

St. Johns Lutheran Church

O Bethlehem



from you shall come forth ...
A ruler

AS WE GATHER

“And He shall be their peace.” That is how the prophet Micah described the coming Messiah. God’s people will not find their peace in a big bank account. Nor will our peace be found in being part of the right social circle. Nor will our peace be found in a political leader or even in a political ideology. Nor will our peace be found in our living good and upright lives. Our peace is found in the Messiah, in Jesus, in the Good Shepherd whose strength is the Lord. Mary’s circumstances were difficult; the angel’s announcement of her pregnancy had to be quite a surprise. Pondering all these things in her heart, she found peace in God, who blessed her. So she sang God’s praises, a song that we sing still today, the Magnificat, a powerful reminder that “He shall be their peace.”

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME GUESTS

We’re glad you are here! Make it a point to introduce yourself to the pastor. Please take time to fill out an attendance card and drop it in the basket during the offering. Please consider liking us on Facebook (St. Johns Lutheran Church – St. Louis City) and checking out our website (<https://stjohnslutheranstlouis.org/>).

PREPARATION

HYMN Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring *LSB 353*

Choir:

*Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.*

**Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heart-felt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.**

**Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.**

**Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comforts us in failing years.**

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.*

The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.

We adore You, O Lord!

The Lord's mercy is for those who fear Him

from generation to generation.

We adore You, O Lord!

The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.

We adore You, O Lord!

The Lord has helped His servant Israel,
in remembrance of His mercy.

We adore You, O Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The four Sundays preceding Christmas, which is when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, are recognized for four virtues. The candles on the Advent wreath symbolize

hope, love, joy and peace.

All four Advent candles are lit.

Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

We confess to You, O Lord,

that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Remember not my sins nor my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love and goodness, O LORD!

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to

become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Amen.

WORD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS...Glory to God in the Highest **LSB 187**

Glory be to God on high:

and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,

have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Into this world of turmoil, You, O Lord, bring peace.

Let the peace that calmed the troubled heart of Mary so rule in our hearts and minds

that by Your power we may all become peacemakers

in our homes, in our community, and in our church;

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MEMORIZED WORD

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, Luke 1:68-69

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 5:2–5a*

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of * Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je * rusalem.

Behold, your king is com * ing to you;

righteous and having sal * vation.

Blessèd is He who comes in the name * of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we * bless you.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 10:5–10*

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no

pleasure. ⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” ⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 1:23a*

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call His name Immanuel.

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:39–56*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” ⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *LSB 357*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

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

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. [*Refrain*]**

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *[Refrain]***

**O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *[Refrain]***

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *[Refrain]***

**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. *[Refrain]***

**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. *[Refrain]***

SERMON Because of Bethlehem

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He
descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the**

dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

OFFERING

OFFERTORY LSB 192

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

O Wisdom from on high, grant us peace. We pray,
hear us, coming Lord.

O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. We pray,
hear us, coming Lord.

O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially . . .*]. Bring healing

according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures.
We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

O Key of David, let Your peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

O Lord of might, let the peace that surpasses human understanding, the peace that comes from being in Christ, so fill our hearts that we become signs of Your peace in this chaotic world. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

O Immanuel, Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord.

You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayers we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Bless we the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and ☩ give us peace.
Amen.

HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem *LSB 361*

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,**

**Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Sam Shick
Lector	Dan Reh
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	William Gebhart and Roger Schmidt
Children's Message	Pastor
Acolytes	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Greeter	Roger Schmidt
Worship Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Bible Class	Pastor
Confirmation	Dan Reh

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Announcements

Saved to Share Called to Care

Our Response to God's Love Last Week

Attendance Sunday: 39

Communion: 33

Nepalese: 32

Offering: \$2,977.01

2022 ENVELOPES AND CALENDARS are available to be picked up in the back of church.

WAIT UPON THE LORD ADVENT SERIES

Christmas Day (12/25/21) • Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude @6pm

We remember that Zechariah waited nine months not able to speak until John was born. With gratitude, Zechariah spoke praise to God. We speak gratefully to God for the birth of His Son.

WORD OF LIFE FUNDRAISER WOL will be having a fundraiser at Noodles & Co (64 Hampton Village Plaza) on January 18th, All Day. You can order online or on the Noodles APP and enter code GIVING30 at checkout. You can also bring the flyer to the cashier when ordering. Flyers are available to pick up.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY AFTER CHAPEL CONCERT SERIES The After Chapel Concerts are mini concerts featuring musicians from within and beyond the Seminary community. Concerts are held in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus directly following morning chapel services from 9:55 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Concerts are typically held in the chapel balcony. These concerts also will be streamed at csl.edu/live. Check out their website for a full schedule and details! The next concert is on Tuesday, January 11th featuring a Student Muscian.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY for young adults between the ages of 18-30. The Bible Study will run from 5:30pm-7:30pm, and will include a pizza dinner (provided by St. Johns). Our next date being January 8th. If interested, please RSVP to stjohnslcstl@gmail.com or call 314-773-0126 and let us know what your preferred pizza topping is.

MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE The choirs and instrumentalists of Hope Ev. Lutheran invite you to join us as we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6th at 7:00pm. Special music for the Christmas and Epiphany season will be shared throughout the Divine Service. Hope Ev. Lutheran is located at 5218 Neosho St. in St. Louis, MO.

Prayers

Special Prayer Petitions –For those infected by the corona virus for quick healing and recovery; **Maureen Rehmer** as she continues recover at home; **Field-workers** and **Vicars**; **Nepali & African Congregation** blessings; **EAGLE schools & Compass** for safety during Christmas break.

Shut Ins – Bobbie Kepford, Dennis Solomon, Jerry Schmaltz, Carol Carr, Steve Bain, Maureen Rehmer, Eileen Wehrheim, Don Osiek

Opportunities to Love and Serve Christ this Week

December 19-December 26

Sunday	9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Study/Nepalese Worship 12:30pm African Worship
Monday	8am-2pm Office Open NO Compass
Tuesday	8am-2pm Office Open NO Compass NO Seminary Students
Wednesday	8am-2pm Office Open NO Compass
	6:00pm Advent Midweek Service
Thursday	8am-2pm Office Open 2pm Ridgewood Bible Study
Friday	Office Closed NO Bible Study
	5pm Christmas Eve Service
Saturday	NO Food Pantry 10:30am Christmas Day Worship 12pm Christmas Dinner
Next Sunday	9:00am Joint Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm African Worship

The Poinsettia's gracing the Chancel were placed to the
Glory of God and in the memory of loved ones by:

Joan Potvin

Loved Ones

Diane Schwab

Henry & Hazel Schwab

Jacob & Noah Flyinn

Marsha Jackson

Joseph Jackson

Gerry Engert

Loved Ones

Ruth Trauth

Loved Ones

Doris Seevers

Ken Seevers

David Seevers

Valerie Seevers

Loved Ones

Anonymous

Loved Ones

Al & Liz Bohannon

Tamarris Bohannon

Jr and Huey Bohannon

Marvin and Tommie Barber