



The First Midweek Advent Service
December 3rd, 2025

Saint John's Lutheran Church

Ruma, IL

with

Saint Peter's Lutheran Church

Evansville, IL

Rev. Jonathan C. Winterfeldt / Pastor

Bell Ring**Prelude:**

Greeting: We gather this evening to thank God for the special blessings of the birth of Jesus as we look forward to His second coming.

Opening Hymn: 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

✠ ORDER OF VESPERS, LSB 229 ✠

ADVENT VERSICLES*LSB 229*

✠ PSALMODY ✠

Psalm 122

- ¹I was glad when they | said to me,*
 “Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”
- ²**Our feet have been | standing***
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!
- ³Jerusalem—built as a | city*
 that is bound firmly to- | gether,
- ⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,**
as was decreed for | Israel,*
to give thanks to the name | of the LORD.
- ⁵There thrones for judg- | ment were set,*
 the thrones of the house of | David.
- ⁶**Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!***
“May they be secure who | love you!
- ⁷Peace be with- | in your walls*
 and security within your | towers!”

⁸For my brothers and com- | panions' sake*

I will say, "Peace be with- | in you!"

⁹For the sake of the house of the | LORD our God,*

I will | seek your good.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,*

And to the Holy | Sprit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever | shall be.*

World without end. | Amen.

Office Hymn: 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

✠ SCRIPTURE READINGS ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:1–4

[P] A reading from Malachi, chapter 3.

¹"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

[P] O Lord, have mercy on us.

[C] Thanks be to God.

P Please rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel**HOLY GOSPEL****Luke 3:1–6****P A reading from Luke, chapter 3.**

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.**C Thanks be to God.****P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.****C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.****ADVENT RESPONSORY****LSB 230****HOMILY****Malachi 3:1–4****“The King’s Herald: Announcing the King!”**

✠ CANTICLE ✠

Magnificat: Hymn # 933 My Soul Rejoices

✠ PRAYER ✠

Kyrie**LSB 233****Lord's Prayer****Collects**

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day

- P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Prayer Starters

- P** Stir up your power, ... Stir up your power, O Lord, to bring peace and joy to your people, and through us so announce your plan and your purpose, even as we await your arrival and return.
C **Amen.**

Prayer

- P** We pray for thankfulness... Lord in Your Mercy:
C **Hear our prayer.**
P We pray for peace in all homes, ... Lord in Your Mercy:
C **Hear our prayer.**
P We pray for generosity, ... Lord in Your Mercy:
C **Hear our prayer.**

- P** Almighty God, ... until He comes again in glory; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Collect for Peace

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, ... through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen

Benedicamus

LSB 234

Benediction

LSB 234

Closing Hymn: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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