



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
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December 24, 2022

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Christmas Eve Celebration Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

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*‘Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live,
Learn, Share, and Serve’*

*‘Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience
of Christian faith in our community, to all
generations, wherever they may be’*

7:00 - Candlelight

Preparation

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

“Joy to the World” *LSB 387*

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Invocation

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

G Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

Hebrews 9:26

P As we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth, let us also remember the reason Jesus was born: "He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put

away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” He has come to bring peace, yet not always in ways we can see in this world. He has come to bring hope, yet not always in ways we can see in ourselves in our thoughts, words, and actions. He has come to bring love expressed in the forgiveness of sins and peace with our Father in heaven.

C We confess that we have sinned against God and against one another. We yearn for peace with God and reconciliation with one another, yet we cannot accomplish it ourselves. Forgive us, Lord, and restore our souls, that our lives would not reflect our sin, but the joy of the birth of Your only Son into the world.

A time of silent reflection

P Jesus – Savior. Immanuel – God with us. What we are powerless to do, He has done for us. Know the peace He has come to bring; live it with others and share it with all. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our ✠ Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Psalm 89

P I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

C with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

P For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;

C in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

P You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

C I have sworn to David my servant:

P I will establish your offspring forever,

C and build your throne for all generations.”

P Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,

C your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

P For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?

C Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,

P a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,

C and awesome above all who are around him?

P O Lord God of hosts,

C **who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you? Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray together...

C **O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³ You 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.⁴ For 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.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Christmas Eve Verse

- P** To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
- C** **and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**
- P** And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
- C** **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
- P** Sing to the Lord a new song,
- C** **for He has done marvelous things!**
- P** She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.
- C** **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ 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. ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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!”

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ And they went with

haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And

when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them

concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the

shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering

them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God

for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Message Song

“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 host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” **Refrain**

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,

Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the_incarnate Deity!

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

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. **Refrain**

Message

“Glory of the Lord”

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



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

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.

Carol for Candlelighting

"Silent 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.

Blessing

- ☐ 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.

☑ Amen.

Closing Song

“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

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
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 **Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

Then entered in Those Wise Men three,
Full reverently Upon their knee,
And offer’d there In His presence,
Their gold and myrrh And frankincense. **Refrain**