

# St. Johns Lutheran Church



## Christmas Day: Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all  
your wonderful deeds.*

St. Johns Lutheran Church

St. Louis, Missouri

Christmas Day

December 25th, 2021

Divine Service 3 LSB 184

### **AS WE GATHER**

Months of anticipation for the young children among us reach their long-awaited fulfillment with the exciting arrival of Christmas Day! Take that anticipation, multiply it again and again, and you can begin to fathom how it felt for God's people, who long awaited the coming of the Messiah. 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. Together may we marvel at the mystery that is Christmas, rejoicing with Zechariah that this Good News is delivered unto us. May we together receive this gift anew as Jesus Himself is present with us as we gather to worship Him!

**OPENING SONG ... O Little Town of Bethlehem** LSB 361

*(the manger is lowered to its resting spot.)*

**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 the 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 Emmanuel.**

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father,

We are grateful that he created us.

**We are grateful that he created us.** *(In sign language for “thank you,” touch hand to chin and then move hand outward or upward to thank the Lord on high)*

and of the Son,

We are grateful that he redeemed us.

**We are grateful that he redeemed us.** *(In sign language for “thank you,” touch hand to chin and then move hand outward or upward to thank the Lord on high)*

and of the Holy Spirit,

We are grateful that he lives in us to make us holy.

**We are grateful that he lives in us to make us holy.** *(In sign language for “thank you,” touch hand to chin and then move hand outward or upward to thank the Lord on high)*

We worship in gratitude, as we wait for the fullness of his blessing.

**We worship in gratitude, as we wait for the fullness of his blessing.** *(In sign language for “thank you,” touch hand to chin and then move hand outward or upward to thank the Lord on high)*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*(The one white candle is lit.)*

We light the one white candle on the Advent wreath as we ponder that our waiting is over and anticipate the Lord’s return with gratitude.

**We wait for your coming with thanksgiving, O Lord!**

Zechariah was grateful to the Lord at the birth of his son who would prepare the way for Jesus.

**Now we wait for you with grateful hearts, O Lord!**

Jesus is the light of the world.

**Jesus is the light of the world.**

No one can put out that light! It will last forever!

**No one can put out that light! It will last forever!**

*(hold index finger high up in the air)*

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Brothers and sisters, now we spend some time meditating on our gratitude for what the Lord has done. He has done everything for us. He has supplied all of our needs of both body and soul.

Yet, even though all good things come from the Lord, we have not lived our lives in gratitude. Instead, we have lived as if we have earned everything we have all by ourselves. Let us go to the Lord in gratitude, confessing our sins and waiting to receive his forgiveness.

*(Everyone puts their hand on their heart for a moment of silent reflection.)*

**Lord, I have lived as if you don't matter, as if others are less than me, and as if I matter most. I have lived my life in selfishness and have failed to be grateful for your blessings. Forgive me and set my heart on the right track so that I may bless you with it. Amen.**

Jesus loves you so much that he died for all those sins! He forgives you! Have gratitude!

**Jesus loves me. Thank you, Jesus.** *(saying loud) 3x*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Dear Jesus, born in Bethlehem, some 2000 years ago. I am grateful for all that you have done. As Christmas has drawn near again,

help me to have a heart of gratitude so that I may truly enjoy it.  
Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING ... Isaiah 51:2-4**

Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

This is God's Word.

**Thank you, God!**

**GRADUAL** *Mary Did You Know (sung by Pastor Tanney)*

**EPISTLE READING ... 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19**

Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

This is God's Word too.

**Thank you, God!**

**VERSE**

**Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

God had different people write his story. Today we hear again from Luke. The reading that I will read is from Luke 1:67-79.

**Thank you, God, for giving us your story!**

## **GOSPEL READING ... Luke 1:67-79**

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, “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, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

## **GOSPEL RESPONSE**

This story from Luke is called the Gospel. The word “Gospel” means good news.

**Thank you for giving us the good news!**

## **SONG ... Now Thank We All Our God LSB 895**

**Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;**

**And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and him who reigns, with them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

**MESSAGE** Waiting to Thank the Lord... with voices.

### **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.**

**OFFERING** *Shepherds Come A-running sung by Choir*

**OFFERTORY** ... What Child Is This LSB 370

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners  
here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary.**

## **PRAYERS**

Dear Father in heaven, with gratitude we come before you. As another Advent season has drawn to a close and we celebrate your Son's birth, help us to appreciate the myriad blessings you give to us each and every day. Fill us with gratitude for your provision.  
**We are grateful for all your blessings, Father.**



Dear Jesus, with gratitude we remember your act of humility in leaving perfection in heaven, to become one of us here on earth. As you suffered our suffering, died our death, and rose for our justification, remind us daily of your salvation so that we may not grow weary in this world, but may live lives of gratitude in faith.

**We are grateful for all your blessings, Jesus.**

Dear Holy Spirit, we are only holy because you live in us and make us so. Make us to acknowledge your presence with holy lives that are dedicated to you and your work in us. Work your work in us through your Word and Sacraments that we may be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

**We are grateful for all your blessings, Holy Spirit.**

Lord, there are many who need your healing hand. Heal all in need, especially \_\_\_\_\_. Fill them with the certain hope and gratitude that come from you. We wait upon you, Lord God.

*(Other petitions may be added here.)*

Lord, these and so many other things we bring before you, and there is so much more that only you know. Do your will in us, to us and through us.

**Amen.**

## SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

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

### PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for the countless blessings You have given to us

and all creation. This day we rejoice with Zechariah as he proclaims the glad tidings of great joy, knowing that the Word has become flesh and made His dwelling among us. Your holy Child, who entered our world that first Christmas, comes unto us again this day in His body and blood as we are drawn unto Your holy presence. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## **SANCTUS**

*LSB 195*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He  
that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Thank You, Lord For the joy of Your promise to Adam and Eve to send a Savior,

**we thank You, Lord.**

For the joy of saving Noah and his family in the flood, and likewise saving us through the flood of Holy Baptism,

**we thank You, Lord.**

For the joy of Your covenant with Abraham and Sarah to bless the world through their offspring,

**we thank You, Lord.**

For the joy of Your saving the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and guiding them through the wilderness,

**we thank You, Lord.**

For the joy of Your sending prophets to people who had again rebelled against You,

**we thank You, Lord.**

For the joy to Zechariah at the birth of his son, John, who would prepare the way for Jesus.

**we thank You, Lord.**

For the joy of Jesus, Your Son, who proclaimed, taught, and demonstrated the coming Kingdom, and who suffered, died, rose, and ascended,

**we thank You, Lord.**

For the joy we receive in the body and blood of Christ,

**we thank You. We praise You. We adore You. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **PAX DOMINI (*sung*)**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!**

*Refrain:*

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.**

*Refrain,*

**The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill.  
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill.**

*Refrain:*

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.**

*Refrain,*

**He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong 'Till ev'ry heart to Him belong**

*Refrain,*

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

Away in a Manger      *LSB 364*

Angels We Have Heard on High

*LSB 368*

## **THANKSGIVING**

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**and His mercy endureth forever.**

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

**Let us be grateful!** *(In sign language for “thank you,” touch hand to chin and then move hand outward or upward to thank the Lord on high)*

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

**Let us be grateful!**

The Lord look upon you with his favor and give you his peace.

**Let us be grateful. Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG ... Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates** LSB  
341

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation he doth bring, therefore rejoice and gladly sing:  
We praise thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art thou!**

**A righteous Helper comes to thee; his chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, his scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe he brings,  
therefore the earth is glad and sings:  
We praise thee, Savior, now, mighty in deed art thou!**

**O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes to whom**

**this King in triumph comes!**

**The cloudless sun of joy is he, who comes to set his people free.**

**We praise thee, Spirit, now, our Comforter art thou!**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart**

**From earthly use for heav'n's employ,**

**adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**So shall your Sov'reign enter in and new and nobler life begin.**

**To thee, O God, be praise for word and deed and grace!**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!**

**O enter with thy grace divine; thy face of mercy on me shine,**

**Thy Holy Spirit guide us on until our glorious goal is won.**

**Eternal praise and fame we offer to thy name.**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Pastor Michael Tanney
Lector	Pastor Michael Tanney
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	William Gebhart and Roger Schmidt
Acolytes	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy
Worship Screen	Tra-Mi and Thao-Vy

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** Parts of this worship folder are copyrighted. Permission for reprint has been received from Concordia Publishing House. The Fellowship Publications, and C.C.L.I copyright license #386077 & C.C.L.I Streaming license #20825510

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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 Lucy Bohannon

Marvin and Tommie Barber

