
Welcome to worship with

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD)

901 W. Jefferson Avenue Effingham, IL 62401

Phone: 217/342-4334 Fax: 217/342-6599 office@stjohnsLCMS.net

Our Preschool: Eaglesnestpreschool.com Preschool E-mail eaglesnesteffingham@gmail.com

Services: 4:00 & 5:30 pm Saturday 8:00 & 10:30am Sunday

Christian Education Sun. 9:15 am Sundays

"A Fellowship of Hope, Teaching, Serving, and Proclaiming"

Mike Burdick, Sr. Pastor Gary Fortkamp, Visitation Pastor Sandy Esker, Preschool Director

Welcome!

Most of us have heard the old carol "O Holy Night," but sometimes we forget that none of us makes this night holy. The Lord makes this night holy, and He needs no help from us. What He does require of us is that we listen to the familiar story, that we believe its truth and promise, and that we live in reflection of what God has done to save us, tonight and every day of the year. We cannot make this night holy, but we can keep it holy with faith that kneels at the manger, heads bowed in prayer and adoration, and voices raised in a joyful song of thanksgiving and praise. Welcome to worship.

When Lighting Candles, please be very cautious...

- **Only tip an unlit candle.**
- **Always be aware of candle wax.**
- **Keep as long a distance as possible when sharing the light with others.**
- **Gently extinguish candles and keep them upright until completely cool.**

Please turn your cell phones off before the service begins.

Offerings and Attendance Cards can be placed in the boxes at the doors.

Holy Communion

When the members of St. John's Lutheran Church, (LCMS) celebrate the Lord's Supper we confess the Real Presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. (*1 Cor 10:16 & 1 Cor 11:23-26*) We believe that Christ's Body and Blood are present "*in, with and under*" elements of the Holy Supper. (*Luther's Small Catechism*) Members should register their intent to commune on the pew card. If you are visiting with us and you desire to join with us in communion fellowship in agreement with these beliefs, please speak to our Pastor or the elder on duty before the Service. Thank You.



THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve December 24, 2020

4:00pm, 6:30pm, 11:00pm

Prelude

Call to Worship Bells

Welcome

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.</p> <p>2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!</p> | <p>3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him,
still The dear Christ enters in.</p> <p>4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!</p> |
|--|--|

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Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(silence for reflection on our sin and God's holiness)

P: Almighty God,

C: **have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" *Refrain*

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarinate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

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Salutation and Collect of the Day

P Let us pray. O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth!

²Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

tell of his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

he is to be feared above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,

but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶Splendor and majesty are before him;

strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

¹³**before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world in righteousness,

and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Glory be 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.

Musical Offering

“All Earth Rejoice With A Gladsome Voice!”

(4:00pm & 6:30pm)

“Christmas Hallelujah”

(11:00pm)

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

412 The People That in Darkness Sat

sts. 1, 3–4, 6

1 The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

3 To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

Stand 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

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Luke 2:1–20

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

368 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Refrain

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Refrain

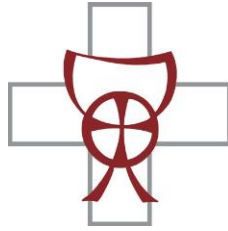
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Sermon

"Good News of Great Joy"

Prayer of the Church

*"...Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer!"*



Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

- *The Pastor will place the Communion host upon a paper plate in front of you, and you may pick it up to receive it.*
- *An Assistant will place an individual cup upon the plate in front of you, and you may pick it up to receive it.*
- *When dismissed from the Table, please dispose of the plate and the empty cup in the receptacle. Return to your seat, pray in thanksgiving, and sing God's praises!*

For those who are worshiping in the Fellowship Hall, a pastor and assistant will bring Holy Communion to you.

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
 Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 Ye who sang creation's story,
 Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and
 worship;
 Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
 Watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing,
 Yonder shines the Infant Light.
Refrain

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
 Brighter visions beam afar;
 Seek the great Desire of nations,
 Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One.
Refrain Text: Public domain

364 Away in a Manger

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Public domain

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

Text: Public domain

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



Candle Lighting: Please be very cautious...

- Only tip an unlit candle.
- Always be aware of candle wax.
- Keep as long a distance as possible when sharing the light with others.
- Gently extinguish candles and keep them upright until completely cool.

(Singing will begin when the candlelight has been shared among all worshipers, and the music swells.)

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

C **The Light no darkness can overcome!**

363 Silent Night, Holy Night

sts. 1–3

1 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.

2 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!

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

Text: Public domain

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P 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. **Amen.**



-- Carefully extinguish candles --

Postlude

Go in peace.
Join us again for worship:

9:00am Christmas Day
8:00am & 10:30am Sunday, December 27
6:30pm New Year's Eve
9:00am New Year's Day

Those Serving in Worship:

Pastors: Rev. Mike Burdick, Sr. Pastor; Rev. Gary Fortkamp, Visitation Pastor
Organists: Dana Keller, Jerry Starner, Jamie Lotz
Vocalists: Holly Bray, Bob Brinkopf, Amy Kohnert, Mancie Sims
Elders: Todd Zeigler, Chris Niebrugge, and Howard Janis

And thank you to all of the ushers, audio-visual technicians, communion assistants, altar guild servants and others who have helped coordinate our Christmas Services. Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS EAGLE

*--news and notes about our life together as the Church –
Welcome, guests and visitors!*

Thank you to all of the Sunday School students, teachers, musicians, A-V techs, and parents who made last weekend's Christmas Children's Services a reality in such a wonderful (but modified) way. Sunday School resumes on January 3 at 9:15am!

A LifeQuote: "In carols of Christmas, you'll sometimes hear more than gladness that the Child is born on Christmas. You'll hear of deliverance: 'Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth ...' There is much to ponder before, during, and after Christmas. Let the meaning of Christmas fill our hearts with anticipation, wonder, and thanksgiving for many days! For death's days are numbered because of a birth—the birth of the Key of David." *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Service Sign-Up: Be sure to sign up for ALL services. You can sign up online, or by calling the office.

It's not too late to join our "Today's Light" Bible reading program. Starting January 1 our congregation will be using "Today's Light" to read through the entire Bible over the next two years. If you haven't already signed up to have the journal sent to you at home, contact the Church office on Monday or Tuesday via email (office@stjohnsLCMS.net) or phone (217-342-4334). We have a few copies of the journal that we can give you. We start reading Isaiah 1 on January 1, 2021.

Did you know you can give your offering securely through our website? It's safe and easy. Go to www.stjohnsLCMS.net, click "Online Giving," and follow the directions. You may give a one-time gift or set up your recurring offering. You can also edit your recurring offering in light of your updated income. Thanks be to God, who has given us everything in grace.

Our next Food Pantry Distribution will be Tuesday, January 12, 2021 from 3:00-4:00pm. It is good to serve our neighbors with Christian love.

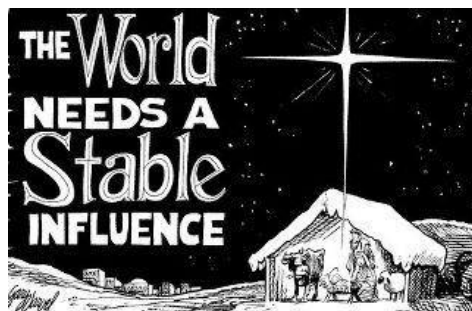
Offering Envelopes: Please be sure to pick up your 2021 offering envelopes. They are on tables in the Fellowship Hall. Be careful to maintain your distance while doing so. Thank you!

Our Prayer List includes: Irene Esch, Ilda Wendling, Craig Wolff, Mike McWhortor, Bob Miller, Don Tieffel, Greg Lankford, Ruth Gall, David Winter, Janet Brinkopf, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Marlene Bushue, Karen Dall, Delores Miller, Wayne Hoffman, Marlene Walker, Dwight Kelpzig, Rose Boggs, John Romero, Tim Mueller, Mary Wolfmeyer, Bertie Powell, Zach Fritcher, Evelyn Shumaker, and Gerald Pruemer. Plus, all members of the Armed Forces, including Ryan Budde, Paul Smith, Nathan Vail, Baileigh Longwell, Jason Mette, Gabriel Walker, Johnathon Schuette, Henry Bielenberg; and the first responders of our community and nation.

Bibles for our Chatelain and Baja Schools in Haiti: We already help feed the children a daily meal in these two schools. We want to provide each child a **Bible in their own language** so they can be fed truth and grace in Jesus for their soul! Our Evangelism Board is seeking to raise \$2,700. Your donations will be matched by another donor to meet the complete project cost of \$5,400. Praise God! To make a special donation to this project you may write your check to "St. John's Lutheran" with a memo for Trinity Hope BIBLES. Thank you.

Pro-Life Breakfast: Sun, Jan. 10th from 7:00AM-12:30PM. At Teutopolis Banquet Hall (Formerly known as the KC Hall), 210 S. Pearl. Drive-thru breakfast of Whole Hog Sausage & Eggs. Free Will Offering. Questions, text Susan at 217-663-2084. This is the primary fundraiser for Effingham Area Right to Life. If you are unable to attend, please consider sending a donation to: P. O. Box 861 Effingham, IL. 62401. Thank you for your support for all life!

Check out the Church Library. It's almost finished, and now includes a tv which streams the worship Service in the same way that the Atrium tv does. The Library can be an excellent place for a parent to take a child who needs some extra care temporarily during worship (remember: we love having infants and children in worship ... that's the only way we learn to worship!). The Library is located at the South end of the 5th Floor.



Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. Hebrews 1:1-2