

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

9:00 a.m. December 24, 2023



The Prelude

Leo Light a candle on the altar, now our worship shall begin; with a song let all here present, call the other children in.

The Processional Hymn

The Congregation and Children

Oh, Come, Little Children

1. Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all,
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small.
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.
2. He's born in a stable for you and for me;
Draw near by the bright, gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.
3. See Mary and Joseph, with love-beaming eyes,
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies;
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love,
While angels sing loud alleluias above.
4. Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

The Invocation and Opening Sentences

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

Congregation Amen.

Pastor The Lord has made known His Word. Alleluia!

Congregation The Word of His salvation. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor The Lord established His covenant forever;

Congregation He has sent redemption to His people:

Pastor Christ the Lord, our Savior, everlasting God and Mary's Son!

Congregation Oh, come, let us worship Him! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Greeting and Prayer

Avery We greet you all! We're glad you came. We welcome you in Jesus' name. We join with Christians everywhere who, at this time, their hearts prepare to mark the birthday of God's Son and know the reason He has come. So listen to the things we say, and kindly join us when we pray. And when we come upon a song in which you are to sing along, let every heart and voice unite with angels 'round the throne of light.

**Congregation May God the Father, Son, and Spirit
Grant faith that we may life inherit. Amen.**

Candles of Prophecy

Allie From the first book of the Bible to the last, we hear about the Light that God promised to send His people—the Messiah, who brings the gift of salvation through His birth as a human being, His perfect life, and His sacrificial death to pay for sin. God's prophets bring a consistent message of hope for God's people through the years.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Children Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Congregation **Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**

Congregation **Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.**

Ethel Light a candle on the altar, though its light be small and dim. For the light that first was given after Adam and Eve sinned:
"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."
(Genesis 3:15)
Light a candle on the altar for the years that pass with speed. Plainly now the plan unfolding One would come of Abram's seed.

Dylan Now the Lord said to Abram, . . . *"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* *(Genesis 12:1, 3b)*
Light a candle on the altar, giving light a bit more clear. For another Christmas promise of the star that would appear.

Alece *"I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."* *(Numbers 24:17)*
Light a candle on the altar; still more brightly let it shine. For the prophecy foretelling Christ would spring from David's line.
"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which He will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'" *(Jeremiah 23:5, 6)*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Children O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 And ransom captive Israel,
 That mourns in lonely exile here
 Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

**Congregation O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain***

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain***

Allyson Light a candle on the altar for God's promise to the earth. That the Savior
 who was coming would be born of virgin birth:
 *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall
 conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)*

Eli Light a candle on the altar adding more light to our space. For the prophet's
 plainer message naming Bethlehem the place.
 *"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans
 of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel,
 whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." (Micah 5:2)*

Kennedy Light a candle on the altar that will burn now bright and clear. Telling of the
 joyous message that the Savior's birth was near.
 *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
 Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He."
 (Zechariah 9:9)*

Grayson Light a candle on the altar for the good news in God's Word! Hear the
 angel telling Joseph, Mary's child is Christ the Lord.
 *"She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His
 people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)*

Silent Night

Children 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.

Congregation

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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

Candles of Proclamation

Aleece The Christmas story is so much more than just a story. It is the true account of the birth of a Savior for all people. Jesus was born as a human so He could fulfill the Law on our behalf and die as the perfect sacrifice for sin. The true light that gives life to everyone has come into the world.

Carson 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.

Graham 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.

Maddux

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.*
(Luke 2:1–7)

Pre-K & Kindergarten- 3rd

Light a candle on the altar. Light a light most bright and clear. Light a light
that shines most glorious. For the Savior now is here!

The Hymn Of Joy

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly The Congregation

- 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!**

Alexa

With these candles brightly burning listen now to what we say. For you will
know it then quite plainly why there is a Christmas Day!

Cloie

Listen all to what I say:

Group:

Jesus Christ is born today!

Cloie

This is all I want to say:

Group:

Jesus Christ is born today!

Cloie

Nothing better I can say:

Group:

Jesus Christ is born today!

Cloie I'm so happy I can say:
Group Jesus Christ is born today!

Cloie With the others I will say:
Group Jesus Christ is born today!

Cloie Don't forget what I will say:
Group Jesus Christ is born today!

Cloie It's the best that I can say:
Group Jesus Christ is born today!

Cloie Can you guess what I will say?
Group Jesus Christ is born today!

Cloie I'll repeat it, friends, and say:
Group Jesus Christ is born today!

Cloie This is what these candles say:
Group Jesus Christ is born today!

Away in a Manger

Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Graders

Garridan *And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

Palmer *And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.*

Lydia *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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.*

Finley *"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."*

Eli *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

Madi *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" (Luke 2:8-14)*

Madi Light one for the heavenly choir thrilling o'er the Savior's birth. Light it for their celebrating God's good will to us on earth!

Mackenzie

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.”* (Luke 2:15)

Light a candle on the altar, for the angel’s message led shepherds to the gift God promised. Jesus in a manger bed!

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. (Luke 2:16)

Light a candle on the altar as did in the stable shine. By that light the faithful shepherds gazed upon the Child divine.

The Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing The Congregation

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:

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 songs of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Candles of God's Gifts

Milo

Sometime after his birth, the magi arrived. And coming into the house, they opened up their gifts for him, gold and frankincense and myrrh. They worshiped him. But the really good news is Jesus is the great gift giver, and when we worship him we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Jesus brings forgiveness, life, and salvation to everyone who believes. In Him, we also receive many other gifts, not just at Christmas, but throughout our earthly lives. These gifts bring us true light and help us reflect God's light and love to those around us through our vocations.

Grace

Paisley

Light a candle on the altar for the grace beyond all thought. Which the Christ, the Lord of glory, in His birth from heaven brought.

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 were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

Love

Jenna

Light a candle on the altar for the love of Christ, so great that He came to earth to save us from our lost and sinful state.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:9)

God Loves Me Dearly

The Children

Peace

Avery

Light a candle on the altar for the heavenly peace of heart that the blessings of the Savior to His faithful ones impart.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

Joy

Allie Light a candle on the altar for the joy that Jesus' birth stirred among the hosts of heaven and God's children on this earth.

We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (Romans 5:11)

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 51:11)

The Offering

The Prayers

The Benediction

The Recessional Hymn

Hand Bells

Joy to the World

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

- 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.**

The Postlude

Thank You to all the Sunday School leaders and musicians! You are great blessings to our youth.

Christmas at St. John's

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services w/HC: 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm

Christmas Day Service w/HC: 9:00am

Saturday, Dec. 30 Worship: 5:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 31 Worship: 9:00am

New Year's Eve Service w/HC: 5:30pm

(NO service on New Years Day)

Come, Let Us Adore Him!

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