



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Order of Divine Service



CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY SERVICE

a Savior has been
born to you;

DECEMBER 24, 2025

Luke 2:11, NIV

AS WE GATHER

The days and weeks preceding Christmas are full of hustle and bustle for many. Between parties and shopping, cooking and baking, wrapping and card writing, along with many more things, we are occupied and busy as we anticipate this night and the assured joy to come celebrating the Savior born for us. Over two thousand years ago, though, that wasn't the case. Nobody was prepared for what was to take place. Yet everything soon changed in that little town of Bethlehem. Quietly, unexpectedly, even "like a thief in the night" was born in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, our Lord. Tonight, we gather amid the busyness to reflect, rejoice, and ponder anew the joy of our Savior born and to prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gifts ever given and received by and through Him—hope, forgiveness, newness, and an assured promise of eternal life through faith in Him.

PRELUDE

A Cradle Carol | Dan Forrest

See Amid the Winter's Snow | arr. Dan Forrest

CAROL

370 What Child Is This



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is
2. Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
sleep-ing? Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet While
feed-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here The
shep-herds watch are keep-ing? This, this is
si-lent Word is plead-ing. Nails, spear shall
Christ the king, Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful



The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION & CALL TO CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father and of the **✚** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P In the stillness of this night,

C **a gift is given.**

P Wrapped in swaddling cloth, coming to us as a little baby,

C **God's greatest gift is given.**

P In the miracle and mystery of God's Son born in human flesh,

C **God has given us his salvation.**

CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

L The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 9.

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.
You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice
before you as with joy at the harvest,

as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his
oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be
upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold
it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and
forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The Epistle is from Titus, chapter 2.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-
controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed
hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who
gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a
people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (*because he was of the house and lineage of David:*) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And 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, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary,

and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

376 Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our glad-ness.
leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.
stars His chil-dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

All children are invited to come to the Altar.

Kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Dear Heavenly Father, in the incarnation of Jesus You revealed good news and great joy for all the earth to hear. Embolden us to spread the good news and great joy of Your Son to the ends of the earth.
For the people who walked in darkness
C **have seen a great light.**

P Lord, the darkness of death still envelops us, and many are suffering in grief. Comfort those grieving loved ones with hope of the resurrection to eternal peace and life, [*especially . . .*].
For the people who walked in darkness,
C **have seen a great light.**

P Lord, shine Your light upon all of the leaders of the world, that we live in peace and quietness without war or violence.
For the people who walked in darkness,
C **have seen a great light.**

P Lord, You have shined the light of Christ on the world. Help us reflect Your light to those who are experiencing the darkness of the world. Bring community to the lonely, stability to those in transition, and safety to all those who have suffered abuse.
For the people who walked in darkness,
C **have seen a great light.**

P Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your good and gracious will.
For the people who walked in darkness,
C **have seen a great light. Amen.**

Sit

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SOLO

The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

Dan Forrest

CAROL

Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky____ looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay - by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

The Clergy and Elders will light the candle of those in the aisle seats and each person will then light their candle from their neighbor's.

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake,
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
 all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diantbeams from Thy ho - ly face
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
 peace,
 born!
 birth, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Please extinguish the candle and hand it to an usher as you leave.

BENEDICTION

- P** Unto us
- C** a child is born!
- P** Unto us
- C** a son is given!
- P** And the government shall be upon His shoulder.
- C** And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 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

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist
Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist
Kristen Stapleton, Soprano
Kirk Farney, Lector
Holly Hemminger, Acolyte
Mallory Buckley, Acolyte

MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry here at St. John's is wholly reliant on the generosity of the members of the congregation through contributions to the Music Fund. The fund supports our efforts to provide uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enhances our experience of our worship to God. The three pillars of Stewardship: time, talent and treasure are essential for any music program to thrive and grow.

Therefore, the Board of Worship would like to encourage you to consider donating to the Music Fund. There are white envelopes in the pews, or you can donate online.

FLOWERS

The Altar Guild would like to thank all who purchased poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary in celebration of Jesus' birth this Christmas!

Given to the Glory of God For Blessings Received

Don and Kathy Bezek
Amy Buonassisi
Teri Lyn Fukar
Marie A. Fukar
Chris Kirchenberg
Ron and Ruth Gallman
Chris Hubacek
Sue and Andy Kunz
Marjorie Newpher
Jack and Jeannette Nord
Amy Strombom

Given To the Glory of God:

Mark and Jennifer Behnke
Sharon Broz
Marie A. Fukar
Ron and Ruth Gallman
Martin and Cheryl Haugen
Karen and Richard Herman
Harlan and Judy Hirt
Mary Newren
Art Schroeder

Given to the Glory of God In Honor of Someone or an Occasion

In thankfulness for Ashland and Shay from Jeff Baker and Beth Zeiter

For 50 great years of marriage from Jack and Jeannette Nord

Given to the Glory of God in Memory of Loved Ones:

In memory of Mildred Babirak from The Babirak Family

In memory of Ken Fukar and Lisa Marie Santoro from Teri Lyn Fukar

In memory of our son, Ron Gallman, Jr., and Parents, Karl and Ethel Stodden
and Lee and Duean Gallman, from Ron and Ruth Gallman

In memory of Edgar Swarthout from Mary Grether

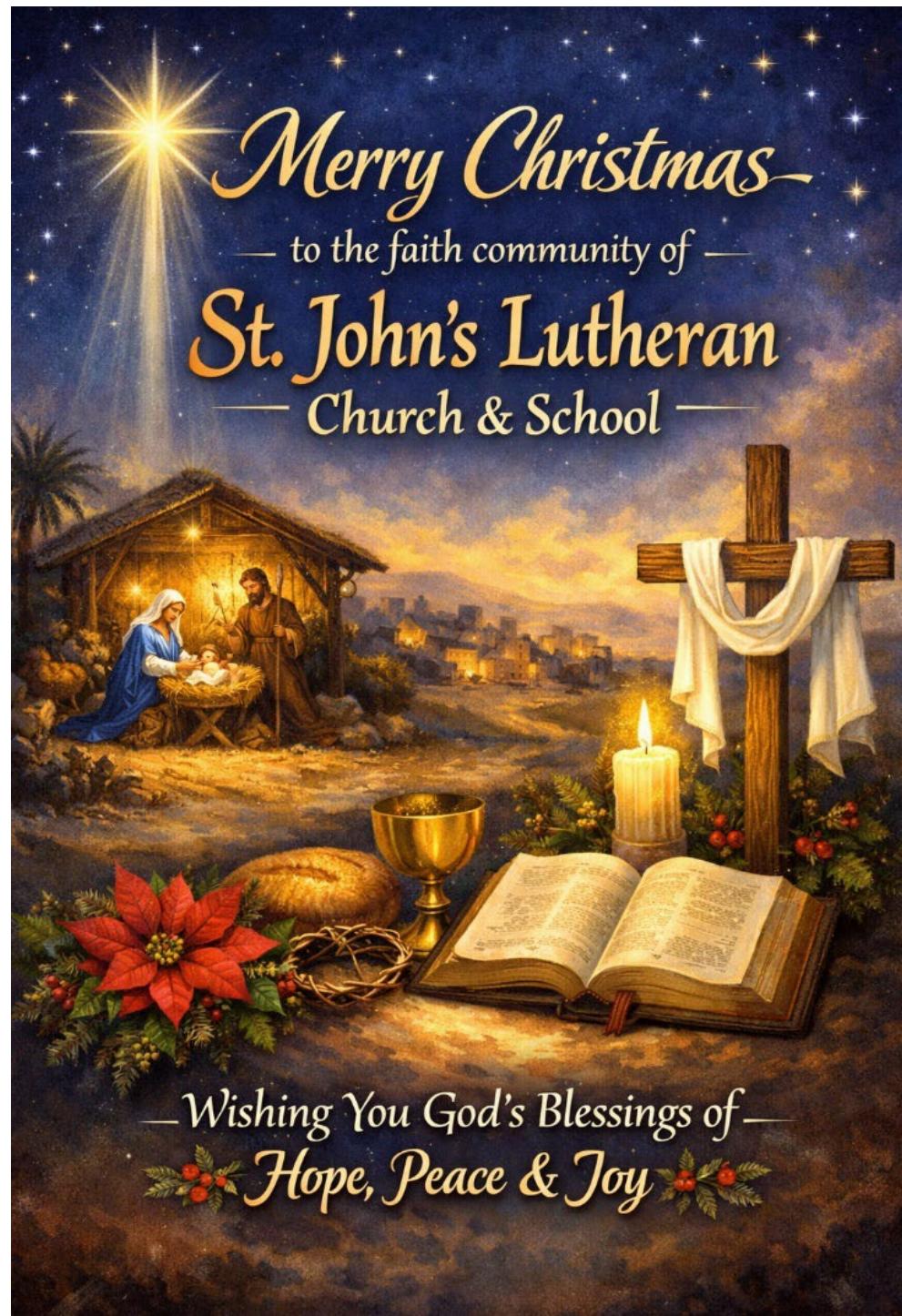
In memory of Ann Hubacek, who loved poinsettias, from Chris Hubacek

In memory with honor Grandmas and Grandpas, John D. and Mary A. Mark,
and Benjamin and Bernice Pilarczyk, and loving husband and father David J. Pilarczyk
from Nancy Pilarczyk and son, Benjamin

In memory of Bob and Shirley Pyritz from Joann Pyritz

In memory of Pastor David Smith and Evelyn Chizzo from Marnie Smith and Family

In memory of Pam Campagnolo, Frank Brisk, and Bill and MaryAnn Vitek
from Sarah Vitek



Children's Worship Bulletin

Preparing the Way

Mark 1:1-8

Word Search

J Z P T V R I V E R T U W T P
T L U S E L K X B A P T I Z E
N B X U Y R K G Y S L Z L D Q
M D E S E R T W J O R D A N P
F O P S A H N I O F Y B J O R
U H T T J W R U W R O C K S E
E J O R J C A F V I T Z B O P
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