**First Sunday after Christmas** December 29, 2024 – 10:30 a.m. A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Welcome! Today's worship service tells the story of salvation in readings from God's Word and in beloved carols of this Christmas season. As we continue to rejoice in the birth of Jesus, the Word-made-flesh, please join your heart in this service. A special welcome to those who are quests. Information about St. John's and its ministry may be obtained from the Welcome Center in the Narthex, the Ushers, or the Pastor. Hymn references are from Lutheran Service Book (LSB) and With One Voice (WOV).

#### **Prayer Before Worship**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of your beloved Son, Jesus, who came to dwell among us, and give to us forgiveness, life and salvation. Bless this time of worship, uniting our prayers and praises with your whole Church on earth and in heaven. Draw our hearts and minds to your redeeming love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

> $\mathbf{H}$  $\mathbf{H}$  $\mathbf{H}$

#### Welcome

Prelude

#### **Ringing of the Bells**

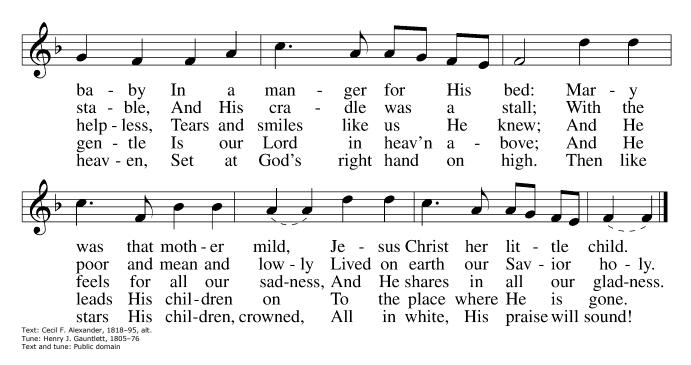
#### **Gathering Hymn**

"Once in Royal David's City" (LSB 376)

al Da vid's Stood Once cit in roy \_ y 1 а Grace Rempe from 2 He Who came down to earth heav en, is All 3 For He child hood's Dav by is our pat tern, All -Through His All 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him. All 5 Not in that poor, low ble With the ly sta -Where a ly cat tle shed, laid low moth er her \_ and Lord God of all, And His shel \_ ter was a He He lit tle, day like us grew; was weak, and re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and own Shall Him, but stand - ing by we see in OX \_ en



String Quartet



### **Opening Prayer**

- Beloved in Christ, in this holy Christmastide, let it be our duty and delight to hear **[P**] again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in the manger. Therefore, let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save, for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not our Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that great multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has 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.

# The Blessing

- May the almighty God bless us with divine grace, may Christ give us the joy of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Spirit of Love bring us all.
- C Amen.

# **Musical Offering**

String Quartet

## First Lesson

### Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." <sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

# **C** Thanks be to God.

"Jesus Christ The Apple Tree" (Simon Andrews)

## **Choral Anthem**

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree. *His beauty doth all things excel:* By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see *Tis found in Christ the apple tree.* This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

#### Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18 God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

<sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Choral Anthem**

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all, but high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, he surely could have it 'cause he was the King.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Saviour did come for to die for poor ordinary people like you and like I;

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

# Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

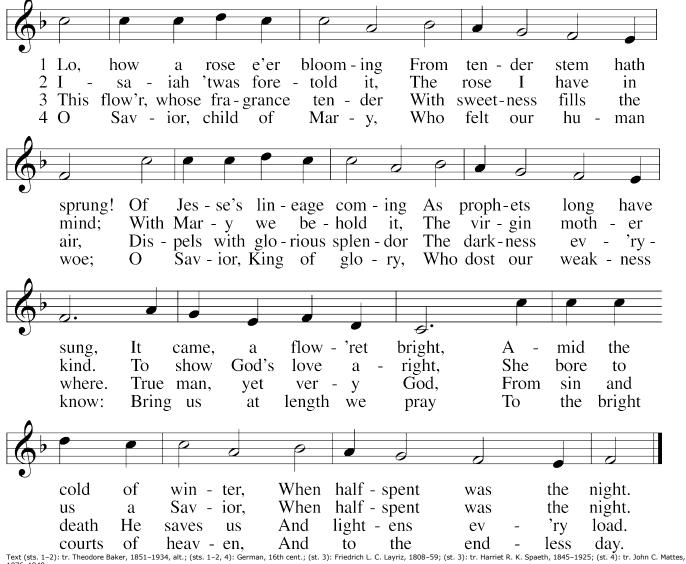
<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called

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.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Congregational Hymn** 

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



1876–1948 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln Text and tune: Public domain

#### **Fourth Lesson**

Isaiah 11:1-4,6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their

young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

### **Choral Anthem**

**G** Thanks be to God.

"The Holly and the Ivy" (Richard Shephard)

The holly and the ivy, now both are full well grown, Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

## Refrain:

*Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer, The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.* 

The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet saviour.

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall, And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

# Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35,38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

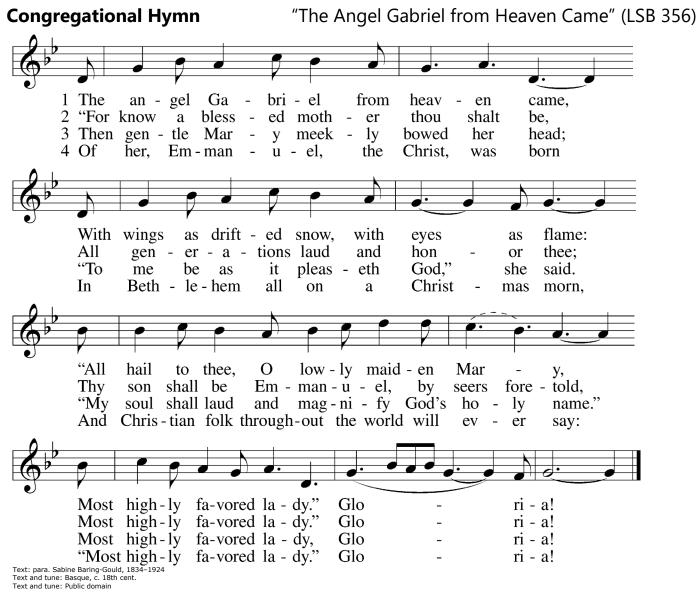
<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High

will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

<sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## C Thanks be to God.



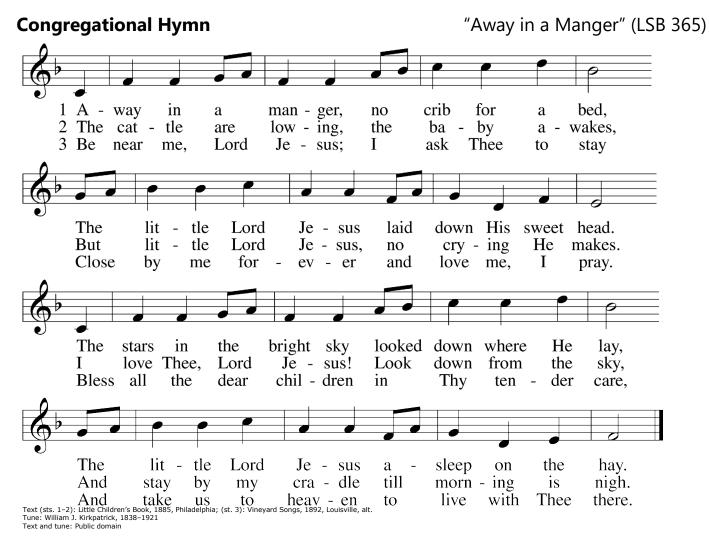
#### Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

## St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

<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.

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



## Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

## The shepherds go to the manger.

<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!" <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.

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



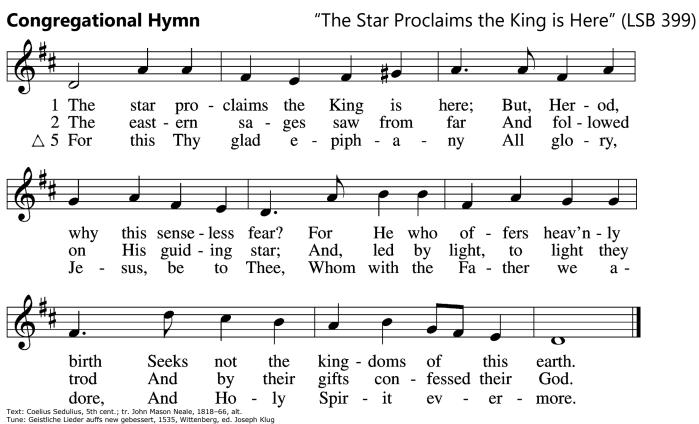
# **Eighth Lesson**

Matthew 2:1-11

# The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.



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

Text and tune: Public domain

### Ninth Lesson (please stand)

St. Johns unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

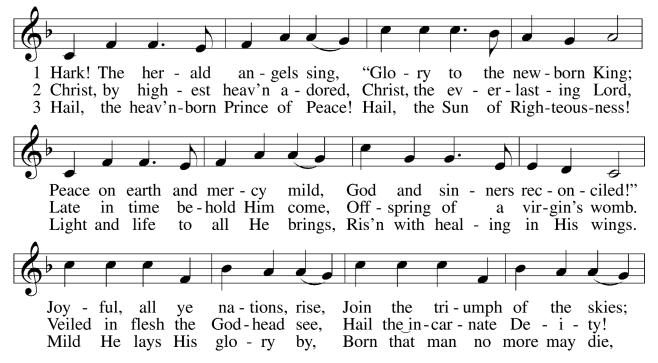
<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

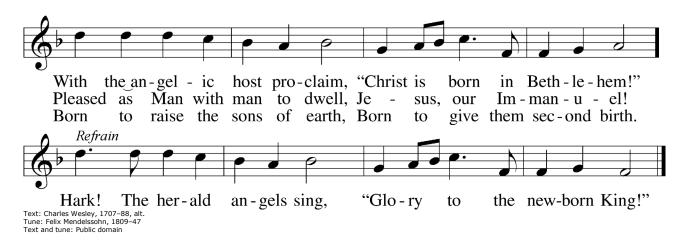
<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Congregational Hymn**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (LSB 380)





# **Prayer and Blessing**

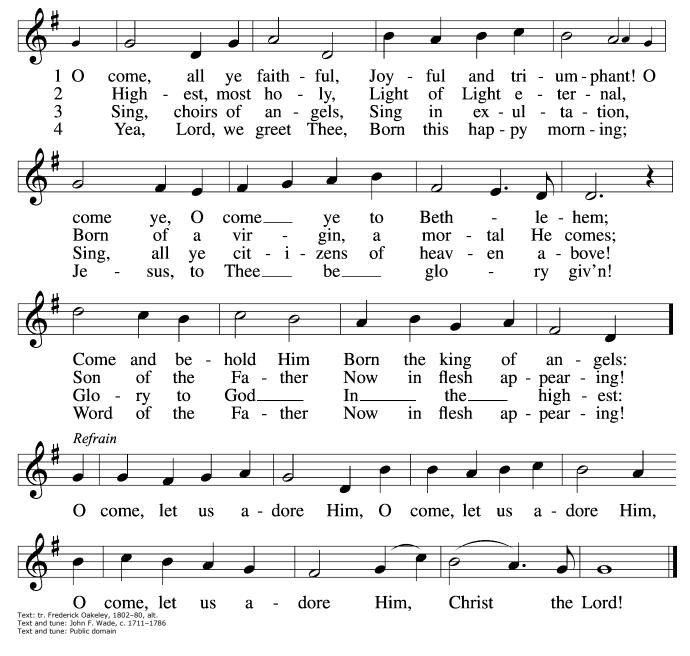
- **P** The Lord be with you
- **G** And with thy spirit.
- P Let us pray,

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

- C Amen.
- May He who by his Incarnation, gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
- C Amen.

**Congregational Hymn** 

"O Come All Ye Faithful" (LSB 379)



#### Postlude

String Quartet

+ + +

Our wholehearted thanks and blessings to our String Quartet (Christina Johnson, Laura O'Konski, Jordan Wright, Matthew Reffner), and our guest singers Beverly Westergren (Soprano) and Jay An (Bass) for joining us this morning.

## We're glad you chose to worship with us at this special service. Please join us as we continue to celebrate:

<u>Tuesday, December 31</u> (New Year's Eve) Worship with Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.

<u>Sunday, January 5</u> (Epiphany of Our Lord) Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 12 (Baptism of Our Lord) Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

## Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Barbara Pate
Organist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Caleb Rempe
Readers	Giulianna Vazquez
	Trevor Hassett
	Denise Canter
	George Bowers
	Megan Askew
	Greer Putnam
	Paul Swicord
	Barbara Pate
Ushers	Jim Lofgren
	Joe Godwin
AV Operators	St. John's AV Team
Welcome	Jan Swicord
Nursery	Anne Weikart
	Sydney Weikart

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

This weekend's **altar flowers** are given in honor of Steven J. Hassett. Beloved husband, father and grandfather.

**Acknowledgments** 

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