

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 2023 10:00AM**

St. John Lutheran Church—LCMS  
Champaign, Illinois

(Ordinaries 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.*

*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 – “*Christmas Carol Settings*”

Saxton

*(please stand)*

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

- 1 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!”*

- 2 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.*
- 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain.*

**Introit** Psalm 98 (spoken)

<sup>1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who dwell in it!

<sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together

<sup>9</sup> before the LORD, for he comes  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen

**Invocation, Confession, and Absolution**

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

**C Amen.**

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

**Kyrie** *Lord, Have Mercy*

insert

**Gloria** *Glory Be to God on High*

insert

**Salutation and Collect**

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**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Let us pray. *(The Collect is spoken.)*

**C** **Amen.**

**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.

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading:** Hebrews 1:1–12

<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.”

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Processional**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter. (1–14)

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<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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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.

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

- 1 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!*

- 2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain.*
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God — In — the — highest: *Refrain.*
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee — be — glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain.*

**The Sermon** *“The Light of Christmas Day”*

**Prayer of the Church**

**The Tithes and Offerings are brought forward.**

*“He is Born, the Divine Christ-Child”*

Wood

**Service of the Sacrament**

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**Preface**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is meet and right so to do.**

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

**Sanctus** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

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**Lord's Prayer**

**The Words of Our Lord**

**Pax Domini**

**Agnus Dei** *O Lamb of God*

insert

*The Distribution of the Lord's Supper*

**Hymn 393** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

- 1 Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

**Hymn 365** *Away in a Manger*

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 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.

- 3 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 me to heaven to live with Thee there.

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

- 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Where-of I now will say and sing:

**Thanksgiving** p. 201

**Prayer and Benediction** p. 202

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

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.

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

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**Preaching:** Rev. Jeff Caithamer



**Organist:** Keith Williams

**Elders:** Mike, Harold, Chuck, Matt

**Ushers:** Eli, Peter

**Instrumentalists:** Eli, Karen, Everett, Terry, Sara

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 our pastor.*