



**St. John Lutheran Church and School**  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Reverend Jeff Caithamer  
revcaithamer - at - stjoh-n-lcms.org  
School Principal: Tim Gabbert

**OPENING HYMN 367** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
- 4 Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.
- △5 All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

**\*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.**

\*INTROIT (Psalm 72:1-15)

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal son!

<sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!

<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!

<sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor!

<sup>5</sup> May they fear you while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

<sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!

<sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

<sup>8</sup> May he have dominion from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth!

<sup>9</sup> May desert tribes bow down before him,  
and his enemies lick the dust!

<sup>10</sup> May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands  
render him tribute;  
may the kings of Sheba and Seba  
bring gifts!

<sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations serve him!

<sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when he calls,  
the poor and him who has no helper.

<sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their life,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

<sup>15</sup> Long may he live;  
may gold of Sheba be given to him!  
May prayer be made for him continually,  
and blessings invoked for him all the day!

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.

\*KYRIE

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** *This is the Feast*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

4 Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

5 For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**\*SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

*The Collect of the Day is spoken.*

**C** **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,

and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.  
<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

*After the reading:*

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—  
<sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me  
for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written  
briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,  
<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been  
revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the  
Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in  
Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which  
was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all  
the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of  
Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for  
ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom  
of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.  
<sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our  
Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in  
him.

*After the reading:*

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

\*ALLELUIA AND VERSE

**C Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter. (1-12)

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

<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

*After the reading:*

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

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY 395** *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God’s own truth and light,

- Aglow with grace and mercy!  
Of Jacob's race, King David's son, Our Lord and master, You have won  
Our hearts to serve You only!  
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o'er all possessing!
- 2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine, And deep within our hearts now shine;  
There light a flame undying!  
In Your one body let us be As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.
- 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls from God above  
A ray of purest pleasure.  
Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood Refresh our souls with heav'nly food.  
You are our dearest treasure!  
Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us  
God's own love through You has reached us.
- 4 Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun  
Was this old earth's foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love To live in Him here and above:  
This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving Life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!
- 5 O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,  
Our voices gladly blending!  
For Christ goes with us all the way— Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
His love is never ending!  
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!  
Great is He, the King of Glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,  
The end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace, Transport us to that happy place  
Beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning  
For the day of Your returning!

SERMON “*We Have Come to Worship Him*” Matthew 2:1-12

\*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.

\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*LORD’S PRAYER

\*COLLECT

**P** Let us pray...

**C Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN 400** *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*

- 1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
  - 2 Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.
  - 3 Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,  
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?
  - 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
  - 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
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**Serving:**

**Preaching:** Rev. Jeff Caithamer

**Organist:** Keith Williams

**Videographer:** Lou Ann