

## The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022 – 7:30 p.m.

Candlelight Eucharist



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



*On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of Jesus, the Light of the world. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament—so that we may be bearers of his divine light and love to all the world.*

*Please join your heart and voice in the liturgy, prayers, songs and readings as indicated. A very happy and blessed Christmas to all!*



### **Prayer Before Worship**

In the quietness of this holy night, we gather in your house, O Lord, to marvel at the gift of your Son, the Word made flesh. Let our hearts and minds be renewed and strengthened in the life and salvation that He came to bring. Let our prayers and praises be joined with your people of every time and place as we sing: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth." Amen.

## Opening Sentences

**L** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**L** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

**C** **And his Name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**L** O, sing to the Lord a new song;

**C** **For he has done marvelous things.**

## Processional Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light

Lo! He abhors not the Virgin’s womb;

Very God, Begotten, not created: [*Refrain*]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above!

Glory to God, glory in the highest: [*Refrain*]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born on Christmas morning;

Jesu, to thee be glory giv’n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [*Refrain*]

## Greeting and Opening Dialogue

**P** The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

**L** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

**C** **Blessed is the day of grace, when God sent a Son.**

**P** Blessed is Mary, to bear such a child. Blessed is Joseph, to care for him on earth.

**C Blessed are we, to know him in our hearts.**

**L** He comes to us quietly, with little fanfare.

**C Softly, as in a whisper, God sends salvation to this fallen world.**

**P** Into the quiet of the long night the Light of the world flickers into human life, a spark which will engulf the world.

**C Come, little Lord Jesus, and be our guest. Stay with us; live with us; be with us, forever. Amen.**

## Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

## Prayer of Christmas

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.  
<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to

redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Response

**P** A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. A girl full of grace bears a Child who is Grace.

**C** **We praise and bless the Lord!**

**P** Our God calls us to himself, with the voice of a Child.

**C** **He calls us to believe, and not to be afraid.**

**P** As Mary answered the angel, so we too respond,

**C** **"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."**

## Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## Hymn

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
  
How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

## Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## Gospel Reading

Luke 2:15-20

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

"The Sign of the Child"

## Hymn of Christmas

"The First Nowell"

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

## Profession of Faith

Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Creed

**I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from all eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord. At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death and the power of the devil—not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

## Prayers of the People

- P** Filled with wonder and joy that God's gift of grace has been given in his Son born for us, let us pray for the church, the creation, and the needs of all.

*Special petitions are announced, followed by a brief silence for individual prayer. Each petition closes with the words, "Hear us, O God." Please respond by saying, "Your mercy is great."*

*The prayers conclude with:*

- P** Into the manger of your love, holy God, we lay our prayers, trusting in your promise made known to us in Jesus Christ, the Word-made-flesh.

**C Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

- P** The peace of Christ, the Word-made-flesh, be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*You are invited to share Christ's peace with those around you.*

## Announcements

### Offertory Prayer

- L** Let us pray: Good and loving God,

**C we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

- P** Amid the darkness of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome the light of God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



**P** God of grace and truth,

**C** **in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, and have not trusted the good news of great joy. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the fullness of your love, trusting in the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** The angel said, "You shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins." The light of Jesus, the Word-made-flesh, sets us free from sin and death. With great joy, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **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.**

### **Preface**

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

**P** Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

**C** Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, on this holy night as we rejoice in your birth, hear the prayer you taught us:

**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.**

## Distribution of the Sacrament

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

## Agnus Dei



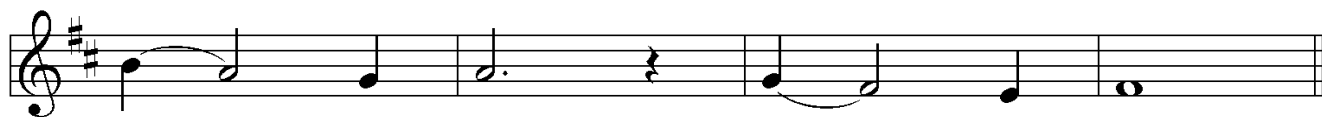
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**



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

## Distribution Music

"Christmas Day" - A Choral Fantasy on Old Carols

(Gustav Holst)

The Choir of St. John's  
Brass Quintet and Organ

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say:

News! News! Jesus Christ is born today:

Ox and ass before him bow,

And he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! *[repeat]*

God rest you merry, gentlemen,

Let nothing you dismay,

Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day,

To save us all from woe and sin,

When we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Judah,

This blessed babe was born,

And laid within a manger,

Upon that holy morn;

The which His Mother, Mary,

Did nothing take in scorn.  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.  
He hath oped the heav'nly door,  
And man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this.

Come ye lofty, come ye lowly,  
Let your songs of gladness ring;  
In a stable lies the Holy,  
In a manger rests the King:  
See in Mary's arms reposing,  
Christ by highest heav'n adored:

*Sung simultaneously:*

The first Nowell, the angels did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, Keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Come, your circle round him closing,  
Pious hearts that love the Lord.  
Come, ye poor, no pomp of station  
Robes the Child your hearts adore.  
He, the Lord of all salvation,  
Shares your want, is weak and poor.  
Oxen, round about behold them;  
Rafters naked, cold and bare,  
See the shepherds, God has told them  
That the Prince of Life lies there.  
Come ye children, blithe and merry,  
This one Child your model make;  
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry,  
All be prized for His dear sake;

Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender,  
come, ye spirits, keen and bold;  
All in all your homage render,  
Weak and mighty, young and old.  
High above a star is shining,  
And the wisemen haste from far:  
Come glad hearts and spirits pining:  
For you all has ris'n the star.  
Let us bring our poor oblations,  
Thanks and love and faith and praise:  
Come, ye people, come ye nations,  
all in all draw nigh to gaze.

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today:  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice,  
with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.  
He hath oped the heav'nly door,  
And man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this.

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All Israel, Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian men rejoice,  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all,  
To gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save.

“O Holy Night”

Brass Quintet and Organ

“Away in a Manger”

(LSB 364)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children’s Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt. Text: Public domain

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

(LSB 366)

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, goodwill to all,  
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

(continued on the next page)

Still through the cloven skies they come  
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 blessèd angels sing.

All you, beneath your heavy load,  
By care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way  
With painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour,  
Come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace;  
Of Him the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass  
By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years  
Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth  
God's ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt. Text: Public domain

## Dismissal

**P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

## Post-Communion Prayer

**L** Let us pray: Great and saving God,

**C** we give you thanks that you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



## A Celebration of Light

*The worship leaders light the candles of the ushers, who in turn light the candles of those nearest the aisles. Please light your candle by tipping unlit candles towards the lit candle of the person next to you, until all candles are lit.*

**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

**C** **The light no darkness can overcome.**

**P** Let us pray:

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels, and shepherds, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**L** The whisper of God has become a shout!

**C** **Jesus, the Savior, is born!**

**P** Praise the Lord with heart-filled joy!

**C** **We praise him! We bless him! Christ our newborn King!**

**L** And he blesses us with his presence – then and now and always!

**C** **Amen.**

*(sung)*      **Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**P** A young girl, far from the comfort of the familiar, gives birth to a child. Hardly the stuff of interest to the world. Yet that is how God comes: not in the hurricane, not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but in a gentle whisper, the person of a baby.

*(sung)*      **Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth. Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

**L** Behold the Light, the Word made flesh, the Savior, Christ the Lord. Welcome the Light, the Baby Jesus, the Savior, Christ the Lord. Spread the news the angels told. Tell the world: Your Savior is here!

*(sung)*      **Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!"**

## Benediction

**P** May the good news that is Jesus, the Messiah, bring you great joy each day.  
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Sending

**L** Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is born.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Extinguish candles at this time*

## Recessional Hymn

"Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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## Choral Anthem

"A Christmas Wish"  
(Dave Dogterom/Brad Howland)

*A wish for you at Christmas time, the best to you and yours.  
We wish you opportunity, to open once closed doors.  
We wish you joy of family, make a lasting memory,  
We wish you Christmas morning, wide-eyed children 'round your tree.  
We wish you health and happiness, which ever road you travel.  
We wish you faith and patience, should your hopes and dreams unravel.  
We wish you'll find within your heart, the gift of charity.  
We wish you'll give unselfishly, to those with less than you and me.  
Most important though, we wish for you, in this season of the dove,  
We wish for you God's heavenly grace, and a year of peace and love!  
A wish for you at Christmas time! Merry Christmas!*

## Postlude

A Christmas Selection by the Brass Quintet



## **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	PJ Baunach
Communion Lay Assistant	DCE Jennifer Hills
Director of Music	David Leahey
Acolyte	Logan Zylstra Keegan Zylsra
Usher	St. John's Usher Team
Altar Care	Cathy Long
AV Operator	St. John's AV Team

Wholehearted thanks and blessings to our Brass Quintet for joining us this evening!  
(Craig Taylor & EJ Ramos (trumpet), Evan Geiger (horn), Omar DeJesus (trombone),  
and Andrew Hitz (Tuba))



### ***Please join us for these special worship services:***

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

Worship with Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1 (Circumcision and Name of Jesus)

Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.



## Altar Flowers

Donations to the Flower Fund

To the Glory to God

## Poinsettias

Jeannette Bottomley

In memory of my husband, Roy

Mark & Jean Gilbertson

In memory of Jean's father, Fred Ebner

Brian & Christy Hoins

In memory of loved ones

Jake & Connie Jacobs

Merry Christmas

Eric & Andrea Klanderman

Jim & Mary Lofgren

Long Family

In memory of John Long

Pastor and June Meehan

In honor of the Christ Child

John & Ethel Sullivan

In honor of all of our loved ones

Steve & Linda Tracy



Please visit our website at [www.sjlc.com](http://www.sjlc.com) for devotional readings for use in the week ahead or to learn more about our life together as a congregation.

St. John's Lutheran Church · 5952 Franconia Road · Alexandria, VA 22310  
703-971-2210



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