

December 28, 2025 8:00/9:30/10:45am

First Sunday of Christmas

## WELCOME AND INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN

### "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

LSB 375



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descend-ing And in  
3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais-ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -  
love our race be - friend-ing; In our need His help ex -  
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
That Your love has set us free.

Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

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

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**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 You holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son 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.

**Amen.**

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS      “Angels We Have Heard on High”      LSB 368

Angels we have heard on high,	Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,	Why your joyous strains prolong?
And the mountains in reply,	What the gladsome tidings be
Echoing their joyous strains. <b>Refrain</b>	Which inspire your heav’nly song? <b>Refrain</b>

### ***Refrain***

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. **Refrain**

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.

**Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Exodus 1:1-14**

These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

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

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ALLELUIA**

**(Tune: Angels From the Realms of Glory)**

Alleluia, Alleluia Born on earth our Savior, Lord

Alleluia, Alleluia God with us through journey's end.

Alleluia, Alleluia Jesus, Savior, Living Word.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 2:13-23**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."

And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **"Once He Came in Blessing"**

**LSB 333**

Once He came in blessing,  
All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us;  
Hope and freedom gave us.

Soon will come that hour  
When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor  
And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing  
Joy beyond comparing.

Now He gently leads us;  
With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven,  
Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish  
Souls that they may flourish.

Come, then, O Lord Jesus,  
From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing,  
That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You  
Till in heav'n we bless You.

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## **SERMON**

## **"No Longer Slaves"**

**Pastor Snow**

**HYMN                    “Let All Together Praise Our God”**

**LSB 389, vv. 1-2, 4-5**

Let all together praise our God  
Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav’n again  
To give us His own Son,  
To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne,  
Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.

He undertakes a great exchange,  
Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us His realm,  
His glory, and His name,  
His glory, and His name.

He is a servant, I a lord:  
How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child’s love!  
No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He.

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**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**“Angels from the Realms of Glory”**

**LSB 367, v. 5**

***Refrain***

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. **Refrain**

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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us go to our heavenly Father in prayer. For the church, that the news of Christ's birth among us would bring joy to many people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have not heard about Jesus' birth, about our Savior's willingness to be a servant of the Most High, or about their own salvation, that God would surround them with people of faith and the Gospel Good News, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the leaders of the nations, those who bear arms, and all who run toward harm to help those who need aid and rescue, that they stop at nothing to establish and maintain peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those near and dear to us... that God would alleviate suffering and pain, sadness and grief in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of our elder Brother and Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## BENEDICTION

### CLOSING HYMN

### "See amid the Winter's Snow"

LSB 373

See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years. **Refrain**

#### **Refrain**

Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this! **Refrain**

Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee  
In Thy sweet humility. **Refrain**

Lo, within a stable lies  
He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim. **Refrain**

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## **SENDING**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH ST. JOHN'S TODAY! If this is your first time at St. John's, we encourage you to fill out a CONNECTCard located on the Welcome Desk. We want an opportunity to get to know you.**

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Acolytes: 8:00 Kenley Sandvig/10:45 Kimberly Marella

Elders: 8:00 Pete Siedelman/9:30 Paul DeRocher/10:45 Michael Johnshoy

Usher Team: 8:00 Josh Kulzer/9:30 Brain Dahlke/10:45 Brad Willmsen

Welcome Team: 8:00 Gayle Degler, Gary Herber/9:30 Kim Wenz

Tech Crew: 8:00 Jason Eickhoff/9:30 and 10:45 Bennett McGlothlin

Coffee Hour: 9:30 Winston King-Ellison

## **CHRISTMAS BANNERS**

Angel Banner: Marion Michaels

Christmas Star: Joan Bode

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<b>UPCOMING WEEK</b>	
Monday, December 29	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Mary Martha Guild Yearbook Meeting 2:15pm
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	AA 7:00pm
Wednesday, December 31	New Year's Eve Service with Communion 5:00pm
Sunday, January 4	Worship with Communion 8:00/9:30/10:45am
	Meet the Pastor 9:00am
	Education Hour 9:30am

## **New Year's Eve at St. John's**

**December 31**

5:00 pm (Worship with Communion)

### **Celebrating Birthdays**

12/28

Elizabeth Barry

Richelle Dart

Sean Henderson

Henry Johnson

Carol Quanrud

12/29

Ajay Immanuel

12/30

Christine Matthis

12/30

Mitchell Pevestorf

12/31

Riley Olson

Bob Pagelkopf

Tammy Panning

1/1

Christopher Johnson

Angeline Rannow

1/2

Elijah Bates

Jacob Davenport

Logan Herrmann

Laura Kulish

Debi Mahoney

Ryan Reinke

1/3

Landon Messer

Chris Wolter

## **Celebrating Anniversaries**

12/29 David and Wendy Dare

12/29 Matt and Dana Lane

12/29 Bob and Jenni Swenson

12/31 Jeff and Jen Angell

12/31 Travis and Molly Woltmann

## **Expectant Moms**

Brenda Simpson

Izzy King

Nicole Stockey

Kourtney Vipond

Katelyn Olson

Amy Peterson

## **Prayers for Healing and Strength**

Matthew Swanson

Jon Thom

Joel Landskroener

Sandy Sprengeler

Holly Walters

Marilyn Lenzen

Jolene Berg

## **Ongoing Prayers**

Carol Affeldt

John Barney

Merlin Bentz

Jack Boman

Jimann Campbell

Julie Carver

Marguerite Craighead

Sunnie Deis

Anita Doss

Sid & Merna Fjelstad

Dennis Gaarder

Bernie Gnan

Ruth Harms

Eugene Henke

Carol Jones

Len Kallsen

Gretchen Laubach

Melinda Meuwissen

Gina Niesche

Steve Pond

Austin Rannow

Val Schlefsky

Cliff Waller

Ruth Ziegler

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