



St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
2888 W Houghton
Lake Dr
Houghton Lake, MI
48629
989-366-5164
www.stjohnhl.com
office@stjohnhl.com



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 tonight and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Tonight's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service and be sure to fill out the communion card located in your pew.

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

May God bless your worship with us,

Paul Kruse, Pastor

***'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'*

9:00 - Candlelight

Preparation

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” *LSB 379*

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: **Refrain**

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

Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: **Refrain**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C 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?**
C **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.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Christmas Eve Verse

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

G **and the government shall be upon His shoulder.**

P And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

G **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P Sing to the Lord a new song,

G **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.

G **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

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

G **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.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Song

“Angels We Have Heard on High” *LSB 368*

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. **Refrain**

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? **Refrain**

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. **Refrain**
Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French
Text: Public domain

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.



Offering Song - Sung

LSB 192

- ☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Nicene Creed

- ☐ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Sacrament

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and proper ... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name.

Holy, Holy, Holy *(Sung)*

LSB 195

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.
- C** **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*

2. *Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
3. *Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
4. *Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
5. *Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
6. *Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.

If you prefer to receive a gluten-free wafer for communion, please place your hand over your heart as you kneel



Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the tray for those members who prefer it due to matters of health or conscience.



Communion Song

"Away in a Manger" LSB 364

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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

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 (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt. Text: Public domain

"Adore" (Praise Team)

You stepped down from heaven. Humbly You came.
God of all creation Here with us.
In a starlit manger, Emmanuel, Light of the world here to save.

Adore, come let us adore,

O come let us adore Him!
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.

Wise men bring their treasures, shepherds bow low,
Angel voices sing of peace on earth.
What have I to offer to heaven's King?
I will bring my life, my love, my all.

Adore, come let us adore,
O come let us adore Him!
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.

Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King.
Peace on earth here with us, joy awakening.
At Your feet, we fall.
Angels sing, praises ring to the newborn King.
Peace on earth here with us, joy awakening.
At Your feet, we fall.

Adore, come let us adore,
O come let us adore Him!
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord. Let all that is within us adore.

CCLI Song # 7050417 Graham Kendrick | Martin Chalk For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 2801469

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

- 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.

G Amen.

Closing Song

“What Child is This?”

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 of high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!



Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Songs performed by the St. John Praise Team are printed under the authority of **CCLI License #2801469**