



About that
day and hour
no one
knows

MATTHEW 24:36

First Sunday in Advent
November 30, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



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FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Service of the Word

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: **To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.**

PRELUDE

+ GATHERING SONG *The Advent of Our God*

#22

1 The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh-ter, rise to meet your low - ly king,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain,

come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.
him - self the ser - vant's form puts on to set his peo - ple free.
nor let your faith-less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
and all his scat - tered saints u - nite with him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
let sin be put to flight;
no longer let the law hold sway,
but walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

+ GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

C And also with you.

P In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P In the Word was life,

P and the life was the light of all people.

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Light the first candle

Hymn

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

#630

Verses 1 sung during the lighting of the candle.



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. . . Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR

Say He Will Come

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!.

PSALM: 122

P ¹ I was glad when they aid to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

C ² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

P ³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

C ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

P ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

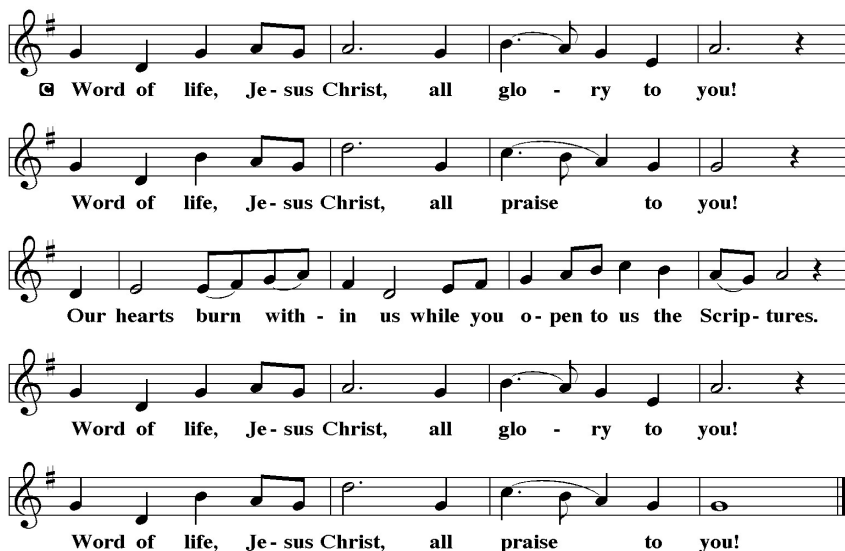
C ⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

- P ⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
- C ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**
- P ⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o- pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

+ THE GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 24th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

Pastor Francis

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

+ RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.
 C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.** (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!
 (2 Corinthians 5:17)

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

C Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness
of life,
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen**

P Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen

+ PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. *(2 Corinthians 13:11)*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace,
using these or similar words:*

Peace be with you.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY



Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

P God, our Creator,

C you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature.
With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to
delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

P God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*especially . . . and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day*). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P “Raise up and send to us our next pastor (deacon). We pray for our call committee, that your wisdom will rest upon them, that they may know and recognize the person you are sending. Grant us patience and faith as we wait. Amen”

“We pray for the our call committee as they continue their work, that they may know your will, and have the faith and courage to follow your leading.”

“Grant that your Holy Spirit may rest upon our call committee as they listen for your will. Grant us patience and hope that comes by faith in you.” God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (especially) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C Amen.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

+ THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

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

+ BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

+ SENDING SONG

Soon and Very Soon

#744

Please use your Blue With One Voice Hymnal for hymn #744.

+ Dismissal

P	Go in peace.
Children	Serve the Lord.
C	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Greeter
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Dawn Scott
James Hayman
James & Kym Hayman
Sherry Mullins, Vicki Floyd
Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, the first Sunday of the new Church year. Advent is the season, (the four Sundays before Christmas) when we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah, Immanuel, God with us as a person like ourselves. The liturgical color of Advent blue.

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Rosemarie Becker, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Paul Means, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Frank Dodd, Linda Martin, Rena McIntyre, Bill Culver, Melaine Hawk, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Joanne Oakes, Vivian Riffel, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

PLEASE PRAY FOR the Call Committee and Church Council as we search for a new pastor. May God bless and guide them in this journey.

GIVING TREE GIFTS should be returned to the church by next Sunday, December 7. You may wrap each gift separately and place in a bag with the family letter and the information card on the outside of the bag. Questions, please call or see Vicki Floyd at 357-5837.

CHRISTMAS DINNER will be on Sunday, December 14 immediately following worship. Please join us for a potluck/ carry-in dinner. Caroling to our shut-ins will follow the dinner.

CHOIR PRACTICE on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM practice is today, during Children's Church. We will also practice Sunday, December 7 and 14 during Children's Church.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 p.m. we will have our Christmas Eve Festival Candlelight Service. This very special time of worship features scriptures and carols that help us celebrate the birth of the One who saves us, Emmanuel.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 7th and 8th graders will be Sunday, November 30 and December 14 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room.

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Vivian Riffel, Ashley Salyers

BAPTISMS: Quinn Parish, Maria Fraulini, Jim Webb, Danielle Beekman

ANNIVERSARIES: Carolyn & Greg Piguett, Donita & Glen Eskridge

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

This Week at St. John

Today—*First Sunday in Advent*

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

Wednesday

7:00p.m. Choir Practice

Next Sunday—*Second Sunday in Advent*

10:00 a.m. **Worship—***Holy Communion*

Attendance

2025 Average 62

2024 Average: 61

Serving Next Sunday, December 7

Organist

Leigh Ann Henry

Worship Assistant

Vivian Riffel

Lay Reader

James Hayman

Prayer Leader

James Hayman

Greeter

James & Kym Hayman

Altar Committee

Wendy Queen, Julie Gleim

Council President

Rick Williams

Coming Events

Sunday, November 30 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, November 30 during Children's Children,
Christmas program practice

Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m. Join us for a lite breakfast and fellowship.

Sunday, December 7 during Children's Children, Christmas program practice

Tuesday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Sunday, December 14 during Children's Children, Christmas program practice

Sunday, December 14 during worship Blessing of the Blankets

Sunday, December 14 at 11:00 a.m. Annual Christmas Dinner
Followed by caroling

Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m. Children Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 14

Blessing of the Blankets

**Annual Christmas Dinner immediately after worship
Following dinner Caroling**

Sunday, December 21

Children's Christmas Program during worship.

Join us Wednesday, December 24

**At 7:00 p.m. for our annual
Christmas Eve Festival Service
of Candlelight and Holy Communion**

Sunday, January 11

**Annual Congregational Meeting
Immediately following worship.**

