

CHRISTMAS EVE



Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve 2024 * 7 :00 PM

The Christmas Mass on the Nativity of our Lord 7pm December 24, 2024

A very merry Christmas to all who come to worship the Christ Child.

Our liturgy this evening is the special Eucharist from which comes the word Christmas. It is the Christ Mass, the incarnation of our Lord and Savior: in a manger in Bethlehem, in the Word of proclamation, in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and in our hearts as we take him into the world. Ancient scripture combine with candles, carols, and bright array to tell the story of the Christ Child's birth in the quiet of this special night. In the intimacy and lateness of the hour, we meditate by the manger, and in awe adore him as the infant God and King.

PRELUDE

The World Awaits Your Coming

St. John Choir

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God-with-us,

C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.

We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging.

Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.

Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

P: Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **C: Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn #283

4 verses

DIALOG FOR CHRISTMAS

P. Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God, you were before time began and came into the world to save us.

C. Blessed are you, Son of Righteousness, you shine with the Father's love and illuminate the whole universe.

P. Blessed are you, Son of Mary; born a child, you shared our humanity.

C. Let heaven and earth ring out their praise.

P. O Mystery of the Word made flesh, with all the voices of heaven, we celebrate your coming as our Savior.

C. Let men and women and angels sing of your glory.

P. O Splendor the Father's Light, with all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at your birth.

C. Praise and honor and glory to you, O Incarnate Word.

P: Today the Christ is born. Today has a Savior appeared. Today on earth angels are singing, archangels rejoicing. Today the righteous exult and say, Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Christmas Eve

L: For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting hope

L: For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace.

L: For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting joy

L: For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.

C: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

L: Tonight, we light all the candles as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The candles of hope, peace, love, and joy all remind us that Christ is our light and the source of eternal hope, everlasting peace, boundless love, and endless joy. The Christ candle reminds us that God's perfect gift was sent to us that we might have life abundant and everlasting. Joy to the world and peace on earth. Let us worship Christ, the newborn King.

CLOSING PRAYER

L: Gracious God, tonight as we gather together to conclude our Advent journey, we celebrate that a new light has dawned. A child is born and that child is our light and the source of our joy. He brings hope into the world, and the promise of peace on earth. He is love incarnate, love divine, and we thank you dear Lord for this, the most perfect gift imaginable. Joy to the world! Christ is born! **C: Amen**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this

L: The Word of the Lord... **C: Thanks be to God**

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn #270 3 verses

SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: The Word of the Lord.... **C: Thanks be to God**

HYMN

Away in a Manger

Hymn #277 3 verses

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

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, "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,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The Gospel of the Lord.... **C: Praise to You, O Christ**

ANTHEM

Child of Promise

Caleb and Caira

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn# 289 3 verses

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRIST MASS

P. I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

C. With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

P. To us you have brought abundant joy.

C. Before you we rejoice and sing.

P. Let us pray.

O God, to whom glory is sung in the highest while on earth peace is proclaimed to all people of goodwill, grant that goodwill to us, your servants. Cleanse us from all our sins, and give perpetual peace to us and to all people; through your mercy, O God, who blesses and governs all things, now and forever. **C. Amen**

P. Tomorrow the iniquity of the earth shall be blotted out.

C. And the Savior of the world shall reign over us.

P. The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

C. For those abiding in the land of death, a new splendor has appeared.

P: God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world.; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen

P. Today for our sake, the King of heaven is born of a virgin mother:

C. To reclaim the lost for the heavenly kingdom.

P. All the angels cry aloud with joy:

C. For God has come himself to save all humanity.

P. Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of heaven and earth

C: from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

OFFERING SONG

What Child Is This

Hymn #296 3 verses

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the music. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: And now as our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Love has come: God's love for all people.
Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen.

ANTHEM

Christmas Sanctus

St. John Choir



DISTRIBUTION OF THE LIGHT

*As the acolyte and pastor pass the light to worshipers along the center aisle, please pass the light to the person next to you.
For your safety....DO NOT TIP a lighted candle.*

Welcome!

St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the Pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the Pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the Pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.

LESSON OF LIGHT

John 1:1-5, 10-14

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

SILENT NIGHT *(all sing)*

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 your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at your birth. Jesus Lord, at your birth.

SONG OF SIMEON

Luke 2:29-32

P: Lord, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.

C: My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people:

P: a light for revelation to the nations and for the glory of your people Israel.

C: Glory 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.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us pray. Almighty God and Father of light, a child is born for us and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder and light at the nearness of our God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of the dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace; who lives and reigns forever and ever.

C. Amen

BLESSING

The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C: Amen.

All may extinguish their candles.

CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Hymn # 290 3 verses

DISMISSAL

P: Christ is born!

Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours, and
may the coming year be filled with happiness.
Merry Christmas from Pastor Shawn, the Staff
and Family of St. John.



*We thank everyone who shared poinsettias with the church
this Christmas in memory or in honor of your loved ones.*

*You may pick up your plant following the
Christmas Eve Services or the office will be open on
Thursday, December 26th from 9 am to 3 pm.*

Jane Phillips	Grace and Arnold Johnson
Fred and Melissa Lammers	Norman Lammers
Fred and Melissa Lammers	Dave Lammers
Jack and Jill Mathews	Kate and Larry Hoenbrink
Jack and Jill Mathews	Mary and Charlie Mathews
Donna Mathews	Charles and Mary Mathews
Gary and LisaAnne Gregg	Son-Robert "Bobby" Begell
Gary and LisaAnne Gregg	Rosella Fleitz
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock	Ralph and Edna Sandrock
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock	Emory Lasseter
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock	Frederick and Karen Sandrock
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock	Jennifer Johnson
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock	Rob and Clara Lasseter
Allen & Judy Yockey	In honor of our family
JoElaine Schimming	Kenneth Schimming
Victoria Kiss and Nate Miller	Janet Miller
Victoria Kiss and Nate Miller	Richard Kiss, Jr.
Margaret Berger	Don Berger
Margaret Berger	Tim Berger
	In Honor of our Grandchildren-Emily, Lainey, Hadley and Colton
Dave and Vicki Huber	
Linda Schlievert	Clarence and Helen Schlievert
Tom Siglar	Dad, Tom Siglar and Grandparents
Ashley and Hailey Hodulik	Loved Ones
Dave and Jennie Hodulik	Loved Ones
Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer	Our parents
Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer	Our Sisters
Beth Johnson	Loved Ones
Mary Harmeyer	Loved Ones
Bernie Blausey	Marjorie Blausey
Bernie Blausey	Loved Ones

Fredericksen Family	Paul Fredricksen, Sr
Fredericksen Family	Joe and Laura Vincent
Doris Titgemeyer	My parents
Doris Titgemeyer	Carl Titgemeyer
Chuck and Jeri Permar	Joe, Norma and Joe Rensch & Robert Permar
Duane and Tami Tailford	Loved Ones
Al and Traci Brown	Dilly Schimming and Grandparents
Dave, Kris, Kurtis and Aubrey Lee	Dilly Schimming, RayLee, Grandparents
Jim Schimming	Dilly Schimming
Richard and Shirley Crosskill	Our Grandparents
Rick and Lori Buhrow	Dick Buhrow
Rick and Lori Buhrow	Our Grandparents
Larry and Nancy Strohscher	Loved Ones
Jane Phillips	Richard Phillips
Dave and Deanna Neuman	Howard Neuman
Dave and Deanna Neuman	Virginia Webb
Dave and Deanna Neuman	George Webb
Lenore Harmeyer	Loved Ones
Lenore Harmeyer	Loved Ones
Denny and RoseMarie Dickenson	Robert Bench
Elaine Gruetter	Lawrence Gruetter
Lee and Debbie Wehner	Ray and Lois Wehner
Lee and Debbie Wehner	Ollie and Mary Ann Gruben
Carole Beamer	Dan Beamer
Paul Beamer	Helen Schlievert
Paul Beamer	Dan Beamer
Dave Gilbert	In Honor of the birth of our Great Granddaughter, Evie born 11-8-24
Jon and Valerie Baumbach	John, Norma and Joe Rensch
Jon and Valerie Baumbach	Richard and Rosalie Baumbach
Karolyn Jansen	Dean Fondessy
Karolyn Jansen	Emerson and Marilyn Fondessy
Kelly Matwiejczyk	George Gerkenmeyer
Bob and Diane Kapp	In Honor of our Grandkids
Bob and Diane Kapp	Wade and Audrey Wolf
Bob and Diane Kapp	Dick Armstrong
Bob and Diane Kapp	Earl, Arnold and Grace Johnson
Jerry and Beckie Goldstein & Family	Megan Elizabeth and Arica Grace Goldstein
Jerry and Beckie Goldstein & Family	Richard Harmeyer