

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book, Holy Communion, Setting Two



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer before worship

Blessed Lord, whose humble birth in Bethlehem we still celebrate, let your light and grace fill our hearts and minds in this time of worship. Guide and direct us in this New Year that our lives may be a living witness to your grace and mercy. Amen.

Prelude "Prelude on the French Carol 'Noel Nouvelet'" (John G. Barr)

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born for you and to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Opening Hymn

"O Sing of Christ" (LSB 362)



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred
3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.
Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.
Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Text: © 1996 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318

Tune: Public domain

Greeting

P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia!

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

G And also with you.

Opening Dialogue

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

G **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.

G **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.

L The Word became flesh and lived among us.

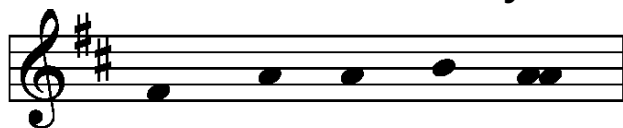
C We have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Gloria in Excelsis

A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we
praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray:

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my | whole heart,*
in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.

**C Great are the works | of the LORD,*
studied by all who de- | light in them.**

L Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,*
and his righteousness endures for- | ever.

**C He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;*
the LORD is gracious and | merciful.**

L He provides food for those who | fear him;*
he remembers his covenant for- | ever.

**C He has shown his people the power | of his works,*
in giving them the inheritance of the | nations.**

L The works of his hands are faith- | ful and just;*
all his precepts are | trustworthy;

**C they are established forever and | ever,*
to be performed with faithfulness and up- | rightness.**

L He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.*
Holy and awesome | is his name!

**C The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.*
His praise endures for- | ever!**

Epistle

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

St. Luke 2: 22-40

*Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

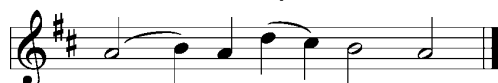
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.**

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

"Depart in Peace"

Hymn of the Day

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (LSB 359)



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text (sts. 1-2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt.; (sts. 1-2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808-59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln, Text and tune: Public domain

Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, + and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the church, the earth, and all those in need, in the Name of the One who is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

*Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. During the Christmas season each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy." Please respond by saying "**Hear our prayer.**"*

The prayers end with the words:

P O God, who shines light into darkness, receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, through the power of the Spirit, in Jesus' Name.

C Amen.

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
(Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L Let us pray:

Good and loving God, 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 a 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.

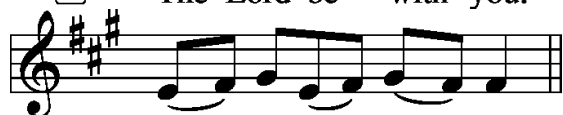
G Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

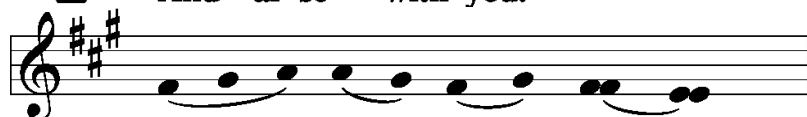
Preface



P The Lord be with you.



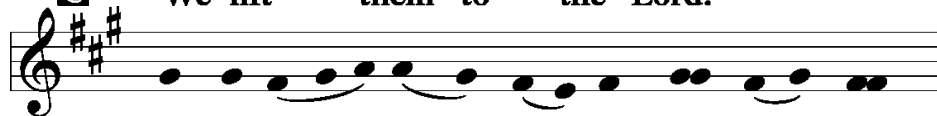
G And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.




G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Preface for Christmas

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus



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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- G 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.**

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- G Amen.**

Agnus Dei

G 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.

Please be seated

Distribution

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.

Music at the Distribution

Choral Anthem

*The first good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of **one**:
to see her blessed Jesus Christ
When He was first her Son.
When He was first her Son, good man;
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
to all eternity.*

*The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of **two**:
to see her own son Jesus Christ,
to make the lame to go.
to make the lame to go, good man;
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
to all eternity.*

*The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of **three**:
to see her own son Jesus Christ,
to make the blind to see.
to make the blind to see, good man;
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
to all eternity.*

*The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of **four**:
to see her own son Jesus Christ,
to read the Bible o'er.
to read the Bible o'er, good man;
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
to all eternity.*

"The Seven Joys of Mary" (Richard Shephard)

*The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of **five**:
to see her own son Jesus Christ,
to bring the dead alive.
to bring the dead alive, good man;
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
to all eternity.*

*The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of **six**:
to see her own son Jesus Christ,
Upon the crucifix.
Upon the crucifix, good man;
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
to all eternity.*

*The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of **seven**:
to see her own son Jesus Christ,
to wear the crown of Heaven.
to wear the crown of Heaven, good man;
And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
to all eternity.*

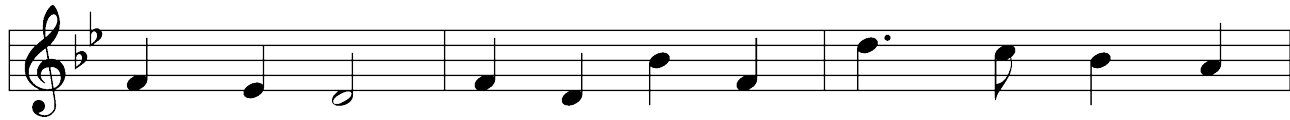


"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

(LSB 367)



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

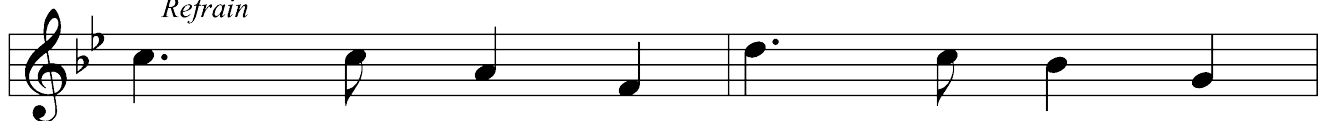


all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref., 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt.
 Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79
 Text and tune: Public domain

"In His Temple Now Behold Him"

(LSB 519)



1 In His tem - ple now be - hold Him, See the long - ex -
2 In the arms of her who bore Him, Vir - gin pure, be -
3 Je - sus, by Your pre - sen - ta - tion, When they blessed You,



pect - ed Lord; An - cient proph - ets had fore - told Him,
hold Him lie While His a - ged saints a - dore Him
weak and poor, Make us see Your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled His word. Now to praise Him,
Ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia,
Seal us with Your prom - ise sure; And pre - sent us



His re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.
al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
in Your glo - ry To Your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

Text: Henry J. Pye, c. 1825–1903, alt.
Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659–95, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

Post-Communion Canticle



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray:

Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior 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.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (LSB 386)



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.
Tune: German, 14th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

"Chorale Prelude No. 16 'In dulci júbilo', BWV 729a" (J. S. Bach)

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Stacey Crosson
Communion Lay Assistant	Jeff Crosson
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Sophie Wilson
Ushers	Barbara Pate Rodney Smith
Altar Care	Barbara Pate
AV Operators	Greg Auld Mike Auld
Welcome Host	Christy Hoins



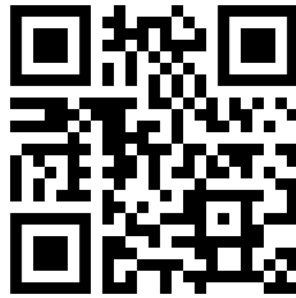
To **Give** to
St. John's Lutheran Church
scan this QR Code



This weekend's **altar flowers**
by donations to the flower fund.

To **view** the current edition of
our electronic weekly newsletter,

Midweek Update,
scan this QR Code



Acknowledgments

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