

December 24, 2025 2:00/4:00pm

Christmas Eve

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LSB 380, vv. 1, 3

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 host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" 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!"

Text: Public domain

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

On this most holy feast of Christmas, the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us approach His manger-throne in humility, confessing our need for this Savior that we may receive Him and the forgiveness He came to deliver for the life of the world.

Almighty God, You come among us because You love us and desire to forgive all our sins. We confess to You that we have sinned by what we have thought, what we have said, and what we have done. You have shown us Your love in Jesus, yet often we have failed to be an example to others of Your love. For these and all our sins we ask for Your forgiveness, in and through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Take heart, God is with us! The birth of Christ shows that God never abandoned His people in their sin, but He comes to save us today as our Immanuel. In Word and Sacrament, Christ is present to forgive us and assure us of eternal life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce the grace of God to you and in the place and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS "Angels We Have Heard on High" LSB 368, vv. 1, 3

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.

Come to Be
Him whose
Come, ador
Christ the L

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Father in heaven, You so loved the world that You sent Your Son to be born of a woman, that He might suffer death on a cross. Inspire us this holy night, that with Mary, we might treasure these things in our hearts, and with the shepherds we might fall on bended knee with wonder and praise before Your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC (2:00) "Prepare Him Room" Elliott and Fournier

SPECIAL MUSIC (4:00) "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" arr. Harry T. Burleigh

JOSEPH AND MARY JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LSB 361, vv. 1, 4

O little town of Bethlehem. O holy Child of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Descend to us, we pray:

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep Cast out our sin, and enter in,

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.

Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels

The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us,

Our Lord Immanuel!

JESUS IS BORN AND LAID IN A MANGER

Luke 2:6-7

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

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.

"Away in a Manger" LSB 364, vv. 1, 3 HYMN

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.

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: Public domain

ANGELS ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF A SAVIOR

Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all."

HYMN "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" LSB 358, vv. 1-3, 15

From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home; Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild; This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.

This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry; He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n! While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO FIND JESUS

Luke 2:15-16

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"

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379, v. 1

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:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

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

Text: Public domain

THE SHEPHERDS CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH

Luke 2:17-20

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTLES' CREED

HYMN "Go Tell It on the Mountain" LSB 388, v. 3

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born! Text: Public domain Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessèd Christmas morn. **Refrain**

SERMON "Timing is Everything" Pastor Snow

OFFERING

Musical Offering (2:00) "Light of the World" Bergthold and Cash

Musical Offering (4:00) "How Many Kings" Germain and Martel

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Sung Response)

We come before our God in the name of the Christ-child of Bethlehem to pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus, we pray this night as we celebrate Your birth that You would look upon Your people throughout this world and bless us with the peace You came into this world to give.

(Sung Response) O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!



Heavenly Father, You sent Your only Son into this world that we might know how much You love each of us. Lord, our world is filled with people who are abandoned and lonely. Move us and use us to be instruments of Your grace and mercy to those who are often forgotten. Bless this night those who are less mobile and all who are sick and hurting. Help them to see in us Your great love and Your desire to bless their lives.

(Sung Response) O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Gracious Father, bless our congregation that we may be bold in our witness to the Christ Child. Enable us to celebrate this holiday season with family and friends in peace and joy. May the songs of our lives spread the story of Jesus to all we know and may they be blessed through us.

(Sung Response) O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The God who came to you as a baby in a manger, now comes to you in bread and wine.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

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 is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PEACE OF THE LORD

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood. This we eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold to a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked to first speak with the pastor or an elder. For further readings in Scripture, we suggest Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

- · Communicants will receive elements in a continuous fashion.
- · If you would like the pastor to bring communion to you, please inform an usher anytime during the service.
- · Children of all ages may join their parents and receive a special blessing.
- · For those who desire it, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center ring of the tray of individual cups.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN "The First Noel"

The first Noel 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 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel

Born is the King of Israel Text: Public domain

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

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" LSB 367, vv. 1-2, 5 HYMN

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. Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, Evermore your voices raising To the_eternal Three in One. Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King. Text: Public domain

HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

LSB 363

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.

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!

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.

Text: Public domain

HYMN

"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 blessèd angels sing.

Text: Public domain

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. 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!

Please stand as you are able.

DISMISSAL

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, received as God's gift to you on this Christmas Eve, keep you strong in faith until life everlasting.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank You dear Lord, Creator of the heavens and earth, that You humbled Yourself to be born as a baby in Bethlehem, and to be present in this holy meal for the nourishment of our souls.

Amen.

THE CLOSING PRAYER (Sung)

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled. Within my heart, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for Thee. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Joy to the World" LSB 387, vv. 1-2

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room

And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Text: Public domain

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Pastor Snow Liturgist: Pastor Barry Pianist: Kristin Johnson Trumpet: Seth Vang

Baritone: Emma Johnson

Musicians: Julie Bruce, Jenny Erdmann, Judy Fuller, Madison McGlothlin,

Noelle and Paige Dolan, Scott Ewing, Kaylee and Ryan Koepsell

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes: 2:00 Levi Leaon/4:00 Nick Marella Elders: 2:00 Ben Wiegert/4:00 Lyle Hilk

Communion Assistants: 2:00 Paul DeRocher, Bruce Wolf, Pete Siedelman

4:00 Zac Lewis, Chris Hammons, Chris Mundahl

Usher Team: 2:00 Nathan Messer, Dick Schaefer, Jeff Rasmussen/

4:00 Andrew Tesch

Tech Crew: 2:00 Hunter Krueger, Nolan & Claire Buesgens/4:00 Jason Eickhoff

Welcome Team: 2:00 Matzke Family, Ben Peterson

Christmas and New Year's at St. John's

Christmas Day - December 25 9:30am (Worship with Communion) New Year's Eve - December 31 5:00pm (Worship with Communion)

Thank you to the following individuals and families who donated a poinsettia to decorate our Christmas services.

In Memory of:

Loved ones – Helen Anderson & family
Keith Anderson – Luanne Anderson
Our parents – Michael & Elizabeth Bennes
Family & friends – Lloyd & Pat Haack
Howard Johnson; Joe & Luella Bryant; Glen & Bertha Morgen – Chris, Jennifer, & Emma Johnson
Delmer Kloos; Donna Kloos; Jim Lanigan & Jeanne Lanigan – Dan & Linda Kloos
Dennis Lenzen & Jan Forner – Marilyn Lenzen & family
John Lenzen – McGlothlin family

Deb Wold – Chad & Misty Reisner Willard & Jean Schoen – Gretchen Smith & Chris Reis Glennice Shay – Gary Shay Karen Crane – Faith & Hope Vosika Loved ones – Brad & Carol Willmsen

In Thanksgiving for:

Our children, grandchildren, & the birth of our Savior, Jesus – Michael & Elizabeth Bennes
The Church renovation – Bill & Julie Crocker
Family – Gayle & Lois Degler
"The Word made flesh who dwelt for a while among us" – Pastor & Barb Holthus
Our family – Dan & Linda Kloos
Jesus' Birth – Debi Mahoney
St. John's, our Pastors, family & friends – Roland & Donna Olson
The birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord – The Siedelman family
The birth of Our Savior – Brad & Carol Willmsen

Those who participated are welcome to take a plant after the 10:45 am service on January 4. Extras will be available to anyone in the main commons on January 5.

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