

Welcome

To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the stranger, we extend our sincere greeting. If you are a visitor, please understand that you are our guest and we want you to feel welcome and comfortable. We are happy you chose to be with us in this service, and pray you have been blessed by our Lord today as He has blessed us by your presence.

Those Who Serve Us

Each Member of St. John's	A Minister
Rev. Mike Burdick.....	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp.....	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Sandy Esker	Preschool Director
Mrs. Dana Keller	Organist
Mrs. Holly Adams.....	Song Leader
St. John's Praise Band	10:30AM Music
Charlie Jansen, Hayden & Melia Wendling	Acolytes
Mr. Jeff Stremming.....	8AM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jake Wendling.....	10:30AM Elder on Duty
Mr. Jake Wendling 217-246-8667.....	Elder on Duty for Dec 28 – Jan. 1
Chatelain School & Baja School	Our Schools for feeding in Haiti
Mrs. Julie Scott	(217-343-3047) Prayer Partner Coordinator
State, National & International Missions	through our District and Synod

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.

Seeing Our Salvation

As We Gather

The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Jesus is brought by Mary and Joseph. In presenting Him there, they are affirming that He is dedicated to God as a firstborn son. But He is much more than a son—He is the Son.

In her classic hymn text, German hymnist Elisabeth Cruciger celebrates His coming as she writes, "The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers, By God the Father given, In human form appears. No sphere His light confining, No star so brightly shining As He, our Morning Star" (*LSB 402:1*).

Jesus is the One in whom we see our salvation, whose light guides our way through life, and whose presence enlightens our world. With joy, we worship Him!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

You will find the songs for our 10:30am Service in italics.

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen / We Three Kings”

Preservice #1

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day;
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.*

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*From God our heavenly Father
This blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.*

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to that perfect light.*

*Born a king on Bethlehem's plain;
Gold I bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.*

*O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to that perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Worship Him, God Most High.*

*O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to that perfect light.*

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen
God rest ye merry, gentlemen
God rest ye merry, gentlemen...*

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen / We Three Kings" Public Domain CCLI Song: 39441 CCLI License: 51072

“A Hallelujah Christmas”

Preservice #2

*I've heard about this baby boy
Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

*A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

*The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
You'll find Him in a manger bed
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

*A star shown bright up in the east
To Bethlehem, the wisemen three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

*I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

"A Hallelujah Christmas" music by Leonard Cohen, lyrics by Cloverton1984 Sony/ATV Songs LLC Scripture Reference: Matt 1:23, Matt 2:11, John 8:24, Gal 1:3-5, Col 1:13-14 CCLI Song: 551614 CCLI License: 51072

Bells / Call To Worship / Prelude

Welcome

333 Once He Came in Blessing

1 Once He came in blessing,
All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us;
Hope and freedom gave us.

2 Now He gently leads us;
With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven,
Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish
Souls that they may flourish.

3 Soon will come that hour
When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor
And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing
Joy beyond comparing.

4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing,
That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.

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"Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

Opening Song

*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 th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

*2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold him come,
Offspring of the favored one.
Veil'd in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail, th' incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

*3. Hail! The heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail! The Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

"Hark The Herald Angels Sing" written by Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn-BartholdyPublic DomainCCLI Song: 27738CCLI License: 51072

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Luke 2:30, 32; Psalm 71:19, 23

P Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,
C **a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!**

P Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.
C **You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?**

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

C **my soul also, which You have redeemed.**

Confession and Absolution

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

C **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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

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Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 111

L Praise the LORD!

C I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

L Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

C Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

L He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

C He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

L He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

C The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

- L He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!
- C The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**
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.

Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

sts. 1–2, 6–7

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Let all together praise our God
 Before His glorious throne;
 Today He opens heav’n again
 To give us His own Son,
 To give us His own Son.</p> | <p>6 He is the key and He the door
 To blessèd paradise;
 The angel bars the way no more.
 To God our praises rise,
 To God our praises rise.</p> |
| <p>2 He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne,
 Is born an infant small,
 And in a manger, poor and lone,
 Lies in a humble stall,
 Lies in a humble stall.</p> | <p><i>Stand 7</i> Your grace in lowliness revealed,
 Lord Jesus, we adore
 And praise to God the Father yield
 And Spirit evermore;
 We praise You evermore.</p> |

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Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel,

and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

392 God Loves Me Dearly

1 God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. *Refrain*

2 I was in slav'ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working
To make me free. *Refrain*

3 He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. *Refrain*

refrain Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

4 Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. *Refrain*

5 Now I will praise You,
O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You
All my life long. *Refrain*

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"Mary Did You Know"

Sermon Song

*Mary, did you know
that your baby boy will one day walk on water?*

*Mary, did you know
that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?*

*Did you know,
that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered,
will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know
that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?*

*Mary, did you know
your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?*

*Did you know,
that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby,
you've kissed the face of God.*

*The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb.*

*Mary, did you know
that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?*

*Mary, did you know
that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?*

*Did you know,
that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding, is the great I AM.*

"Mary Did You Know" written by Buddy Greene, Mark Lowry 1991, 1993 Word Music, LLC CCLI Song: 839225 CCLI License: 51072

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.

Sermon:

"The Good News!"

Luke 2:22-40

Prayer of the Church

P Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all who bear the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Light and our Salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of all, watch over our nation and grant Your divine favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of Illinois, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve all those in their care according to Your holy will, that we may live in peace and safety. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give a special measure of blessing to those with special needs. Especially we remember the sick, the shut-in, those dealing with depression, those who sorrow, and others known to us who at this time are in need of prayer

Help us to be people who bless, encourage, and strengthen all those in our circles of relationship and beyond. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Sovereign Lord, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors, including these who we name in our hearts.... Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven. Bless the communion we share on earth as we await the Supper of the Lamb in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

-- other petitions and praises may be offered --

P 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.

C Amen.

SACRAMENT

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 We give thanks to 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. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love that He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Distribution

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing: | 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son. |
| 2 "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth. | 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there. |
| 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free. | 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me. |
| 4 "He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share. | 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed! |
| 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made." | 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all. |

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Public domain

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

Communion Song

*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,
Heavenly 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 Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

"Silent Night" written by Franz Xaver Gruber, John Freeman Young, Joseph Mohr Public Domain Scripture Reference: Luke 2:1-20 CCLI Song: 27862 CCLI License: 51072

Communion Blessing

C 1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us, thereby, that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we continue in this fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom with You and the same Spirit be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all of God's people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you and keep you and give you peace.

C Amen.

387 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Public domain

“Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)”

Closing Song

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and Heaven and nature sing*

*Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy*

*Joy, Unspeakable joy
overflowing well no tongue can tell
Joy Unspeakable joy
Rises in my soul, never lets me go.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love*

*Joy, Unspeakable joy
overflowing well no tongue can tell
Joy Unspeakable joy
Rises in my soul, never lets me go.*

"Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)" written by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, George Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts, Matt Gilder Copyright: Sixsteps Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) CCLI Song: 5607039 CCLI License: 51072

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