

Christmas Day
December 25, 2010 10:00 AM

St. John Lutheran Church
Champaign, Illinois

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 Variations on “*Whence go those happy Shepherds?*” Lefebure-Wely

Processional Hymn 380 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (please stand)*

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father

People: 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, bittern sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: 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 of the one Lord, born in Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(please be seated)

Pastor: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 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"? (Hebrews 1:1-5a)

Hymn 384 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (stanzas 1-3)

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 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. (John 1:1-14)

Hymn 359 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (stanzas 1-2)

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)

Hymn 373 *See amid the Winter's Snow* (stanzas 1-2)

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 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. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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)

Hymn 368 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (st. 1 women, st. 2 men, st. 3 all)

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)

Hymn 376 *Once In Royal David's City* (stanzas 1-2)

The Sermon

The Tithes and Offerings are gathered. (*Offerings placed in the special "Christmas" envelope and all undesignated plate offerings will go to LCMS Missions.*)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr.
S e w e 1 1

The Christmas Prayers are said. (*please stand*)

The Lord's Supper

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your Hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface is prayed by the pastor.

Sanctus - Hymn 367 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all.

The Words of Institution are spoken by the pastor.

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

The Distribution of the Lord's Supper (please be seated)

Hymns: **383** *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

365 *Away In a Manger*

(please stand)

The Post-Communion Carol, Hymn 381 *Let Our Gladness Have No End*

The Collect & Benediction are spoken by the pastor.

Recessional Hymn 387 *Joy to the World*

Postlude *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

Guilmant

Preacher: Rev. Jeff Caithamer

Officiant: Rev. Mark Elliott

Elders: John, Jay, Joel
Organist: Keith Williams
Trumpet: Sarah

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.*

The pastors 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.