



# ST. GEORGE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

803 West Main St, Brighton, MI 48116

[www.stgeorgelutheran.org](http://www.stgeorgelutheran.org)

December 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.

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First 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.**

### **Announcements**

### **Prepare Hearts for Worship**

### **Candle lighting liturgy**

Now, in this holy season of Advent, we wait.

**For the faithful God is coming to us.**

Now, in this season of waiting, we listen.

**For the faithful Word speaks of good news to us.**

Now, in the waiting and listening, we watch.

**For the faithful Spirit is moving among us.**

### **Prayer**

**You could feed us bitterness,**

**Approaching God,**

**but you choose to serve us**

**with the Bread of heaven;**

**you could hand us hot cup of your wrath,**

**but you touch**

**the Cup of hope to our lips.**

**Thank you for your mercy. Amen**

*Lighting of the candle*

***Sing:*** Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*(Twice)*

## Welcome and Sharing the Peace

### Confession and Forgiveness

Advent is the season

of preparing,  
of waiting,  
of hoping

so let us confess to the One who comes, our impatient, instant-gratification-filled lives.

**God who is drawing near to us:  
we live in a world of violence,  
which we do not condemn enough:**

**Come to us, with your peace.**

**We are filled with the best of intentions,  
but often fail to follow through with action:**

**Come to us, with your will.**

**We are sinners, who are afraid  
to gaze into your mirror of grace:**

**Come to us, with your mercy.**

Word of Flesh:

**have mercy;**

Friend of the poor:

**have mercy;**

Bridegroom of the faithful:

**have mercy.**

*Silence is kept*

**Assurance of Forgiveness** adapted from Thomas Shuman <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope, and joy are the gifts we receive from our God. Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child, who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory. **Amen.**

### Opening Hymn:

### Canticle of the Turning

**#734**

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** 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**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

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

## **Prayer of the Day:**

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us  
to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of  
your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever. Amen**

## **Youth Message**

### **First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

**L This is the Word of the Lord      All Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 80**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

**before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

## **Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will

be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**P: The Gospel of the Lord    All: Praise to You, O Christ.**

# Sermon

**Hymn of the Day:**      *My Lord, What a Morning*      #438

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my  
Lord, what a morning; oh, my Lord, what  
a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. Refrain.

You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake  
the nations underground, looking to my  
God's right hand, when the stars begin to  
fall. Refrain.

You will hear the Christian shout, to  
wake the nations underground, looking to  
my God's right hand, when the stars  
begin to fall. Refrain.

**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.**

\*catholic here meaning "universal"

### **Prayers of Intercession:**

**A** 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:**

**O God, Throughout the next four weeks, may we develop a renewed spirit of generosity that exhibits the hope, peace, love, and joy that became incarnate in the Christ and may the gifts we offer today be part of that expression. We offer them and our lives to you, O God, in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### **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, grant us peace.**

### **Holy Communion**

**"Be With Me" by Gail Boyd, sung by Joan Vaughn**

### **Communion Hymn**

**In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen,**

### **In the Bleak Midwinter**

**snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.**

**#294**

Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can give him--  
give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #254 (Tune of 789-  
Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us)**

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to  
set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us; let us  
find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of  
all the earth Thou art.  
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every  
longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child  
and yet a King;  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy  
gracious Kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all  
our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to  
Thy glorious throne! *Charles Wesley, W. Walker.*

**Post Communion Blessing:**

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

We do not know when Christ will return,  
so we will wait, and in the waiting  
we are called to share hope with everyone around us.  
We do not know what the coming days will bring,



but we will be alert,  
noticing all those who need the help we can provide.  
We do not know the opportunities we will be given,  
but we will keep our eyes open,  
so we can welcome each person  
as if they are the Christ.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen**

### **Sending Hymn**

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!

### **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Prepare the Royal Highway**

**#264**

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

### **Current Budget Report: as of 11/26/2023**

**Last week's giving: \$8,377.15**

**Needed to meet budget: \$5,357.69**

**Year to Date: \$250,832.48**

**Ahead (Behind) Budget: (\$6,336.75)**

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
Asst. Min	Keith B.		Keith B.	Keith B.	Joan V.
Lay Reader	Keith B.		Keith B.	Keith B.	Joan V.
Greeter					
Usher					
Media	Prieskorn	Graenser	Graenser	Prieskorn	Graenser
Fellowship		Birthday Celebration			
Altar Care	Joanne	Linda Fox	Sally	Linda Garr	Elaine

## Announcements

**Adult Sunday School:** Today at 10 AM.

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

**Love Inc, Buckets of Blessings:** We are asking for steel wool pads this month!

**Musikgarten:** Wednesday, from 10-10:30 AM.

**Gymnastics Open Play:** Wednesday, from 11-11:45 AM.

**Needleworks:** Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. All are welcome!

**Annual Meeting:** Sunday, December 3 at Noon.

**Advent Service:** Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Following this special Advent service presented by the Friendship Circle, enjoy desserts in the lower level. Please attend, bring a friend and a dessert.

**Friends and Family Breakfast:** December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.

**Birthday Celebration:** Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM.

**Friendship Circle Cookie Sale:** Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Cookie Drop-off on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM until Noon.

**Thank you to those who donated to the Seafarer's and to Needleworkers who created the beautiful hats, scars, towels and a pair of socks.**

<b>Sunday 12/03</b>	<b>9 AM Traditional Worship 10 AM Sunday School 11AM Contemporary Worship Noon- Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Monday 12/04</b>	<b>Office Hours 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM</b>
<b>Tuesday 12/05</b>	<b>6:30 PM Advent Service 7:30 PM AA</b>
<b>Wednesday 12/06</b>	<b>Office Hours 8 AM-1 PM; 8 AM Men's Club; Musikgarten 10 AM; Gymnastics 11 AM;</b>
<b>Thursday 12/07</b>	<b>Office Hours 11:30 – 2:30 PM; 7:00 PM AA</b>
<b>Friday 12/08</b>	<b>Office Hours 8 AM-3 PM</b>
<b>Saturday 12/09</b>	



For Our Church Members, especially:

**Carrie Weiland**, with health concerns.

**Kathie Wilhelm**, for kidney cancer and surgery on December 11<sup>th</sup> to remove kidney.

**Kathy Schenk**, for healing after a broken wrist.

**Cindy, John and Jon Brach**, with health concerns.

**Bill Foster** in assisted living.

**Kathy Boyes** with health challenges.

**Barb Gienapp** with health concerns.

**Theo Evans** being treated for leukemia.

**Joan Richardson**, dealing with health concerns.

For Friends and Family of our Church Members:

**Juanita Fox**, George's mom, for healing.

**Hudson Bennett**, George Fox's nephew, for healing.

**Kimberlie Gilbertson**, Jeanie Petersburg's cousin, dealing with eye damage/temporary blindness from an interocular lens removal.

**Carl Loerwald**, friend of Joanne Bellmard, recovering from back surgery and other medical issues.

**Dian Kolis**, friend of Linda Fox, with Parkinson's and scheduled for brain surgery.

**Nick Hodgin**, Jim Hartman's friend's 12-year-old son, following brain cancer surgery.

**Chris Petersburg**, son of Brian and Jeanie, who had a mini-stroke.

**Matt B.**, Linda Walton's son's best friend, diagnosed with stage 4 liver disease.

**Nathan**, friend of the Petersburg's, paralyzed in a diving accident.

**Stacy Scott's stepdad**, friend of Michele Hirschman, with lung cancer.

**Lydia**, Gail's adult piano student, recovering from brain surgery.

**Norma Topp**, Michele Hirschman's friend, going through radiation and chemotherapy.

**Victor**, Gail's 82-year-old student's wife, in hospice.

**Isabella**, Gail's 9-year-old student, who broke her ankle.

**Alicia Gardner**, Linda Walton's niece, awaiting a liver transplant.

**Trey Martin**, cousin of Bryan Rush, in Europe in the military. Pray for his safety.

**John D**, friend of Bryan Rush, suffering from Diabetes Type II.

**Melissa Alofalter**, Angela Martin's friend, battling an unknown medical issue.

**Charlie Davis**, Marylou's husband, with cancer.

**Margaret Doane**, Kristiina H.'s friend, with breast cancer.

**Micah**, Alia's nephew, with a chronic infection and declining health.

**Ethan and his mom, Marianne**, friends of Linda Walton, as they are dealing with major physical and emotional struggles.

**Jackie**, Gail's piano student, diagnosed with throat cancer.

**Theresa Knight**, spouse of Michael Knight, for her battle with breast cancer.

**Patsy McIntyre Costin**, niece of Elaine McIntyre, 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.

#### For Our Community and Beyond:

Prayers for peace in Ukraine

Prayers for peace in Israel