

The  
light  
shines  
in the  
darkness

AND THE DARKNESS  
DID NOT OVERTAKE IT.

JOHN 1:5, NRSV

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church  
Sunday, January 5, 2025 \* 9:45 am

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*Second Sunday of Christmas*  
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*January 5, 2025*  
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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

### **CONFESSION AND FOREGIVENESS**

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

**C: Amen.**

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.**

### **GATHERING HYMN**

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Hymn #275

4 verses

### **GREETING and KYRIE**

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

**C: And also with you.**

# KYRIE

*(Tune of Come Thou Long Expected Jesus)*

**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 100$

Lord, have mer - cy on your peo - ple,  
Christ have mer - cy on us.  
Shine your light in to our dark ness,  
Fill us with your ho - ly love.  
Be our strength in times of trou - ble,  
Set us free from chains that bind.  
Breathe new life in to our spir - its.  
Pur - i - fy our hearts and minds.

# GLORY TO GOD *(Tune of Angels We Have Heard on High)*



Glo-ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a  
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shine on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -  
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



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

P: The Lord Be With You. **C: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

## **SECOND READING**

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were

the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John

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

## GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

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. What has come 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.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 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 or 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 a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

**HYMN**

Once in Royal David's City

Hymn # 269

4 verses

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P:** God of Grace,

**C:** receive our prayer.


## OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.**


### What Child is This (for Advent)

E Minor:    Em    D    G            D                            B<sup>7</sup>    Em            Am/C



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

B                    Em            D    G            D                            B<sup>7</sup>




here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Em            Am    B            Em                    Bm    G




Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this is

D                    B<sup>7</sup>    Em            Am/C            B



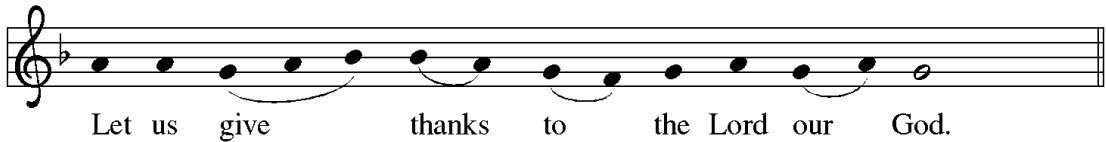
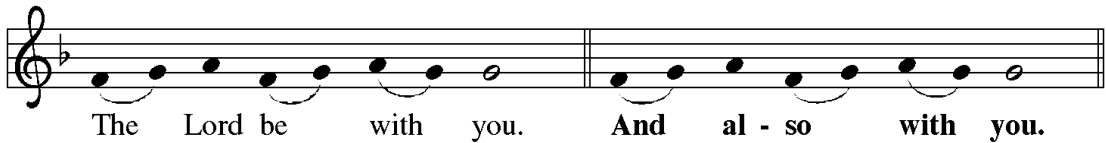
Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

Bm    G            D                    B<sup>7</sup>    Em    Am    B            Em (or E Major)



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.





P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



# Holy, Holy, Holy

(tune of Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

**Piano** ♩ = 90

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 90. The score consists of four lines of music, each with a measure number above it. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line (measures 1-4) contains the lyrics: 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lo - rd, God of Pow er, God of Might.' The second line (measures 5-8) contains: 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One - God of mer - cy, God of light.' The third line (measures 9-12) contains: 'Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The fourth line (measures 13-16) contains: 'Bless - ed is the One who comes, Bless - ed in the name of God.'

1 2 3 4  
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lo - rd, God of Pow er, God of Might.

5 6 7 8  
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One - God of mer - cy, God of light.

9 10 11 12  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

13 14 15 16  
Bless - ed is the One who comes, Bless - ed in the name of God.

## THE 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: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All: 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**

### Lamb of God

*(Tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give\_ us your



peace. Pre -pare us to re - ceive\_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-



joice! Re-joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra-el.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

### ***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.

## TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

## POST COMMUNION SONG

*(tune of Away in a Manger)*



1. Lord, now in your mer - cy, your ser - vants re - lease. As your word has  
2. A light to the Gen - tiles, by whom they now see, the glo - ry of



pro - mised, oh, grant us your peace. Our eyes your sal - va - tion and  
Is - rael, the Pro - mised One be, who lives now and ev - er, the



mer - cy be - hold, pre - pared for the na - tions as pro - phets fore - told.  
hea - ven's bright Son, with Fa - ther and Spir - it, e - ter - nal - ly one.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Merciful God,

**C: 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. Amen.**

## BLESSING

P: 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.**

## SENDING SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Hymn # 288

3 verses

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE