

**Welcome!**

**St. John's  
Lutheran  
Church**

(LCMS)

901 W Jefferson  
Effingham, IL  
62401

**Office Hours**

8:00 - 11:30

12:30 – 4:00

217-342-4334

[office@stjohnsLCMS.net](mailto:office@stjohnsLCMS.net)

stjohnsLCMS.net

**Preschool**

**Website**

eaglesnestpreschool.com

**Preschool**

**E-mail**

[carrie.collier@stjohnsLCMS.net](mailto:carrie.collier@stjohnsLCMS.net)

**Christian**

**Education**

Sun. 9:15 am

**Services**

Sat. 5:30 pm

Sun. 8:00 am

Sun. 10:30 am

***Proclaim the  
Christ.***

***Grow the  
Family.***

***Love the  
Neighbor.***

**Pastor**

Mike Burdick

**Dec. 24, 2023**

Christmas Eve

# Christmas Eve

4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm December 24, 2023

## Welcome

We welcome you to God's Service in worship at St. John's, and extend a special welcome to all guests and visitors with us.

- Little Children's Worship bags are available in the Atrium.
- Restrooms are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> floors. Those on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors include diaper-changing stations.
- Visitors are not expected to bring an offering. Our members do so in free response to the Gospel and to finance the extension of God's Kingdom.
- **All worshipers are requested to complete an attendance card. They will be collected by the acolyte after the sermon. Thank you!**

### Those Who Serve Us

Rev. Mike Burdick..... Pastor  
Rev. Gary Fortkamp ..... Visitation Pastor  
Mrs. Carrie Collier..... Preschool Director  
Dana Keller, Ruth Bray, & Jamie Lotz ..... Organists  
Mrs. Linda Marxmann..... Bell Choir Director  
Ms. Holly Bray..... Choir Director  
Mr. Ben Burdick..... Soloist  
Kade Pennington, Josie Fritch, & Cloie Bailey ..... Acolytes  
Ray Hartman, Jim Schroeder, & Howard Janis ..... Elders on Duty  
Mr. Ray Hartman ..... Elder on Duty for Dec. 25 – Dec. 29  
Chatelain School & Baja School ..... Our Schools for feeding in Haiti  
Ms. Janet Martins ..... (773-463-0617) Stephen Ministry Leader  
Mrs. Julie Scott ..... (217-343-3047) Prayer Partner Coordinator  
State, National & International Missions ..... through our District and Synod

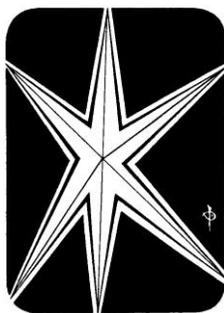


### Holy Communion

Welcome! 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. Please register your

intent to commune on the pew card after prayerfully reading it. 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.

# JESUS CHRIST IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



*Almighty God,  
grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh  
may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus  
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.*

## **Prelude**

## **Call to Worship**

## **Luke 1:26-33**

## **Hymn #361**

## **O Little Town of Bethlehem sts. 1-3**

- 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.
- 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!



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.

Text: Public domain

### Confession and Absolution

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

C **Amen.**

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C **those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake, grant us remission of all our sin; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that, by Your grace, we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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.  
**Amen!**

### Hymn #361

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!

Text: Public domain

### O Little Town of Bethlehem *st. 4*

## Prayer

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## READINGS

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 9:2–7*

<sup>2</sup> 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.  
<sup>3</sup> You 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.  
<sup>4</sup> For 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.  
<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> For 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.  
<sup>7</sup> Of 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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



<sup>1</sup>Oh sing to the LORD a new song;  
**sing to the LORD, all the earth!**

<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
**tell of his salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations,  
**his marvelous works among all the peoples!**

<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
**he is to be feared above all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
**but the LORD made the heavens.**

<sup>6</sup>Splendor and majesty are before him;  
**strength and beauty are in his sanctuary....**

<sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established;  
**it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
<sup>12</sup>**let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
<sup>13</sup>**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.**

### Musical Offerings

- "O Holy Night" *(Bell Choir at 4:00pm Service)*
- "See Amid the Winter Snow" *(Choir at 6:30pm Service)*
- "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is" *(Solo at 9:00pm Service)*

### Epistle

*Titus 2:11–14*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Responsory

*Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 9:6*

P She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,

**C To us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

P for He will save His people from their sins.

**C To us a child is born, to us a son is given.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C To us a child is born, to us a son is given.**



## Hymn #393

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

1 Infant holy,  
Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing,  
Little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging,  
Angels singing,  
Bells are ringing,  
Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping,  
Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory,  
Heard the story,  
Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing,  
Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing,  
Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.; PolishText: Public domain

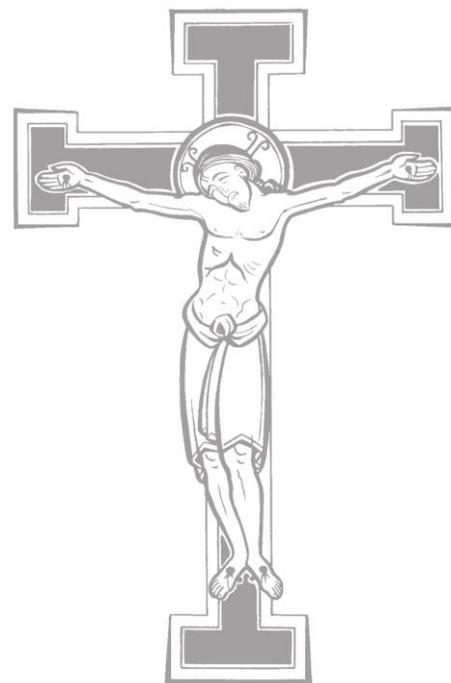
In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And 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.

**Hymn #370**

**What Child Is This**

- 1    What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
      On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
      Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
      While shepherds watch are keeping?  
      This, this is Christ the king,  
      Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
      Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
      The babe, the son of Mary!
- 2    Why lies He in such mean estate  
      Where ox and ass are feeding?  
      Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
      The silent Word is pleading.  
      Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
      The cross be borne for me, for you;  
      Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
      The babe, the son of Mary!
- 3    So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
      Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
      The King of kings salvation brings;  
      Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
      Raise, raise the song on high,  
      The virgin sings her lullaby;  
      Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
      The babe, the son of Mary!



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98    Text: Public domain

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

### Hymn #368

### Angels We Have Heard on High

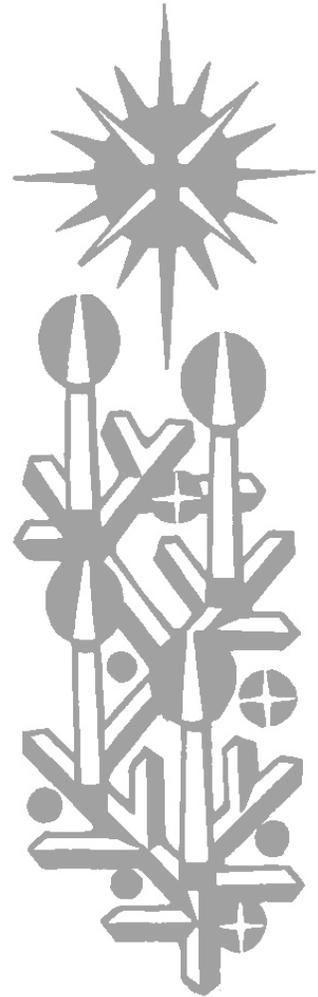
- 1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*
  
- ref* Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
  
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
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*

Text: Public domain

When 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." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- 1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known  
The kindness of the Lord,  
Eternal Word made flesh and bone  
So we could be restored.  
Upon our frail humanity  
God's finger chose to trace  
The fullness of His deity,  
The icon of His grace.
- 2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim,  
And Paradise was barred  
Until the second Adam came  
To mend what sin had marred.  
For when the time was full and right  
God sent His only Son;  
He came to us as life and light  
And our redemption won.
- 3 He came to that which was His own,  
But He was not received;  
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,  
And some His name believed.  
To these He gave the right to be  
The heirs of heav'n above,  
Born not of human ancestry  
But born of God in love.
- 4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell  
Among us here on earth  
As God with us, Emmanuel,  
To bring this holy birth.  
Though rich, You willingly became  
One with our poverty,  
That we might share Your wealth and name  
For all eternity!



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## Apostles' Creed

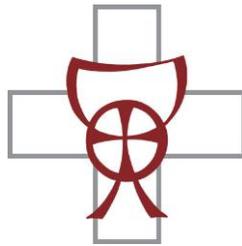
**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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.

## Prayer of the Church

### Offering, Preparation for Communion, and Collection of Pew Cards



### 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** Blessed are You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into time and space as You had promised and graciously enlightened us with the gift of faith. Gathered in the name of Jesus, we ask, O Lord, that You forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Gather us together with all Your saints on that day when we join them at the eternal banquet, which we anticipate in this foretaste of the feast to come. To You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be all praise and glory, now and forever.

**C** **Amen!**

## Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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

**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."

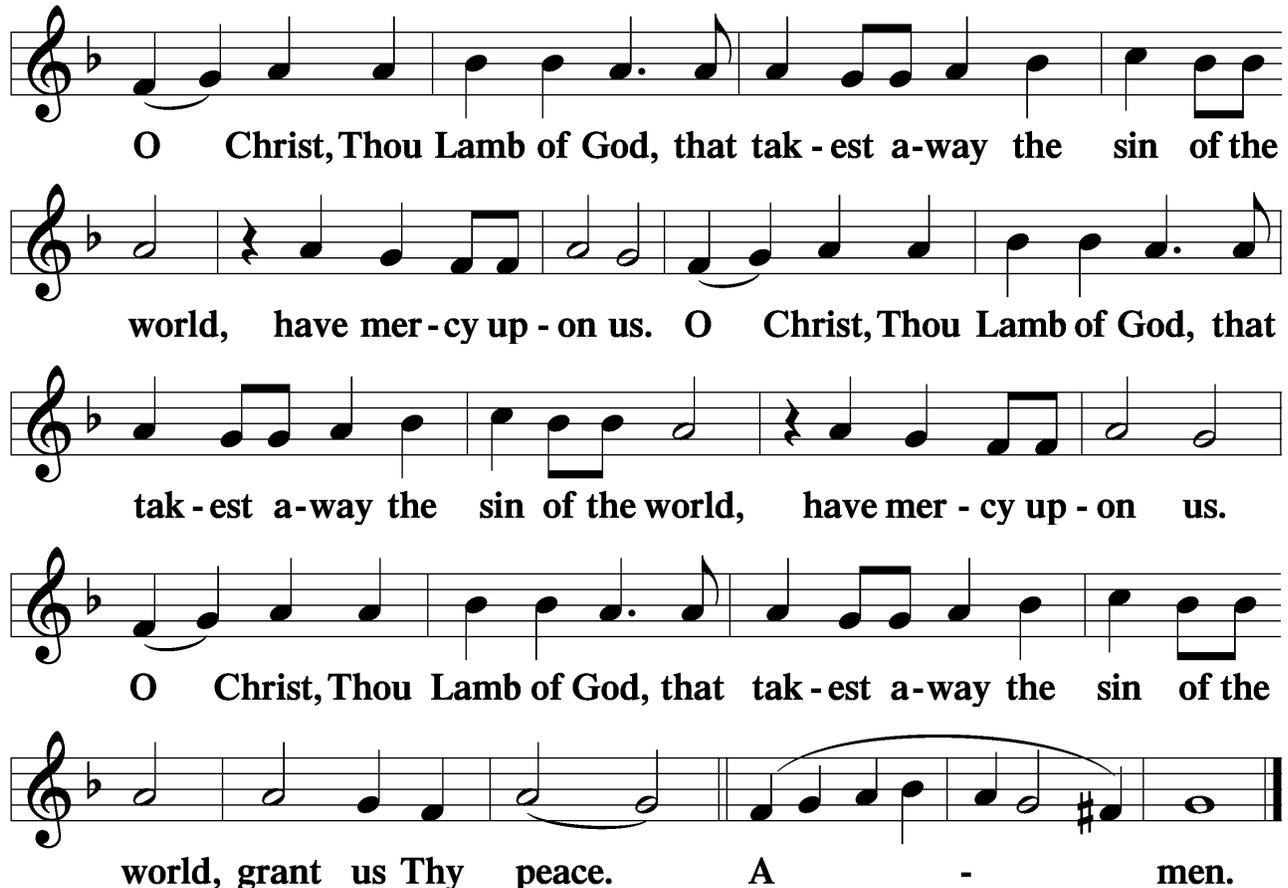
## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29 LSB 198*



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### Hymn #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*

*ref* 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 a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*
- 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*

### Hymn #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.

*(continued)*

- 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.

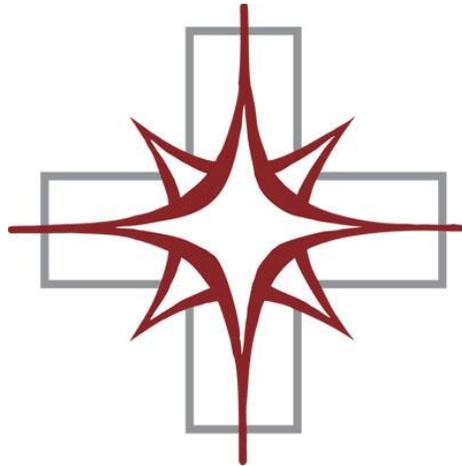
*Text: Public domain*

### Hymn #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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## Communion Blessing



### Christmas Gospel according to St. Matthew

*Matthew 1:18-25*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.  
C **The Light no darkness can overcome.**

## Candlelighting

*(Please hold lighted candles upright, dipping only unlit candles to the flame.)*

*The following is spoken repeatedly while the candlelight is shared:*

- P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.  
C **The Light no darkness can overcome.**

### Hymn #363

### Silent Night, Holy Night

*stanza 1 / stanza 1 German / stanza 2*

- 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.

- 1G Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

- 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!

### Prayer

- 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.**

**Closing Verse:** *verse 3 of "Silent Night"*

- 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.

*Silent Prayer*

**Benediction**

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.  
C **Amen.**



*(Carefully extinguish candles and **keep them upright.** Thank you.)*

**Postlude**

**Acknowledgments**

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# THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 24, 2023

## Christmas at St. John's

Christmas Day Service 9:00am

First Sunday of Christmas (Dec 30-31)  
5:30pm Saturday & 9:00am Sunday

New Year's Eve Service (Pastor Koschmann  
preaching) 5:30pm Sunday, December 31

***Come, Let Us Adore Him!***

## Prayer List

Frieda Simmons Louise Schaefer, Meredith Roderick, Marie Castillo, Dennis Genaust, Thad Genaust, Billy Genaust, Janet Ohnesorge, Rick Thompson, Becca Lading, Sara Bernhard, Heather Davis, & Fred Brillhart.

Men and women of the Armed Forces, including Austin Traub & Jon Perry.

## LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"This time of the year always fills us with cheer. But the reason we celebrate is not always clear. The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree. The carols, the decorations, the family parties. But all of the delight and all of the fun. Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son. The tiny baby that was born to die. Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why. Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own. And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown. So take joy in the season and spread His true love. But always remember the gift from above!"

*Jerrod Nelson A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

## Man Up!

32 men are studying the book Man Up! On January 7 at 7:00pm, we gather in the fellowship hall to discuss chapters 3 & 4. We have more books, and it's not too late to join. Contact Pastor Burdick, Greg Perry, Adam Bohnhoff, Jon Becker, or Isaac Galvan if you want to purchase the \$13 book. It's challenging and Christ-centered.

## **2024 Offering Envelopes**

Stop in the gym to pick up your envelopes.  
Your # has most likely changed!

## What do we believe and why?

The next series of Catechism Bible Study will begin Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00pm. Come review the faith. Come with a friend and introduce them to Jesus and the LCMS. Ten weeks. ***Come learn more of God's grace and truth!***

## Cemetery Improvements

The St. John's Cemetery Committee is glad to announce that our congregation has been making many improvements at our Cemetery. The Gateway has been repaired, a flagpole has been installed, and the flag and cemetery are illuminated.

Now we will add the best enhancement: a six-foot granite cross proclaiming "Christ is Risen." Through the interest earned in our congregational endowment fund, we already have \$4,000 of the estimated \$7,000 total cost of the granite cross. We would like you to know about this opportunity to give a special donation to the memorial fund for the cemetery cross. These gifts will be recorded in the Memorial Book located in the church atrium. Anonymous gifts are welcome, too. It is preferable that donations earmarked for the "Cemetery Cross" be received by the end of December.

Our desire is to glorify God and beautify the St. John's Cemetery, where the bodies of our Christian loved ones await the promised day of resurrection. Alleluia!

In Christ,

The Cemetery Committee

*Pastor Burdick, Judy Ziegler, Dave Budde, Alvin Siebert, Joe Budde, Dale Schagemann, Dave Althoff*

**CALENDAR-----December 25 – January 1**

<i>No Preschool</i>			
Monday	25	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship Service w/HC
			Office Closed
Tuesday	26		
Thursday	28	Noon	Golden Eagles
Friday	29		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	30	5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Sunday	31	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
		5:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Worship Service w/HC
Monday	1		NO New Year's Day Worship Service
			Office Closed

**Birthdays This Week**

- 12/26 Clifford Traub, Gene Koebele, Mitchell Haller, & Shannon Stuemke
- 12/27 Douglas Jackson & Dylan Kuhns
- 12/28 Dannie Braun
- 12/29 Andrew Knight, Angie Heuerman, Clayton Gregory, Phillip Knight, Tyler Devall & Zachary Pruemmer

**Anniversaries This Week**

- 12/27/75 Rev. Earl & Liz Brown
- 12/27/61 Topper & Sarah Woelfer
- 12/28/19 Jonathan & Sherrie Stremming
- 12/30/66 Chuck & Lorri Mayberry

Merry Christmas, my dear church family. The beauty of this holy festival is not temporary like the ways we decorate things. The beauty is eternal, for God became flesh to undo decay and give us His eternal righteousness. Jesus is born to clothe us with the goodness mankind enjoyed at the beginning. This is the great gift of the Nativity of our Lord. Nothing is better!

Looking back on this year, there were at least two vital decisions our congregation made: adopting a simple new Mission Statement, and celebrating the Lord's Supper more often. I thank every one of you who have volunteered to help prepare and serve Holy Communion. Your work is salutary, a real blessing. Thank you. If you're considering joining the ranks of those volunteers, please notify us in the church office in January. Again, thank you!

Our mission is simply stated, but profoundly important:

- Proclaim the Christ
- Grow the Family
- Love the Neighbor

It's a blessing to be in mission with you. Merry Christmas!

