



ST. GEORGE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

803 West Main St, Brighton, MI 48116

www.stgeorgelutheran.org

December 4, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Phone 810-229-6670

stgeorgebrighton@gmail.com

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Welcome! We are glad you're here!

A warm welcome is extended to all!

Your presence enriches us at this time of celebration together.

Welcome and Announcements

Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Advent Candle Lighting

Prepare, for the day of God's coming draws near!

Prepare for hope.

Merciful God, when we look around, the promises of your Kingdom seem so distant.

Grant us tenacity:

to bring light where there is darkness;

peace where there is strife,

comfort where there is despair.

Let the light of your presence shine in us, so that all may know that the darkness will not win.

(Hope Candle is lit)

Prepare for peace.

Holy God, may the divisions between us be erased. May we, people of all backgrounds, walk with one another; listen to one another; bear one another's burdens. May we be peacemakers in everything we say and do.

(Peace candle is lit)

We light these candles, and we pray:

Come Lord Jesus! Open our lives to the hope and peace which you bring; let us turn to you, and get ready!

Candles of Advent

Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price Music by Don Besig

Light one candle in the night.

Light one candle of Hope;

Hope for the world to calm its fear,

Hope for the news we long to hear,

Hope for the child who will soon

appear. Light one candle of hope.

Light one candle in the night.

Light one candle of peace;

Peace that will free the world from war, Peace that will last forever more, Peace through the child we are waiting for. Light one candle of peace.

Advent candles warm and bright fill the world with radiant light. Help us find the Promised One; guide us to the Child who will come.

Sharing of the Peace

Confession and Forgiveness

Prayer of Confession (inspired by Isaiah 11: 1-10, Psalm 72, Matthew 3:1-12)

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, **our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place.**

Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life.

Merciful God,

May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord our God, who does wondrous things. (Psalm 72: 8) The most wondrous of all being God's entry into our world in Jesus Christ, *"not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."* *"Those who believe in him are not condemned."* (John 3:17,18) **Thanks be to God!**

~ adapted from Jane Stranz's Of Life, Laughter and Liturgy blog. <http://stranzdocs.blogspot.ca/2007/12/advent-liturgy-for-visit-of-archbishop.html>

Entrance Hymn:

Canticle of the Turning

#723

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your

might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** **And also with you.**

Kyrie

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise: *This is the Feast*

C This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Youth Message

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L The Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 72

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name forever;

may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L The Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

**All: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist Cry

#249

On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for He brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

We hail You as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without Your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

Stretch forth Your hand, our health
restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;

oh, let Your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Charles Coffin; Michael Praetorius

All praise to You, eternal Son,

Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come 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.

Prayers of Intercession:

L Lord, in your mercy....

C Hear our Prayer

Offertory

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving:

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise. . . (Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding...) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Holy Communion:

Hark the Glad Sound

#239

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of His grace
to enrich the humble poor.

He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with Your beloved name. Text: Philip Doddridge,
1702-1751. Music: Thomas Haweis, 17343-1820

Prepare the Royal Highway

#264

Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord,
for He fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see Him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail You! *Refrain*

Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before Him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*
Frans Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847

Post Communion Blessing:

L The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen

Post Communion Canticle:

Thank the Lord and sing his praise, tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Benediction: (Based on Romans 15:13)

As you go from here,
may God, the source of all hope,
infuse your lives with an abundance of joy and peace,
so that, no matter what comes your way in the days ahead,
your lives will overflow with confident hope,
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever, Amen.**

Sending Hymn: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear #282

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,

who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,

by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Edmund H. Sears;; Richard W. Willis

Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Bible Study: Thursdays at 10:00 at the Parish House and via Zoom.

Advent by Candlelight: Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 PM.

Annual Meeting: Today, December 4th at Noon.

Mid-Week Advent Service: Wednesday, December 7th at 5 PM. This service will include a meal and "The Walk of the Magi," an experiential journey from the perspective of the magi. Please sign up.

Needleworks: Thursday, December 15th at 11:30 AM.

Musikgarten: Friday, at 10 AM.

Happy Birthday!

Nancy Layland 90 years on November 5
Brigitta Dantzer 93 years on November 2
Karin Klein 94 years on December 21
Al Voss 94 years on December 31

Prayers of Grace & Support

Please pray for:

- Bryan Rush for a successful court date coming soon.
- Bill Foster in assisted living.
- Kathy Boyes recovering.
- Melissa Alofalter, Angela Martin's friend, battling an unknown medical issue, beginning with MS and COVID.
- Bob Lusky, father of Bob and Lorna's son-in-law David, who has cancer.
- Qamar family, Gail's students, traveling to Pakistan for month of November.
- Ray, Alia's older brother, who has COVID along with severe RA and heart problems.
- Dottie Woodman, recovering.
- The family of Michael Biber, following his passing in October.
- Arlene, Alia's friend, suffering persistent pain in her neck, shoulder and arm.
- Lisa, friend of Tessa, having heart valve replacement surgery Oct 26.
- Margret Doane, Kristiina H.'s friend, with breast cancer.
- Micah, Alia's nephew, with a chronic infection and declining health.
- Dr. Laura Tinning Reistar, Douglas and Arlene Turner's niece, is in the care of hospice and her husband.
- Nancy Briggs, Douglas Turner's sister, for healing.
- Dan Lindberg, cousin of Kathy and Keith Boyes, has pancreatic cancer.
- Carrie Weiland recovering from surgery.
- Barb Gienapp with health concerns.
- Noah Taylor, friend of Kathie Wilhem's son, following a bad auto accident.
- Ethan and his mom, Marianne, as they are dealing with major physical and emotional struggles. From Linda Walton.
- Theo Evans being treated for leukemia.
- Joan Richardson, dealing with health concerns.
- Cindy Brach with health issues.
- John Brach with health issues.
- Prayers for all those suffering in Ukraine.
- Charlie Davis, Marylou's husband, with cancer.
- Jon Brach and his family with health and life difficulties.
- Pan Norton, Cindy Brach's son's mother-in-law.
- Jackie (Gail's piano student) diagnosed with throat cancer.
- Arline Petersburg with medical issues.
- Theresa Pope, fiancé of Michael Knight, for her battle with breast cancer.
- Niece of Elaine McIntyre, Patsy McIntyre Costin, diagnosed with colon cancer.
- Terry Pitt, Collene Hedden's brother -in-law, with auto-immune disease.
- Vicki, Kristiina Herbst's neighbor, with health concerns.
- Beulah & Mark who are having health and life difficulties.

	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 24	Dec. 24	Dec. 25
	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	9:00 AM
Asst. Min	Keith B.				Chris K.	Keith B.
Lay Reader	Keith B.				Chris K.	Keith B.
Greeter					Angela	
Usher	Kathy	Cindy	Jerry	Michele	Gary B.	
Media	Priekorn	Graenser	Graenser			Priekorn
Fellowship						
Altar Care	Linda F.	Linda F.	Linda G.	Elaine	& Joanne	Elaine



St. George is a warm, friendly, spirit-filled congregation that has been blessed throughout many years. Most Christian denominations develop a distinct emphasis of the Christian faith and practice, and this is also true for Lutherans.

The Lutheran emphasis, in a word, is God’s grace.

We emphasize the grace of God which forgives us, makes us God’s children, and empowers us to serve others. **We welcome, include, and value all people.**