

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

901 West Jefferson Avenue
Effingham, IL 62401

Phone: (217) 342-4334

Christian Education: Sun. 9:15am

E-mail: office@stjohnsLCMS.net

Website: stjohnsLCMS.net

Preschool Website: eaglesnestpreschool.com

Services: Sat. 5:30pm – Sun. 8:00am & 10:30am



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.

- Offerings are placed in the boxes at the North and West doors, before or after worship.
- Little Children's Worship bags are available in the Atrium.
- Restrooms are located on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th floors. Those on the 2nd and 5th 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 acolytes after the sermon. Thank you!**
- Share prayer requests using the yellow cards in the pews.

Those Who Serve Us

Each Member of St. John's	The Body of Christ
Rev. Mike Burdick.....	Pastor
Rev. Trey Dille.....	Pastor
Rev. Gary Fortkamp	Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Carrie Collier.....	Preschool Director
Mrs. Ruth Bray.....	Organist
Cloie Bailey	Acolyte
Mr. Fred Bray.....	12:15 Elder on Duty
Mr. Dave Worman	6:30 Elder on Duty
Mr. Ray Hartman 217-240-8178	Elder on Duty for Dec. 17 – Dec. 20
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

Advent Midweek Service III
12:15pm & 6:30pm December 17, 2025

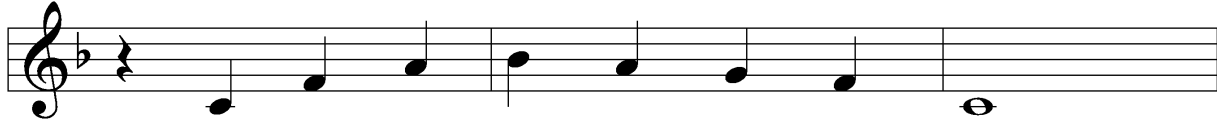
VESPERS

Prelude

Call to Worship

Welcome

Behold How God Takes Nothingness



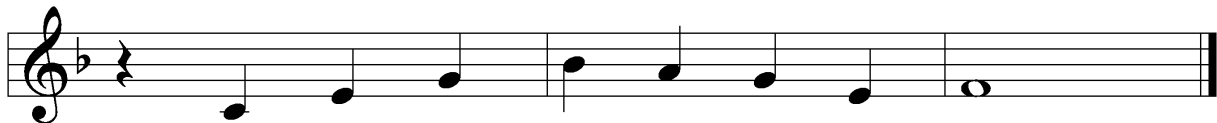
1 Be - hold how God takes noth - ing - ness
2 Oh, we of lit - tle faith be - hold
3 With her our soul does mag - ni - fy
4 How blest the womb where - in He lay,



And makes our great ma - te - rial world,
The faith of her, who, lis - tening, knew
The Lord who laughs at pu - ny kings,
The breast she gave Him when He cried.



And sends His Son the world to bless,
The Word that ho - ly Ga - briel told:
Who laughs at reb - els— let them try!—
He cried, “My God!” up - on that day,



Through just an or - di - nar - y girl.
“The Prom - ised One will come from you.”
Who fills the hun - gry with good things.
And burst the tomb at Eas - ter - tide.

- 5 A sword would pierce poor Mary’s heart,
With tears she watched Him as He died—
Tears, water, blood—grace to impart—
A Roman spear in Jesus’ side.

(continued)

- 6 As Mary made for Him a home,
With John He made a home for her.
Risen, ascended, He will come,
To bring us home as sons and heirs.
- 7 We bow before the mystery
That Mary pondered in her breast—
The hidden Word made flesh we see,
Now God in man made manifest.

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Advent Versicles

- P O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- C **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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

Collect for Peace

- P Let us pray. O Lord, our dwelling place and our peace, You have compassion on our weakness. Put far from us all worry and fearfulness that, having confessed our sins and commending ourselves to Your gracious mercy, we may, when night shall come, commit ourselves, our work, and all we love into Your keeping, receiving from You the gift of quiet sleep; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

Reading

Genesis 15:1–6

- P A reading from Genesis, chapter 15.
¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.
- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

²My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

³He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴Behold, he who keeps Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The Lord is your keeper;

the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

⁸The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in

from this time forth and forevermore.

Reading

Luke 1:46–55

P A reading from Luke, chapter 1.

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Sing With Mary”

Offering Presentation and Card Collection

Prayers

Psalm 141:2

- P Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

- C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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.
- P O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

Additional prayers

Collect for Peace

- P Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Your most gracious favor, and further us with Your continual help that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in You we may glorify Your holy name and finally by Your mercy obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

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

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **Amen.**

Hymn #366

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Postlude

Christmas at St. John's

Sunday School Christmas Program:

Sun, Dec. 21 10:30am

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

Christmas Day Service: 9:00am

Born To You... A Savior

New Years Eve Service

Wed. Dec. 31 6:30pm

Acknowledgments

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

MARY'S SON OUR SAVIOR



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN (LCMS) EFFINGHAM