



## St. John Lutheran Church

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5:00 - Contemporary



***December 27, 2025***

# Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Contemporary Worship 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.

Today'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 .

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

E-mail: [paul@stjohnhl.com](mailto:paul@stjohnhl.com)

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***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Joyfully 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'*

**First Sunday after Christmas**

**Preludes**

**"Manger Throne"**

You could have stepped into creation  
With fire for all to see  
Brought every tribe and nation to their knees  
Arriving with the host of heaven  
In royal robe and crown  
The rulers of the earth all bowing down  
But You chose meekness over majesty  
Wrapped Your power in humanity  
Glory be to You alone  
King who reigns from a manger throne  
My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne  
You could have marched in all Your glory  
Into the heart of Rome  
Showed them splendor like they'd never known  
But You wrote a better story  
In humble Bethlehem  
Creator in the arms of common men  
You will die for our redemption  
And You'll rise so we can live  
Glory be to You alone  
King who reigns from a manger throne  
My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

From heaven to the cradle From cradle to the cross  
Let heaven and nature sing This is our King  
But the grave couldn't hold Him  
Our God has overcome Let heaven and nature sing  
This is our King

From heaven to the cradle From cradle to the cross  
Let heaven and nature sing This is our King  
But the grave couldn't hold Him  
Our God has overcome Let heaven and nature sing  
This is our King

All hail the King All hail the King All hail the King

Glory be to You alone  
King who reigns from a manger throne  
My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne  
My life my praise everything I own  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne  
To Jesus the King on a manger throne

Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham, Tony Wood CCLI Song #7226106  
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## **Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship**

### **Opening Song**

### **“Way Maker”**

You are here, moving in our midst; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are here, working in this place; I worship You, I worship You.

You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.

You are here, touching ev'ry heart; I worship You, I worship You.  
You are here, healing ev'ry heart; I worship You, I worship You.

You are here, turning lives around; I worship You, I worship You.

You are here, mending ev'ry heart; I worship You, I worship You.

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are. That is who You are.  
That is who You are. That is who You are. That is who You are.

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.

Even when I don't see it, You're working. Even when I don't feel it, You're working.  
You never stop, You never stop working. You never stop, You never stop working.  
Even when I don't see it, You're working. Even when I don't feel it, You're working.  
You never stop, You never stop working. You never stop, You never stop working.

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are. That is who You are.  
That is who You are. That is who You are. That is who You are.

Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,  
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are.  
That is who You are. That is who You are.  
That is who You are. That is who You are.

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## **Confession and Forgiveness**

### **Song of Praise**

### **“Evidence”**

All throughout my history, Your faithfulness has walked beside me.  
The winter storms made way for spring. In every season, from where I'm standing  
I see the evidence of Your goodness all over my life, all over my life  
I see Your promises in fulfillment all over my life, all over my life.

Help me remember when I'm weak, fear may come but fear will leave.  
You lead my heart to victory. You are my strength and You always will be.  
I see the evidence of Your goodness all over my life, all over my life  
I see Your promises in fulfillment all over my life, all over my life.

See the cross the empty grave; the evidence is endless.  
All my sin rolled away because of You oh Jesus.  
See the cross the empty grave; the evidence is endless.  
All my sin rolled away because of You, oh, Jesus, oh.

I see the evidence of Your goodness all over my life, all over my life  
I see Your promises in fulfillment all over my life, all over my life, yeah.  
I see the evidence of Your goodness all over my life, all over my life  
I see Your promises in fulfillment all over my life, all over my life.

Why should I fear? The evidence is here.  
Why should I fear? Oh, the evidence is here.

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## First Reading

Jeremiah 31:15-17

<sup>15</sup> Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy."<sup>17</sup> There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

Mark 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup> Now when they 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."<sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup> 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."<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup> "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." <sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> 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." <sup>21</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Children's Message

### Message Song

### "Jesus Does"

Who tells the sun to rise every morning  
Colors the sky with the shades of His glory  
Wakes us with mercy and love Jesus does

Who holds the orphan comforts the widow  
Cries for injustice feels every sorrow  
Carries the pain of His children Jesus does

So we sing Praise to the Father who gave us the Son  
Praise to the Spirit who's living in us  
When I was a sinner He saved me from who I was  
'Cause that's what Jesus does

Who understands the heart of the sinner  
Showers His grace over all our mistakes  
Washes us clean with His blood Jesus does

Who sings the song of sweet forgiveness  
Who stole the keys to hell and the grave  
Who has the power to save Jesus does

So we sing Praise to the Father who gave us the Son  
Praise to the Spirit who's living in us  
When I was a sinner He saved me from who I was  
'Cause that's what Jesus does

Oh what a Friend Oh what a Savior  
He's always been good He's always been faithful  
He came to my rescue When I needed Him most  
And saved my soul

So we sing Praise to the Father who gave us the Son  
Praise to the Spirit who's living in us  
When I was a sinner He saved me from who I was  
So we sing Praise to the Father who gave us the Son  
Praise to the Spirit who's living in us  
When I was a sinner He saved me from who I was  
That's what Jesus does

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## Message

## “How Can a Loving God...?”

## Offering

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



## Prayer of the Church

## 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.**

## Sacrament

### 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 week 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 present and received in, with, and under 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. Children and those who do not subscribe to these statements are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and should indicate this by keeping their hand folded.*



## Distribution Song

## “Behold”

Behold the King has come Divinity incarnate  
Creator of the world breathing our air  
Behold what light has come And the dark cannot contain it  
The Savior of the world is finally here

O come let us adore Him Come let us adore Him  
For He alone is worthy Christ the Lord

Behold the Father’s love Beyond all comprehension  
He gave His only Son to die in our place  
Go and see that empty tomb He’s not there for He is risen  
Every heart prepare Him room Jesus Christ the King of Heaven

O come let us adore Him Come let us adore Him  
For He alone is worthy Christ the Lord

We give You all the glory we give You all the glory  
We give You all the glory Christ the Lord  
We give You all the glory we give You all the glory  
We give You all the glory Christ the Lord

We praise Your name forever We praise Your name forever  
We praise Your name forever Christ the Lord

O come let us adore Him Come let us adore Him  
For He alone is worthy Christ the Lord

O come let us adore Him Come let us adore Him  
For He alone is worthy Christ the Lord  
Christ the Lord He is Christ the Lord

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## Blessing

- L** 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 T give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## **Sending Song**

## **"Hope Has a Name"**

Breaking through the silence With glory in the highest  
The hope of all creation Resting in his mother's arms

A song on the horizon Ringing through the heavens  
The long-awaited Savior  
Come to set the captives free  
Come to set the captives free  
Come set us free

Hope has a name Emmanuel  
The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness  
All hail the King Emmanuel  
The Light of the World The Glory of Heaven  
We didn't see it coming The story of redemption  
What started in a manger Ended in an empty grave  
Oh I know that

Hope has a name Emmanuel  
The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness  
All hail the King Emmanuel  
The Light of the World The Glory of Heaven  
Come if you're broken Come if you're searching  
If you need healing He's where you find it  
Lay down your burdens And breathe in forgiveness  
If you need freedom Yeah He's where you find it  
Oh if you need freedom Yeah He's where you find it  
Yeah He's where you find it oh

Hope has a name Emmanuel  
The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness  
All hail the King Emmanuel  
The Light of the World The Glory of Heaven  
Hope has a name Emmanuel

The Light of the World Who broke through the darkness  
All hail the King Emmanuel  
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