

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24, 2022 | 6:00PM FESTIVAL SERVICE

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas to you on this very special day! With great comfort and joy, we are reminded that God's son wrapped Himself in human flesh and blood to buy us back from the curse of sin and unbelief. With great joy, songs of praise, and prayer- We worship the baby born in Bethlehem who has come to save us! May God bless you and your family with a most blessed and Christ-filled Christmas. Merry Christmas!

We Love Children

Children are always welcome in worship here at St. John. If and when needed, the Fellowship Hall is available for walking and comforting restless little ones.

Hearing Assistance

Our sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop System allowing individuals to hear the service better. Please turn your hearing aid to T-coil. Hearing assistance devices are also available, please speak with an Usher for assistance.

Serving in His Name

We love to care for others and to serve our Plymouth community. We are excited to host the Community Christmas Day Meal. Join us on Christmas Day from 12:00pm - 1:30pm in the school cafeteria for a free meal and fellowship.

The Lord's Supper

Martin Luther once said, "Word and Sacrament are the manger and swaddling clothes into which it has pleased Christ to lay Himself." Just as the shepherds were told where to find Jesus, so also we are told where to find Him today. He is no longer in the humble manger; but by His own promise He is in the humble means of bread and wine of the Lord's Supper with His true body and blood. As we receive His gift, the greatest gift we can give to others is a loving witness to the truth of His Word. For this reason anyone who is not yet instructed, in doubt, or who holds a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desires to receive this sacrament, is asked to first speak with one of the pastors.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

WELCOME (Remain Seated)

HYMN

376 Once in Royal David's City

(Verse 1 Soloist)

1 Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

3 For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

(Verse 2 Choir)

2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall; With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy. 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

(Please Stand)

INVOCATION

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

BIDDING PRAYER

P Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world, who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And because this would please our Lord, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in His temple.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the words Christ Himself taught us:

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.

(Be Seated)

OFFERING

(Please sign the Who's Who in the Pew found in the black folder in the hymnal rack nearest the center aisle, as a record of your attendance.)

CAROL "Ding-Dong Merrily on High"

Adult Choir

READING Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

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

HYMN

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Verse 1 & 2 Choir Only)

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

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

- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain
- O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Text: Public domain

READING Isaiah 9:2, 6, 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.

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.

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

CAROL "Tiny King"

Gospel Light Chorus & Adult Choir

READING *Luke 1:26–35, 38*

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

CAROL "Maria Walks Amid the Thorn"

Adult Choir

In this traditional German carol, Mary, (Maria in German), represents all the Israelites waiting for the Messiah ("walking amid the thorn"). Then in the fullness of time, ("seven years"), Jesus is born, (the rose appears on the thorns).

READINGMatthew 1:18–25

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL "Away in a Manger"

Gospel Light Chorus

READINGLuke 2:1–7

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. ⁶And 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella"

Gospel Light Chorus

READINGLuke 2:8–16

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.

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

HYMN

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. 368 Angels We Have Heard on High

- 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: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French Text: Public domain

READING John 1:1–14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

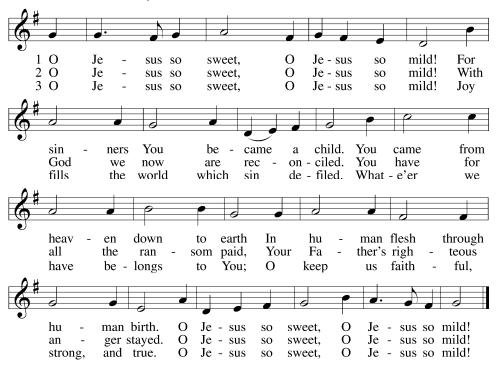
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

546 O Jesus So Sweet. O Jesus So Mild

(Verse 1 & 2 Choir Only)



Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Frieda Pietsch, 1904–82, alt. Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln

Text and tune: Public domain

HYMN

(Verse 1g in German, Choir Only)

- 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.
- 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, 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.

HOMILY Pastor John Schultz

(Please Stand)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
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.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

- **A** Bless we the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

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.

C Amen.

HYMN 387 Joy to the World

- 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.
- 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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Text: Public domain

- 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Litany from Lutheran Service Book

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We would like to sincerely thank all of those who helped to beautify our Church with Poinsettia plants...a total of 64 donated by:

(1 Red and 1 White) David Andrews Family in memory of John and Louise Lindoerfer, and Edwin and Josephine Andrews

(1 Red) Donald Baumann in memory of Janet Baumann

(2 Red) Dan and Lauren Begalke in honor of Ron and Karen Begalke

(1 Red and 1 White) Todd and Patti Benicke and Family in memory of Kalvin Benicke, Robert, David, and Tom Steffen, and in honor of Allen and Claudia Benicke, and Bernie Steffen

> (1 Red and 1 White) Mark and Sheri Bohnhoff in honor of Allan and Kay Winter and Roy and Jean Bohnhoff

> > (2 Red) Rayola Bortz and Family in memory of Pamela Bortz Gaedtke, and Richard Bortz

> > (1 Red and 1 White) Joan Breitzman in memory of Donald Breitzman, Edwin and Esther Breitzman, and Wilmer and Josie Wassink

(1 Red) Les, Justin, and Katelyn Erickson in memory of Geri Erickson

(1 Red) John and Linda Fischer in memory of Harvey and Doris Fischer

(1 Red) Bill and Christa Gollnick and Fawn Starnitcky in memory of Geri Erickson

(1 Red and 1 White) Eunice and Family in memory of Ken Grebe, and in honor of children and grandchildren

(2 Red) Gene and Sharon Halle and Families in memory of Everette and Mary Halle, Milton and Gladys Mueller

(1 Red) Tom and Kay Hanson in memory of Allen Schmidt

(1 Red) Ron Hausler and Family in memory of Waunie Hausler

(1 Red) Henry, Julia, & Charlie Heim in memory of David Heim

(1 Red and 1 White) Frank and Janice Hollenberger and Families in memory of Frank and Ruth Hollenberger, and Kay M. Hollenberger

(1 Red) Joyce Hueppchen in memory of Alta Hueppchen, and James Hueppchen

(1 Red) Betty and Dave Kreutzinger in memory of Merlin and Ethel Weinhold

(1 White) Ann Krueger in memory of Laurin Krueger, Carl and Edna Schram

> (1 Red) Bill and Beth Lagacy in memory Owen Bunke, and Jasmine and Joslin Voss

(1 Red and 1 White) Tim and Cheryl Lemkuil in memory of Rod and Marilyn Peaschek, and in honor of Lee and Janice Lemkuil (1 Red) Sandy Mahlich in memory of Jim and Judy Mahlich

(1 Red) Marie Marshall in memory of Tom Marshall

(1 Red) Tom and David Marshall in memory of Thomas Marshall

(2 Red and 1 White) Todd and Becky Matz in honor of family

(1 Red and 1 White) Vickie and Leon McCabe in memory of Herb and Sue Tauscher, James and Evelyn McCabe

(1 Red) The Meyer Family in memory of Jeff and Luke Meyer

(1 Red) The Meyer Family in memory of Randy Meyer

(1 Red and 1 White) John and Dawn Mueller in memory of Robert and Phyllis Mueller and Harmon and Mary Buelke

(1 White) Patty Mueller in memory of Helen Guth

(2 Red) Families of Mike and Cindy Riese and David and Patti Haese in memory of Harold & Hazel Schroeder, and William Schroeder

(1 Red) Karen Rizzi in memory of Ray Rizzi, Lloyd Streblow, and Harold and LaVerne Streblow

(1 White) Bill and Bonnie Roltgen in memory of Ruth and John Roltgen, Bill and Marilyn Eggebeen (1 Red and 1 White) Tom and Carrie Rooker in memory of Ken and Mary Deicher, Bob and Mary Rooker, and Bob Rooker, Jr.

(1 Red and 1 White) Dale and Peggy Schmidt and Family in memory of Jeff and Brian Schmidt, Clarence and Norma Miske

> (2 Red) Wayne and LuAnn Schmidt in memory of Abigail Dvorachek, and Kordell Dvorachek

(1 Red) Lori and Randy Schmitt in memory of Mabel Boesel

(1 Red) Alice and Family in memory of Carl Schneider

(1 Red) Pastor and Sarah Schultz to the glory of God

(1 Red) Seefeldt Family in memory of Patricia, Harold, and Steven Pfrang, and Joyce Seefeldt

> (2 Red) Mary Sprenger in memory of David Sprenger, and Paul Sprenger

(1 Red) Dennis, Shirley, Amy, Brian, Nicole, Allison and Sydney Steiner in memory of Steven Steiner

(2 White) Nancy Vaughn and Matt and Stacy Hollenberger in memory of Carl Vaughn, and William Faulkner

(1 White) The Zwerg Families in memory of Jeremy Zwerg, Mel and Marilyn Classen, and George Sippel



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

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Director of Family Life & Youth

Katrina Johns kjohns@sjlplymouth.com

Music Minister

Tim Huebschman thuebschman@sjlplymouth.com

CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM

Preacher: Pastor Andrew Thompson

Organist: Tim Huebschman Soloists: Ellie & Estelle Giebler

Ushers: Team #4

Acolytes: Abbigail Helmrick

Liam Hoffman

Elders: Bill Lagacy

Richard Krueger Richard Brott

CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 PM

Preacher: Pastor John Schultz
Organist: Tim Huebschman
Choir: Gospel Light Chorus &

Adult Choir

Soloist: Aubree Preder

Ushers: Team #1 Acolyte: Trinity Horn

Emily Jacobi

Elder: Bob Raeder

CHRISTMAS EVE 8:00 PM

Preacher: Pastor Andrew Thompson

Organist: Jenni Hogan Ushers: Team #10

Acolytes: Kenzie Johnson

Kristi Kaufman

Elder: Brian Kaufman

CHRISTMAS EVE 10:00 PM

Preacher: Pastor John Schultz

Organist: Jenni Hogan Ushers: Team #9 Acolyte: Camryn Klahn

Elder: David Zimmermann