

# Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2023

3:00PM & 5:00PM

St. John Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Champaign, Illinois

*Welcome to our Christmas Eve family service. May the joy of Christ's coming into the world lift your hearts and bring you lasting joy. If this is your first time at our church, we invite you to visit us again to hear more about the good news that is yours through Jesus. Our regular Sunday services are at 8:00am and 10:45am and we also offer worship on Wednesdays at 7:15pm.*

## Instrumental Carol Preludes

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

*"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"*

*"The Joy of Christmas" (3 carols)*

piano & organ  
organ  
Alleluia Ringers

## **O, Come, All Ye Faithful**                      **LSB 379** (sts. 1–3)

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come — ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain.*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God — In — the — highest: *Refrain.*

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** In days of old the word of the Lord came to the prophet Isaiah, "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) Through the centuries the people of God waited for this messiah to come to be their king.

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

**LSB 357** (sts. 1, 6, 7)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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

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

**Pastor:** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:26–33)

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**LSB 380** (sts. 1, 2)

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!"*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain.*

**Pastor:** 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. 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. 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)

***Away in a Manger***

**LSB 364**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

*“Italian Piper’s Carol”*

Mixed Choir & flute

**Pastor:** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (Luke 2:8–14)

***Angels We Have Heard on High***      **LSB 368**

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.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain.*

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain.*

*“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

Alleluia Ringers

**Pastor:** 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.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. (Luke 2:15–18)

**The Christmas Message**    *“A Tale of Two Christmases”*

## The Nicene Creed

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 Tithes and Offerings are brought forward.

*“See, Amid the Winter’s Snow”*

(text from LSB 373)

Mixed Choir

**Pastor:** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:1–2; 9–11)

## *What Child Is This*

### LSB 370

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

*“From Heaven Winging”*

Mixed Choir

## The Prayers of the Church

## The Lord's Prayer

## The Benediction

### *Silent Night*

### LSB 363

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!

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.

### *Joy to the World*

### LSB 387 (sts. 1, 2, 4)

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!

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.

Postlude – “*Angels We Have Heard on High*”

Albrecht

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### Serving:

Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Jeff Caithamer

Organist & Choir Director: Keith Williams

Elders: 3:00 – Jeremy, Chuck

5:00 – Matt, Mike, Chris

Ushers: 3:00 – AJ, Noah

5:00 – Jordan, Nick

Instrumentalists: Eli, Karen, Noelle, Everett, Terry, Lou Ann, Randy

<p>The pastor and staff of St. John Lutheran Church and School thank God's people for their gifts of love and encouragement and wish everyone a blessed Christmas and peace in the New Year!</p>
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