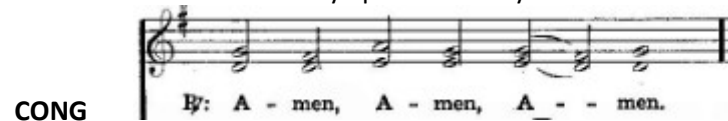
(All)

Hymn of praise *(See the insert)*

THE BLESSING

PASTOR

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!



CONG B: A - men, A - men, A - - men.

Closing Hymn *(See the insert)*

*** Silent Prayer ***

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME ALL!

Especially our visitors. We invite you to return and worship with us again as we celebrate the coming of our LORD Jesus this Advent season. Our Sunday morning service is at 11:00 a.m. Bible Class is at 10:15 a.m. Please join us!

ADVENT THEME

PROPHETS OF OLD PROCLAIMING THE SAVIOR TO COME

1. Joel: The Savior Will Comfort Repentant Hearts
Joel 2:12-14
2. Haggai: He Will Satisfy Your Heart's Longing
Haggai 2:7
3. Micah: He Will Be Born in Lowliness at Bethlehem
Micah 5:1-5a

FIRST MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE

December 5

Personal Prayer before service

Lord Jesus Christ, as once You came into our midst, a human child, in answer to God's faithful Word, be with us now. Come, fill these moments with Your presence, that all who join to worship here may rejoice in Your coming. Amen.

The Hymns: 90, 318, 127:3, 66, 94:4

The Epistle Reading:

Peter reminds us to listen to the prophets of old who spoke of the promises of God's Word as well as the power of that Word. The end is coming, but God's will is that all repent and believe. We read...

2 Peter 3:1-9 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one

day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

The Gospel Reading:

John the Baptist prepared the hearts of the people for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, by preaching repentance and the forgiveness of sins. How proper it is then, for us to do the same – be sorry for our sins, and believe in Jesus for forgiveness. We read...

Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." 3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. 8 "I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Sermon

Joel 2:12-14 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. 14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him; A grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?

PROPHETS OF OLD PROCLAIMING THE SAVIOR TO COME

Joel: The Savior Will Comfort Repentant Hearts

Personal Prayer at the close of service

Dearest Jesus, at the invitation of the prophets and the angels, I have drawn near to behold You, born in David's city as my Savior, Christ the Lord. Let me take You with me as I now depart this place; let me take You with me as I now depart this place; let me be, in all I say and do, Your messenger of peace. Amen.

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Haggai 2:7
3. Micah: He Will Be Born in Lowliness at Bethlehem
Micah 5:1-5a

SECOND MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE

December 12

Personal Prayer before service

Lord Jesus Christ, as once You came into our midst, a human child, in answer to God's faithful Word, be with us now. Come, fill these moments with Your presence, that all who join to worship here may rejoice in Your coming. Amen.

The Hymns: 64, 68, 127:3, 702, 72:4

The Epistle Reading:

As the Apostle Paul greets the Christians in Rome and us, we hear of the Gospel of God revealed in Jesus Christ for ALL nations – including ours! We read...

Romans 1:1-6 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. 5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel Reading:

In these verses, Zecharias, after the birth of his son John the Baptist, gives a song of praise to God for His Mercy in sending the Messiah, the Savior of ALL nations. We read...

Luke 1:68-79 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, 71 That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, 73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: 74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. 76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Personal Prayer at the Sermon:

Lord Jesus Christ, You came among us as the Word made flesh. Be present in these words Your servant shares with us today. Open my ears to the good tidings of great joy, and make my heart a cradle ready to receive You here. Amen.

The Sermon

Haggai 2:7 'and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.

PROPHETS OF OLD PROCLAIMING THE SAVIOR TO COME

Haggai: He Will Satisfy Your Heart's Longing

Personal Prayer at the close of service

Dearest Jesus, at the invitation of the prophets and the angels, I have drawn near to behold You, born in David's city as my Savior, Christ the Lord. Let me take You with me as I now depart this place; let me be, in all I say and do, Your messenger of peace. Amen.

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Haggai 2:7
3. Micah: He Will Be Born in Lowliness at Bethlehem
Micah 5:1-5a

THIRD MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE December 19

Personal Prayer before service

Lord Jesus Christ, as once You came into our midst, a human child, in answer to God's faithful Word, be with us now. Come, fill these moments with Your presence, that all who join to worship here may rejoice in Your coming. Amen.

The Hymns: 103, 647, 127:3, 711, 76:4

The Epistle Reading:

The Apostle Paul here reminds us that our Adoption as God's sons was completely planned out. And at the right time and in the right place (Bethlehem) God sent you and me and all people His promised gift. We read...

Galatians 4:1-7 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

The Gospel Reading:

When the LORD promises something, it always comes true. The angel had promised Mary and her cousin Elizabeth some great things. Elizabeth would bear John the Baptist, Mary would bear the Son of God. In these verses they encourage each other that God always fulfills His Word. We read...

Luke 1:39-45 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 "Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

Personal Prayer at the Sermon

Lord Jesus Christ, You came among us as the Word made flesh. Be present in these words Your servant shares with us today. Open my ears to the good tidings of great joy, and make my heart a cradle ready to receive You here. Amen.

The Sermon

Micah 5:1-5 Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek. 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." 3 Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; 5 And this One shall be peace.

PROPHETS OF OLD PROCLAIMING THE SAVIOR TO COME

Micah: He Will Be Born in Lowliness at Bethlehem

Personal Prayer at the close of service

Dearest Jesus, at the invitation of the prophets and the angels, I have drawn near to behold You, born in David's city as my Savior, Christ the Lord. Let me take You with me as I now depart this place; let me be, in all I say and do, Your messenger of peace. Amen.