

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

Candlelight Holy Communion



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. Hymn references are from Lutheran Service Book (LSB). 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.

Ringling of the Bells

Opening Sentences *(please stand and face the back of the Sanctuary)*

P 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.**

P O, sing to the Lord a new song;

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

Processional Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379)

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!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *[Refrain]*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, 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” (LSB 380)

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 the 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 the incarnate Deity!

Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them 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

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
³You 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.
⁴For 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.
⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For 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.
⁷Of 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

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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" (LSB 361)

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

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Hymn

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (LSB 368)

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

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And 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

"Savior"

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

Offering

Please fill out a connection card (found in the pew rack in front of you). You are invited to give an offering as the ushers pass the offering plates through the congregation. (See pg. 19 for QR Code)

Music at the Offering

Carols of Christmas (James Q. Mulholland)

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria!

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem

O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

*O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord*

*Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay
Tourallora, Touralooro, Touralooraloolay.*

*Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la la la la!
Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la la la la!
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la la la la la!
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la la la la!*

*On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me
A partridge in a pear tree
Five golden rings
Four calling birds
Three french hens
Two turtle doves and
A partridge in a pear tree*

*Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gathering winter fuel*

*Infant Holy, Infant lowly, lying in a manger bed,
Baby sleeping, vigil keeping, Angels hover o'er his head.
In a humble stall so lowly lies the blessed Child most holy, Christ the Babe is Lord of
all!*

*Carols ringing, angels singing praises to the Holy Child,
Rapture showing love o'er flowing, little babe so meek and mild.
Voices raised to tell the story, heav'n and earth declare His glory,
Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

*The First Noel the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel!*

*Infant holy, infant lowly,
for His bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Amen.*

Please stand

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.

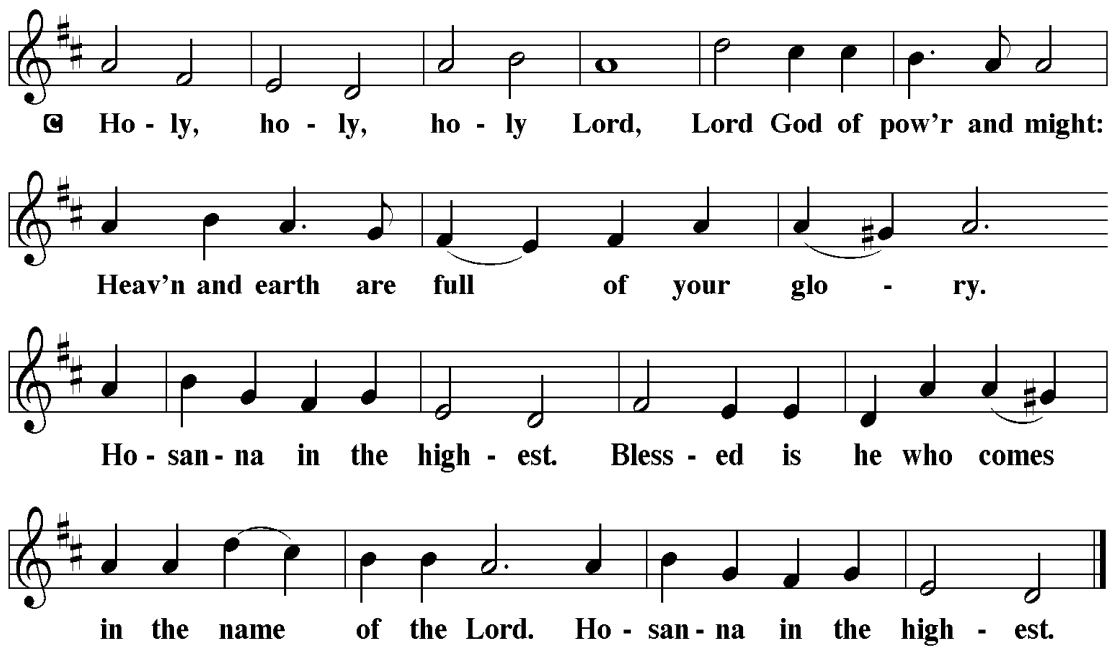
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

☩ 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:

☩ 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 – *Please be seated*

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



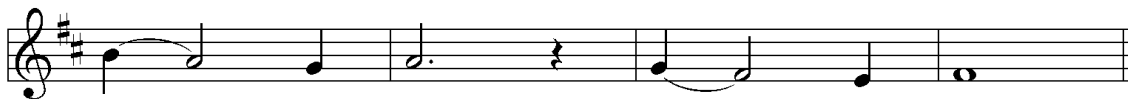
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

Music at Distribution

"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.

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 blessed 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

“What Child Is This”

(LSB 370)

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise, the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

“Once in Royal David’s City”

(LSB 376)

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood’s pattern, day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, and He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav’n above;
And He leads His children one to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, all in white, His praise will sound!

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

(LSB 367)

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship; worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the Infant Light.

Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar,
Seek the great Desire of nations, ye have seen His natal star.

Refrain

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in His temple shall appear.

Refrain

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Refrain

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.

P 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! 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!"**

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! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

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" (LSB 387)



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
play, 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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Postlude

A Christmas Selection by the Brass Quintet

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	PJ Baunach
Communion Lay Assistant	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Gavin Stiens
Crucifer	Nathan Bach
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!
(EJ Ramos & Kevin Maloney (trumpet), Evan Geiger (horn), Austin Westjohn
(trombone), and Andrew Hitz (Tuba))



We're glad you chose to worship with us at this special service.
Please join us for these special worship services:

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 31 (First Sunday after Christmas)

Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

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

To **Give** to
St. John's Lutheran Church
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Altar Flowers

Donations to the Flower Fund

To the Glory to God



Poinsettias

Jeannette Bottomley

In honor of my daughter, Susan

Ethel Sullivan

In honor of all of our loved ones

Patricia Zissios

Memory of Charles Zissios

Pastor and June Meehan

In honor of the Christ Child

Mark and Jean Gilbertson

Christ Our Savior

Robert and Flannery Macynski

In honor of our children: Sarah, Lindsay,
David, and Georgiana

Steve and Linda Tracy

In Memory of Loved Ones

Cathy Long

Cathy, Emily, & Andrew, In memory of John Long

Eric and Andrea Klanderman

Commemorating family at the season

Denise Canter

Audrey and Alden Wallace

Brian and Christy Hoins

In memory of Valerie Shaw



Acknowledgments

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A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

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Director of Music	David Leahey
Office Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith
Communication Specialist	Jacqueline Fuller

Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff

Director of ECEC	Amanda Parks
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

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