

St. Johns Lutheran Church



“Let All God's Angels
Worship Him.”

St. Johns Lutheran Church

St. Louis, Missouri

Christmas Day

December 25th, 2023

Divine Service Setting 4

LSB 203

The Light of Grace - Presence (Angels)

AS WE GATHER

On Christmas Day, we celebrate with Scripture and song that the true Light of Grace gifts us with his holy presence. We welcome the Savior in this service as we join with the angels in greeting God's amazing grace in a manger.

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/>). **Our service today includes the celebration of God's presence, as He comes in the true body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Any who are not yet instructed or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from receiving the sacrament until they have spoken with the pastor.**

PREPARATION

OPENING SONG ... Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LSB 380

**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!"**

**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]***

**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]***

INVOCATION

**In the name of the Father,
Who loves us so much he sent his Son,
and of the Son,
Who loves us so much he died and rose for us,
and of the Holy Spirit,
Who loves us so much that he makes and keeps us holy.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*(White Candle only lit and manger comes down to table
representing God's presence among us, in the flesh)*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us come before our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we poor sinners plead guilty before You of all sins. We are by nature sinful people. Time and again, we have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered most. We have not honored the name of the Lord Jesus, the newborn King whose birth we celebrate this day, as we should. We have not walked in the brightness of Your light. Our thoughts and desires have been stained by sin. The manger reminds us we can not by our own reason or strength come to you. So we thank you for coming to us, we ask you for Your grace. It is our sincere desire to do better in our lives.

HYMN OF RESPONSE ...

Kyrie (to the tune of Savior of the Nations Come)

**Lord, have mercy on us all
Lord, have mercy when we call
Take away the stain of sin
Lord, have mercy yet again**

**Christ, have mercy on us all
Christ, have mercy when we call
Take away the stain of sin
Christ, have mercy yet again**

**Lord, have mercy on us all
Lord, have mercy when we call
Take away the stain of sin
Lord, have mercy yet again**

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of the new born, crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE... Angels We Have Heard on High LSB 368

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God who has given us grace at this time to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the light of the world, we thank You for the countless blessings that He has brought to us and to our world. We ask that our worship bring joy to You and that Your life-giving light be shown forth through us; this we ask through Jesus Christ, the newborn Babe and our eternal King and Lord.

Amen.

MEMORIZED WORD

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 1:14

OLD TESTAMENT READING ... Isaiah 52:7-10

(all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God)

⁷ 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.” ⁸ 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. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 2 *sung by the Choir*

EPISTLE READING ... Hebrews 1:1-7

(the Son’s presence is the radiance of God’s glory)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² 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. ³ 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, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ 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”? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” ⁷ Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” ⁸ But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE John 1:14

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.

SONG “*God With Us*” sung by Pastor Tanney

GOSPEL READING ... John 1:1-18

(Jesus the Word became flesh)

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing

made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN ... Now Sing We, Now Rejoice LSB 386

**Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!**

**Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!**

**Now through His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light,
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!**

MESSAGE *Angels Rejoice*

CREED *(Tune of O Little Town of Bethlehem)*

**We all believe in one true God,
Who over us still reigns.
The Father sent the Son to earth
To bear our sin-brought pains.
The Father wrought creation
And holds it in His hand.**

**He feeds and clothes and houses us
By His most holy plan.
We all believe in Jesus Christ
The Son of God from heav'n.
His birth as man was for our sake,
That He to death be giv'n.
The Child found in a manger
Now reigns as Lord on high;
Yet He'll return to take His flock
To heaven's rich supply.**

**The Holy Spirit we believe,
Was sent as Comforter,
Prepares the Bride of Christ-the Church-
And hovers over her.
He does the Father's bidding,
He leads us to the Son,
And with them both, He's glorified-
The True God, Three-in-One.**

OFFERING Awake! Arise! (*sung by Choir*)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray:

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, O Lord God Almighty, that when darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, You provided a Savior, able to help, and strong to deliver.

Praise to You, O God, our light and our salvation!

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be to You, that You gave Your eternal Son to become incarnate, that through Him light and pardon, power and peace, life and eternal salvation, might come to the fallen and lost children of men.

Praise to You, O God, our light and our salvation!

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving be unto You, that by the holy nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ we, who by sin were driven out of

the earthly paradise, are begotten again to a new Kingdom and to an endless paradise in heaven.

Praise to You, O God!

God of all mercy, let it please You to add grace to grace; and as You have given Your Son to be our Redeemer, pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit, that with pure hearts we may celebrate His birth, and with joyful devotion welcome Him. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer!

Grant the needs of all people be met according to Your good and gracious will. Grant that the ill and those burdened by many cares find respite from their challenges. *(especially we include...)* Send the joy of Your salvation into all penitent and burdened souls, that they may rejoice and give glory to God that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer!

Help, defend, and keep us all, through Him who was born at Bethlehem, so that when He comes in glorious majesty to complete our redemption we may have our perfect fulfillment and joy in His eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose blessed name we make all of our prayers.

Amen.

SACRAMENT

(Communion will be served out of the manger. Please come up the middle aisle and leave by the side aisle)

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is good and right to do so!

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, because in Your loving kindness You sent forth Your only Son, Jesus, to be the true light that enlightens all people by your presence. Therefore with

angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud
and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS *(Tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord!
God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of Your Name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King!
Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due
Be forever, Lord, to You!**

Assembled in Your Name, Lord Jesus, and in the fellowship of all
who worship You as King of the ages and the Light of Grace, we
pray as you taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER *(Tune of It Came Upon the Midnight Clear)*

**Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne,
Most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
On earth—in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation lead us not;
From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom, unto You
In grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord let us view
Your mighty presence now.
The glory Yours; your praise be sung
By angel hosts and men;**

**In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
Forevermore! 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 (The Peace of the Lord)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI (*Tune of From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*)

**O Lamb of God, You take away
The sins of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sins release:
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

What Child Is This *LSB 370*

Away in a Manger *LSB 364*

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

(*Tune of God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*)

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,
What He has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice**

**And proudly bear His name,
Who leads His thankful people forth
His promises to claim.**

Refrain:

**Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Lord, let Your servant go in peace,
Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work
Which for the world You willed:
The glory of Your chosen race
As light for all revealed. *Refrain***

**Oh, praise to God the Father,
And praise to God the Son,
And praise to God the Spirit,
Most blessed Three in One;
As 'twas, is now, and e'er shall be
While endless ages run! *Refrain***

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Let us pray.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have gathered us together at Your Table and refreshed us through this Sacrament. Keep us, we pray, in Your faith and favor that we live for You and be fit temples for the Holy Spirit. Grant that the body and blood of our blessed Lord preserve us in true faith unto life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Jesus our Savior, who has come to earth in the flesh and now lives and reigns in glory with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.
Amen.

CLOSING SONG ... Joy to the World LSB 387

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Liturgist	Pastor Michael Tanney
Lector	Pastor Michael Tanney

Elder
Organist

Earl Welch
Suzanne Manelli

By Jeremy Klaustermeier with crafts by Karin Klaustermeier. ©
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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:

Cindy Geiger
Diane Schwab

Family & Friends
Henry & Hazel Schwab
Jacob & Noah Flynn
Denny, Patsy, & Sally

Schwab
Marsha Jackson

Joseph Jackson
Loved Ones

Michael & Cathy Tanney

Diane Hassenrik
Jim Tanney

Doris Seevers

Ken Seevers
David Seevers
Valerie Seevers

Benwell Family
Al & Liz Bohannon

Loved Ones
Tamarris Bohannon
JR and Lucy Bohannon
Marvin & Tommy Barber