

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021 | 5:00 & 10:00 PM

Merry Christmas!

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of the divine light to all the world.

Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race, or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We worship Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 AM and hope you will join us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers and busy bags are near of the sanctuary. We have professionally staffed nursey today during the 5:00 PM service—see an usher for directions.

To assist you during worship: If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will be happy to commune you at your pew.

In this season of giving, please honor your 2021 pledge. This, along with your special Christmas offering, ensures we are able to fulfill our commitments to the many people and organizations that depend upon us. If you have not submitted your pledge card for 2022, please do so now.

Musicians participating in tonight's services: The Adult Choir (Wayne Dietterick, interim director), The Lutherringers (Linda Clark, interim director), Mark Lagatic–trumpet and Travis Salim–percussion.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



Ministers: The People of Saint John's Church

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator Jessica Damrow Sherman, Communications Coordinator Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org crothman@stjohnssummit.org jdamrowsherman@stjohnssummit.org wk154linda@gmail.com

Cover Art: Nativity © 2011 John August Swanson | Eyekons. Used by permission.

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

PRELUDE

Setting of "Angels We Have Heard On High"By Christopher UehleinSetting of "Lo, How a Rose"By John LeavittSetting of "On December Five and Twenty"Arr. Richard LindSetting of "The First Noel"By Christopher UehleinOrganOrgan"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"By Jean de Brébeuf; French Folk TuneVocal EnsembleSetting of "'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"OrganArr. Mark Lochstampfor

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Please stand.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

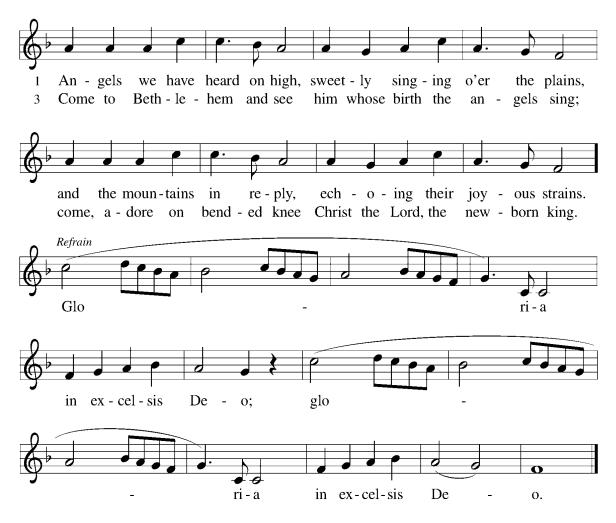


Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Today, Christ is born. Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard on High



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated. FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2–7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

1 Sing to the Lord а new song; sing to God, all you 2 Let earth and heav - en glo - ry; let o-cean depths re lands. Sing of sal - va - tion al God's ways; hills ioice. Let and plains and for ests _ sing glo - ry now at hand. God's love shall nev - er cease. prais-es with one voice. God's love shall nev - er cease. God comes to rule with jus-tice; God comes to rule with peace. God comes to rule with jus-tice; God comes to rule with peace.

PSALM 96 Sing to the Lord a New Song

Words: Scott Soper © 2005 World Library Publications

Music: (ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN 7.6.7.6.6.7.6): from Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609, P.D.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11–14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 278 Away in a Manger

Verses 1 & 2 Before the reading of the Gospel. Verse 3 After the reading of the Gospel.



Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

GOSPEL Luke 2:1–20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

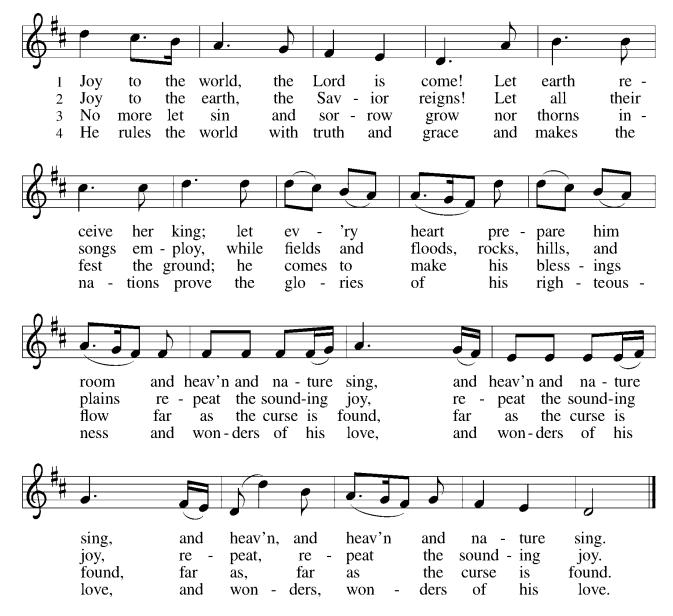
The reader concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. The assembly responds: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated. SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet



Please stand. **HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 267 Joy to the World



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872



NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated. **MUSICAL REFLECTION** 5:00 PM "Ding Dong, Merrily on High"

Lutherringers

Ding dong merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing: Ding dong! Verily the sky is riven with angels singing. Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

10:00 PM "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Adult Choir

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan; Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain, Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty—Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day, A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay; enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him,—give my heart. Arr. Anna Laura Page

By Harold Darke

THE PRAYERS

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Wonderful counselor, on this holy night your church throughout the world celebrates the Word of God being born among us. Endow your church with a zeal for sharing your love with all. Bless your Church that we may grow in love and serve all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace, your grace has appeared and brings salvation to all the world. Bring healing to people and nations divided by violence. Direct the leaders of the nations, so that in self-controlled, upright, and godly living, they may work toward peace on earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Mighty God, you come among us as a vulnerable infant. Comfort and protect all in need: the homeless and the hungry, the widow and the orphan, the sick and the suffering, the prisoner and the refugee, the lonely and the dejected, the dying and them that mourn. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, your steadfast love never ends. We remember before you all who have died trusting in the hope of everlasting life. Hold us all in your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your gracious hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

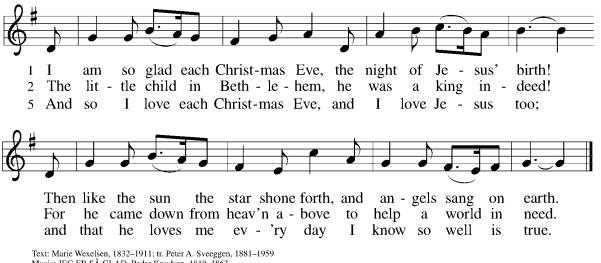
The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Please be seated. GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

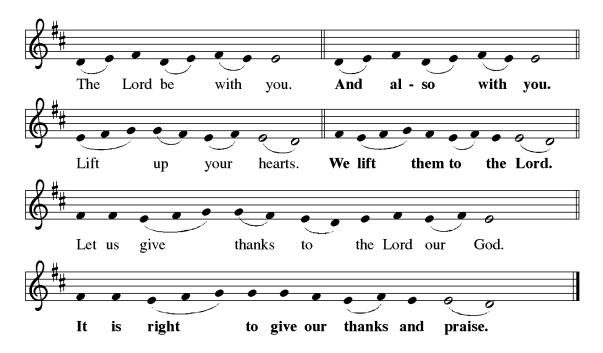
We present monetary, food, and other offerings for God's mission and this congregation's ministry. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit <u>www.stjohnssummit.org/giving</u> or scan this code.

Please stand. OFFERING HYMN ELW 271 I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

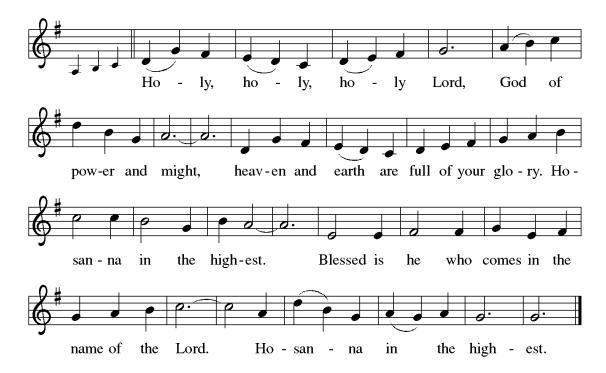


Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life . . . Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



All praise and glory are yours Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

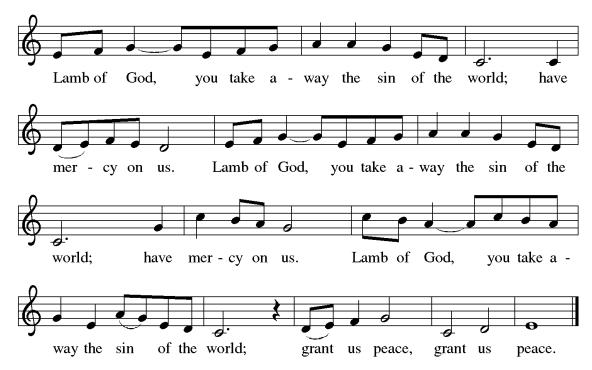
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time. The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer. The assisting minister serves the wine/grape juice in pre-filled individual cups. You may pick up your personal cup, being careful to only touch that cup. Step aside and drink the wine, placing the used cup in the return tray. All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

Please be seated. LAMB OF GOD

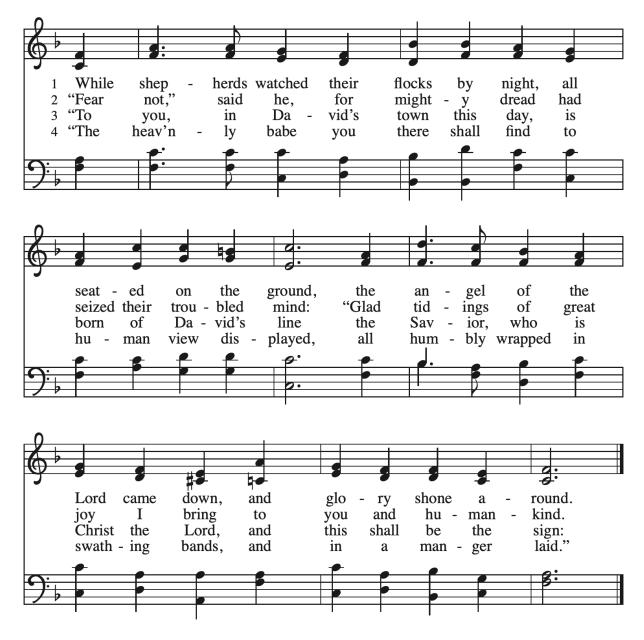


COMMUNION HYMN ELW 288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

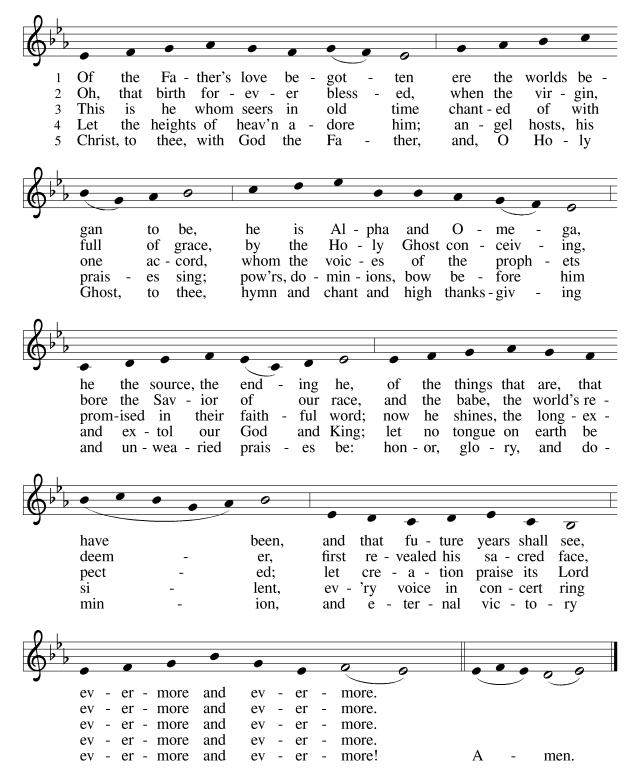
COMMUNION HYMN ACS 913 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks



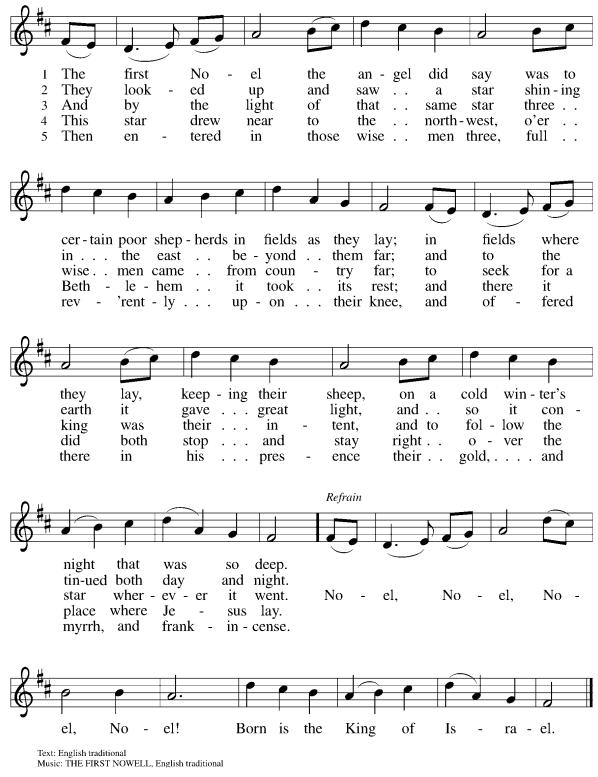
- 5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good will to all from highest heav'n begin and never cease!"

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715 Music: WINCHESTER OLD, Este's *Psalmes*, 1592; arr. George Kirbye, 1560–1634

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 295 Of the Father's Love Begotten



Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent. COMMUNION HYMN ELW 300 The First Noel



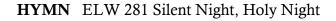
Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Great and saving God, your Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of Christ's grace illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds, through that same Lord Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel. Amen.





Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Keep candles lit until the end of the service.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry the new - born king; 1 to Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing 2 Lord. 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness! peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled." late in time be-hold him come. off-spring of a vir - gin's womb. Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. join the tri-umph Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; of the skies: Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail. in - car - nate de -i tv! born that we no Mild he lays his glo - ry by, more may die, an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!" with Pleased as man with us Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el! to dwell, to raise each child of earth, born to give sec - ond birth. born US. Refrain Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry the new-born king!" to Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

SENDING HYMN ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

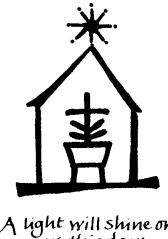
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word is made flesh and dwells among us. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Il Est Né le Divin Enfant

By Richard Hudson

Place lit candles in sand-filled containers as you exit.



A light will shine on us this day: The lord is born for us

Christmas Day 10:30 AM

We celebrate Christmas Day as we gather to sing favorite Christmas carols and hear the Good News of the coming of Christ from John's Gospel.

From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006 and *All Creation Sings* copyright © 2020. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #9925-S, OneLicense.net license #A-722032, and/or Church Copyright License #11453771 which provide permission to podcast the music in this service. SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901 www.stjohnssummit.org 908-273-3846 | Fax: 908-273-9604

Gifts for the chancel decorations this Christmas Season are given to the glory of God by:

- Jane, Jama, & Zach Bowman in honor of Bill and Nancy Bowman
- The Boyd & Yosaitis Families in memory of Walter and Doris Boyd
- The Coble Family in memory of loved ones, especially David
- The Cristino Family in memory of Jean Grabinsky
- Helen Dachowicz in memory of my parents Kevin and Marie Long and John Long Sr.
- The Gahan Gamily in memory of loved ones and our relatives near and far
- Donna Garzinsky in honor of and with grateful thanks for Wayne Dietterick and all of St. John's choirs and musicians
- Wendy Hart & family in memory of George & Viginia Eberhardt
- The Lagatic Family in memory of Barbara McClure
- Susan, Chris, and John Leelike in memory of George Leelike and John F. Lose
- Linda Liebiedz in memory of Gladys and George Biederman, and Catherine Biederman Burkitt
- Thelma McNulty in memory of Martin Flor
- Kirsten & Nick Meyer in memory of Pat Meyer and Shannon Kane
- Gordon Meyer in memory of Pat Meyer
- The Noble Family in honor of Pastor Scalet
- Heinz & Robin Roth in loving memory of Baldur Scholz and Sandra Lynn Campbell
- Mark, Kristyn, Sarah, Anne & Molly Shannon in memory of Patricia Brooke Shannon and Paul Thomas Shannon, and Laura Shannon Hartman
- Beverly Sharpe in celebration of the birth of Hudson Roy Bowler
- Joan Smedberg in Thanksgiving for our interim musicians: Wayne Dietterick, Linda Clark and Connie Schmaltz during Donna's medical leave
- Jennifer Terrizzi in memory of my mom
- Harald & Laura Thieck to the glory of God
- Linda & Bill Walker in memory of our parents and Don Krumm
- Helga Welte in memory of Marlene Fraehmke and Alfred Welte

And in memory of loved ones by:

- Craig and Linda Clark
- Karen and Bill Feezer
- Carol Groote
- R.J. Klein
- Lois and Rodger Kopf
- The Larsen Family

- Russ and Chris McIntyre
- Stephen and Dianne Miller
- Helen and Steve Sanders
- Darcy and John Tierney
- The Wey Family