

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Woodbury, Minnesota

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020 | 11:00 AM

ONLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020 | FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

## RINGING OF THE BELL | WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” [LSB 367], vs. 1, 2 & 5



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.



*Refrain*  
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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## INVOCATION | OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,

People: **a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.

People: **You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?**

Pastor: My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;

People: **my soul also, which You have redeemed.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS | ABSOLUTION

Pastor: People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

**People: Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

Pastor: God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

**People: Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 61:10–62:3*

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. <sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. <sup>2</sup> The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. <sup>3</sup> You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING

*Galatians 4:4–7*

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2:22–40*

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Jesus Presented in the Temple . . .** <sup>22</sup> When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: <sup>32</sup> a light for ...

revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”<sup>33</sup> The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,<sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,<sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.<sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.<sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” [LSB 374]



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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## SERMON

“Another Year in the Family” Galatians 4:4–7

## THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**ALL:** 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.

## GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

[online at <https://stjohnwoodbury.org/give> ~ or ~  
via U.S. mail to SJLC, 1975 St. Johns Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129]

## THE PRAYERS

Pastor: Lord in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

People: **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.**

## COMMUNION [in-person only]

### COMMUNION DISMISSAL

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

People: **Amen.**

## BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

## SEND—OFF PRAYER

ALL: Knowing that the time is drawing near, may I by Your Spirit's prompting, support the mission and ministry of my church with my personal witness, my earnest prayers and my sacrificial gifts. Grant that through me, many may be saved from the kingdom of darkness for the kingdom of Your Light, through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

"Let All Together Praise Our God" [LSB 389] vs. 1, 2, 5 & 7



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
5 He is a ser - vant, I a lord: How great a  
△ 7 Your grace in low - li - ness re - vealed, Lord Je - sus,



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
mys - ter - y! How strong the ten - der Christ Child's love! No  
we a - dore And praise to God the Fa - ther yield And



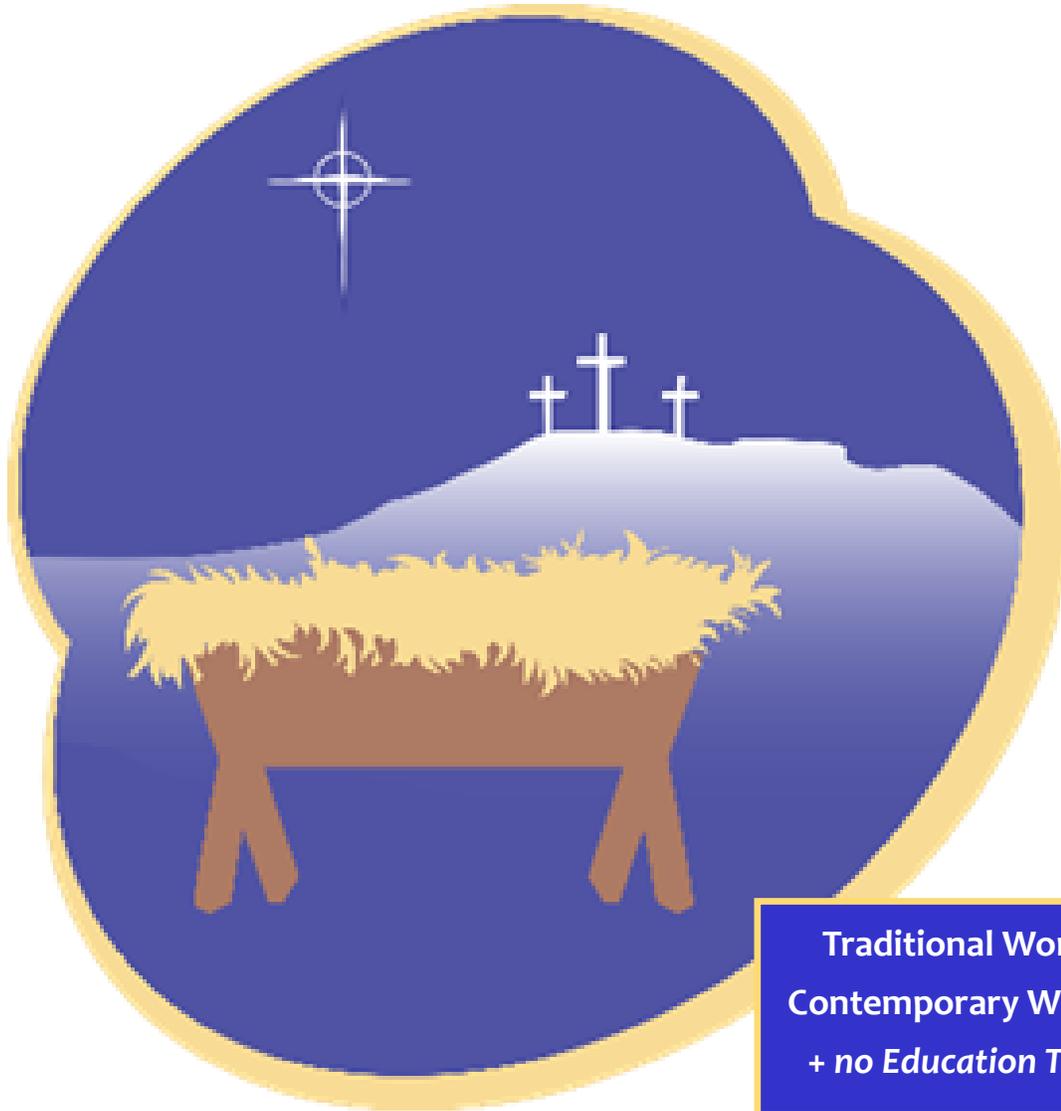
give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
tru - er friend than He, No tru - er friend than He.  
Spir - it ev - er - more; We praise You ev - er - more.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS | DISMISSAL

**Pastor:** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**People:** Thanks be to God.



Traditional Worship | 8:00 am  
Contemporary Worship | 10:30 am  
+ no Education Time this week +

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation