

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 2017 10:00 AM**

St. John Lutheran Church  
Champaign, Illinois

(Ordinary set to Christmas Carol tunes)

*Welcome to this celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. May the joy of the Savior's birth be born into your hearts again this Christmas Day! As the shepherds did, so we have come to see this thing which the angels so joyfully announced. Only we see the Christ child with eyes of faith as He comes to us this Christmas Day in His holy Word and Sacrament.*

*We ask everyone to complete the registration card located by the hymnals and place it in the offering plate. If this is your first time at our church, we invite you to visit again. Sunday services are at 8:00 and 10:45am each week and Wednesdays at 7:15pm.*

**Prelude**

*(please stand)*

**Processional Hymn 380** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**Introit** Psalm 98 (spoken) p. 98

**Invocation, Confession & Absolution** p.213-214

**Kyrie** *Lord, have mercy* insert

**Gloria** *Glory be to God on High* insert

**Salutation & Collect** p.214

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52: 7-10**

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” <sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

▮ This is the Word of the Lord.

▮ **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)**

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” <sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” <sup>10</sup>And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, <sup>12</sup>like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

▮ This is the Word of the Lord.

▮ **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Procession**

John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

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

<sup>14</sup>And 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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Nicene Creed**

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**Hymn of the Day 379** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**The Sermon** *"The Incarnation Experienced"* Luke 2:1-14

**Prayer of the Church**

**The Tithes and Offerings are gathered.**

**Service of the Sacrament**

p.208

**Sanctus**

insert

**Agnus Dei** *O Lamb of God*  
*The Distribution of the Lord's Supper*

insert

**Hymns:** 393 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
365 *Away in a Manger*

**The Post-Communion Carol Hymn 358** *From Heaven Above* (st. 1 only)

**Post-Communion Collect & Benediction**

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**Recessional Hymn 387** *Joy to the World*

**Postlude**

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**Preaching:** Rev. Jeff Caithamer

**Elders:** Kurt & Steve

**Pianist:** Randy

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.

**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 one of our pastors.*