

St. John Lutheran Church

✠ CHRISTMAS EVE ✠

DECEMBER 24, 2023, 9:30 am & 3:00 pm

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declared that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.



Mystic Nativity, Sandro Botticelli, 1500

Welcome To Worship

Entering a church for the first time can be confusing and intimidating. We are so glad you've come.

Welcome! Here are a few things to know...

Bathrooms are located out the side doors. A handicap bathroom (with a changing table) is located across from the nursery. An usher can direct you.

Children are full participants in a life of faith at St. John, welcome to sing, pray, and take Holy Communion. Worship activity bags are in the entryway when kids need extra activity. The nursery is open but not staffed.



Holy Communion is celebrated at each worship service. The table is open to all who believe in the redeeming power of Christ's love. Ask the server if you need a gluten-free wafer.

Hearing Amplification

1. Connect to St. John Goes Wifi using password: welcome!
2. Download Listen Everywhere app.
3. Click either of the two channels to connect directly to the sound system.

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

If you are worshiping online, we are so glad you are here. You may find it helpful to prepare a worship space around you. Silence your phone. Light a candle and gather bread and wine (or juice).

Prelude

Musical Offering by Rae & Phil Espinoza (9:30 am)

“Welcome to Our World” - Chris Rice

Call to Worship

Presiding Minister: We come to the manger with joy and wonder.

Assembly: Jesus is born; this tiny, fragile baby.

PM: Glory to God in the highest heaven,

A: And peace to all God’s beloved creation!



✠ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ✠

PM: Blessed be the holy Trinity, (†) one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

A: Amen.

PM: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

PM: God of life,

A: You promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

PM: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In (†) Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

A: Amen.

Gathering
Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

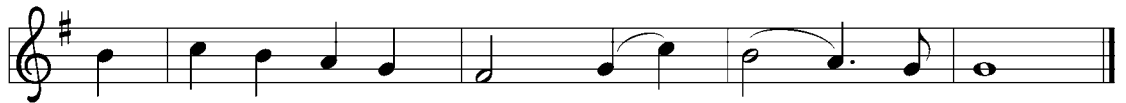


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Greeting

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

Lighting of the
Advent Wreath



One: (*light candle 1*) This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates God's promise.

Two: (*light candle 2*) This is the candle of love, and its light leads us in God's way.

Three: (*light candle 3*) This is the candle of joy, and it shows us God's healing and wholeness.

Four: (*light candle 4*) This is the candle of peace, and it proclaims Christ's coming reign of justice, when we will make war no more.

Five: (*light candle 5*) This is the Christ candle, and its light declares that he is here among us now. Thanks be to God.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Prayer of the Day

PM: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PM: Let us pray. God of mystery and grace, you came to us not in power and might, not with armies of angels or men, but as a vulnerable baby in an animal's stall. Teach us the transformative power of your loving and peaceful way, that we might work for your justice in the world.

A: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in Scripture, reading, preaching and song.

Psalm 146: 5-10

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
 whose hope is in the LORD their God,
⁶**who made heaven and earth,**
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
⁷who executes justice for the oppressed;
 who gives food to the hungry.
 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

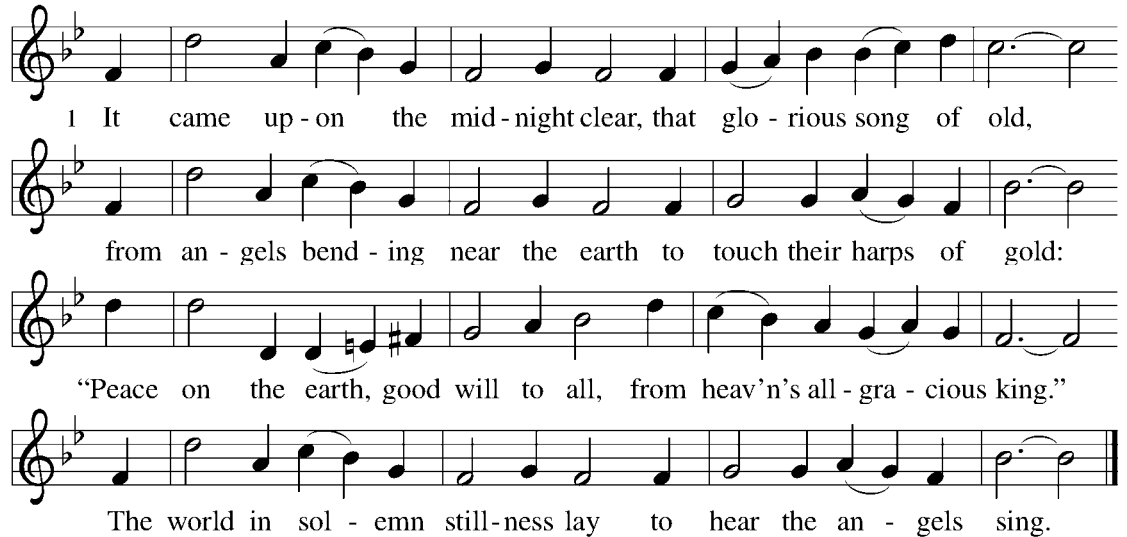
⁹The LORD watches over the strangers;
 he upholds the orphan and the widow,
 but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰**The LORD will reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

Gospel Acclamation

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

ELW #282 (vs 1)



Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Gospel Reading:

Luke 2:1-14

L: The holy gospel according to Luke.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Narrator: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

Angel: “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

Angel Choir: “**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!**”

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

A: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The Angel Choir is
spoken by the
congregation.*

Sermon
Pastor Lisa Lewton



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

**Affirmation of
Faith:
Christmas Eve**

**I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness can never smother it.**

**I believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem
There was born a savior,
Who is Christ the Lord.**

**I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood,
Yet full of grace and truth.**

**I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,
That is for the happiness of all people.**

**I believe in his name as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace;
Of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace,
There will be no end.
The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.
This I surely believe.**

The Sharing of the Peace

PM: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory Hymn



SCAN ME

To make an
electronic

What Child is This?

ELW #296 (verse 3)

3 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

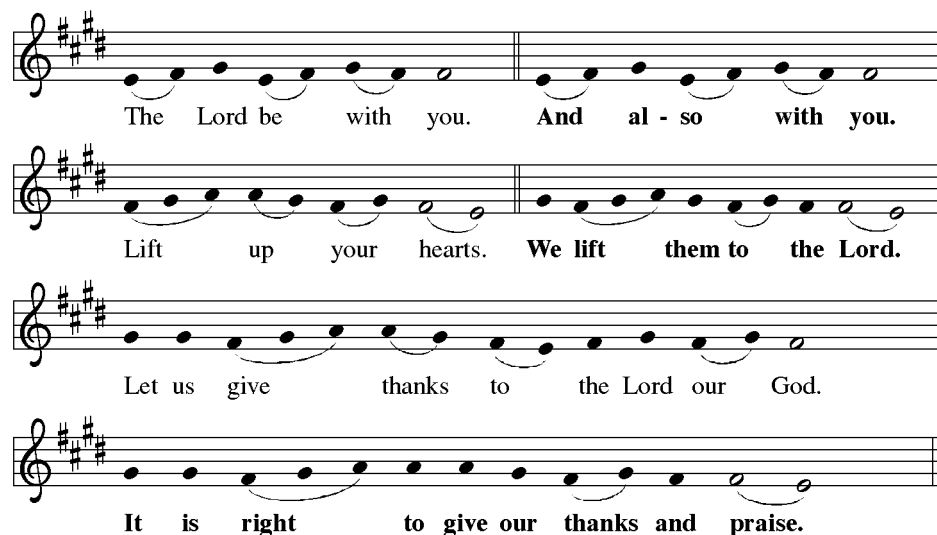
Offertory Prayer

AM: Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angles, and gather us at your table of
celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your
grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

A: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

*The communion liturgy
begins with the Great
Thanksgiving when,
together, we offer thanks
for God's saving acts.*



PM: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:



"We continue our thanksgiving by remembering especially what Jesus said and did when he ate with his friends before his death. We hear of his love for us—a love so great that he died on the cross. He gave his life so that we might receive his life."

Holy Communion Narrative for Children. 1989.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Distribution

Distribution Hymn



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



A: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The infant in the manger became our leader and teacher, and gave his life for the sake of all creation. He invites you now to this table, to share in the bread and wine that makes us one. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

Please extend your hands to receive the sacrament or fold your hands for a blessing.

Away in a Manger

ELW #277

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



Distribution Hymn



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW #279



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

**Distribution
Hymn**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

ELW #290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

**Post-Communion
Blessing**

PM: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

A: Amen.

**Post-Communion
Song**

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

ELW #271 (verse 1)



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;
1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959

Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863

Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

**Post-Communion
Prayer**

AM: Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

*Having been strengthened
with Jesus's body and
blood, we ask for help to
live fully as God's children.*

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

PM: The Lord whose love has broken into the day and the night, bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you with grace and mercy, look upon you with favor and (†) give you peace.

A: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW #267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Dismissal

AM: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

A: Thanks be to God.

*The assembly is sent out to
do the work that God has
entrusted to us.*

Postlude

You are free to leave during the Postlude or remain to enjoy the offering of music & praise.





Preaching Minister—Pastor Lisa Lewton
Presiding Minister—Ellie Papinea, seminary student

Organist—Barb Arneson

Assisting Minister—Molly Farstveet (9:30), Patrick Healy (3:00)

Deacon—Audrey McMacken, Hannah Wandler (9:30), Amanda Putala, Shelby Dvorak (3:00)

Ushers—Kaden Shafer, Brody Martinson, Joetta Percy, Ryan Lefor (9:30),
Lauren Healy, Milo Morris, Pam Morris, Guy Fridley (3:00)

Sacristans—Kris Brugamy, Chris Zander, Esther Larson

Projector Tech—Jackie Lefor (9:30), Tim Lantz (3:00)

Camera—Ethan McMacken (9:30), Jesse Kilwein (3:00)

Poinsettia Memorials

Memorial funds received will go to the ELCA Good Gifts program to purchase a water well and a family farm to assist families around the world for better health and sustainability. To make further contributions to this important ministry, visit www.stjohnelc.org/GIVE or leave your gift in the offering plate with a memo "ELCA Good Gifts".

In Honor or Memory of:

Our Parents & Loved Ones
Tim Johnson
Todd Pond; Charles & Marlene Hanson
My Parents
Wilbert Fischer
Dean Scott Krieg; Nancy Krieg; Harold "Satch" Krieg
Lloyd Schnaidt
Allan & Jane Paulson
Deb Janz
Nina & Verner Hansen; Vivian & Gilbert Jermanson
Joe J Wanner; Ole Sandvik; Joe J & Clara Wanner; Margie Galland
Ranae Hartman
Virginia & Don Smith; Marie & Eilert Fehr; Grandparents & Loved Ones
Pastor Lisa & her family
Math & Anne Koch
Tyler Kniepkamp
Del Gab
Floyd & Lorene Libis
Henry & Gladys Wamre
Peter & Gladys Kolling; James Kolling; Jamie Schwindt
Ole Sandvik
Robert Wheeler
Hazel & Russel Hjort
Marlene Stanley; Charles Meduna
Matthew Allen Kovash
Our Parents
Matthew Allen Kovash; Marlene Stanley; Charles Meduna
Robert Wheeler; Hazel & Russel Hjort
Olson & Gerbig families
Gene Skaare
Ryan Benz; Our Parents
Bernard Falkenstein
Reidar K Wangerud
Family & Friends
Loved Ones
Del Gab; Loved Ones
Al & Evelyn Hermann; Virgil & MaryAnna Myers

Given by:

W.D. Schuhrke & family
Dennis Johnson
Glenn & Heidi Hanson
Eileen Kopren
Bryan & Laurie Olson
The 5 Krieg Kids
Judy Schnaidt
Janette, Kathy, Rita & Andrew
David Janz
Dale & Glenice Hansen
Renae Wanner & family
Chris, Ryan & Tyler Hartman—& families
Kris & Alan Fehr
Lorie & Gene Johnson
Lisa Stoltz
Katie, Eddy, Marina & Avrie Kraft
Jeff, Vonda, Jonathan & Justine Gab
The Libis family
The Wamre family
The Kolling family
Ruth Sandvik
Marilyn Wheeler & family
Marcia & Mike Frank
Barry & Laura Meduna & family
Keith & Michelle Kovash family
Carl & Esther Larson
Peggy Fadness

Brian & Carma Gerbig
Phyllis Skaare & family
Richard, Elaine & Alecia Benz
The Enney family
Ruth J Wangerud
Rod & Renee Kostelecky
Cheryl Hewson
Joyce Gab
Jerry & Jodeen Myers family