

**Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2021 7:15PM**

**St. John Lutheran Church—LCMS
Champaign, Illinois**

Welcome to this celebration of the birth of Christ. May the joy of Christ's coming into the world lift your hearts. If this is your first time at our church, we welcome and invite you to visit again. Sunday services are at 8:00 and 10:45am each week and Wednesdays at 7:15pm.

Prelude – *Christmas Carol Settings for Organ*

Processional Hymn 367 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Please stand and face the cross as it passes.

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I

therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise 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: Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo. Glo-ri-a 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.*

Collect

The Old Testament 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: 1 John 4:7–16

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In 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. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in

God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Procession

Gospel Reading:

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter. (18-25)

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn 383 *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

Sermon *“At the Name of Jesus”* Matthew 1:18-25

The Nicene Creed, p.206

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things

were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

The Tithes and Offerings are brought forward.

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Brahms

Service of the Sacrament, p.160

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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord’s Prayer

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

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution/Communion Hymns

Hymn 361 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Hymn 366 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

Hymn 384 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Post-Communion Hymn 363 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

During the singing of this hymn the people light their candles from the pastor's candle, passing the light to the person next to them. Please do not tilt a lighted candle. Be careful with hot wax. Parents must supervise children with lighted candles. Return the candles to the ushers after the service.

The Post-Communion Collect and Benediction

Recessional Hymn 380 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Postlude – *“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”*

Bach

The pastor and staff of St. John Lutheran Church and School thank the congregation for their gifts of love and encouragement and wish all of God's people a blessed Christmas and peace in the New Year.

Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Jeff Caithamer

Organist: Keith Williams

Elders: Kendall, Bob, Jim, Andy

Ushers: Nicholas, Everett

ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER: Our congregation is a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a family of congregations who pledge themselves to teach and to believe the same doctrines. We invite those persons who are members in good standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or of a church in fellowship with the LCMS to receive the sacrament. We want to express our sincere welcome to guests and to assure them that it is in their spiritual interest that we practice closed communion. Guests desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to make an appointment to speak with our pastor.

POINSETTIAS

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias this Christmas. Please take your flower(s) home with you any time after the Christmas Day service.