

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



Christmas Day Service

December 25, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Heavenly Father, help us in the spirit of true repentance to rejoice in our Savior's birth. In sincere faith may we join in the song of the angels, and share the delight of the shepherds. Grant that Christ may be born again to us today that the truth, love and redemption which he brought may dwell in our hearts and lives. Like Mary may we keep all these things and ponder them in our hearts always. Amen.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

WELCOME

God came and made his dwelling among us

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M

Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall, and into the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored.

But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

M

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this holy night. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

G

Glory to God in the highest!

M We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

M We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

M We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

M Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

C **Glory to God in the highest!**

Opening Hymn:

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Christian Worship, Hymn # 363

C Verse 1

♪ **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!**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

C Verse 2

♪ **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!**

C Verse 3

♪ **Now through his Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.
Death o'er us had reign-ed Through sin and vanity;
Till he opened for us a bright eternity.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M As we draw near to the newborn Christ child tonight, we enter into the presence of holiness. We may be gathered around a lowly manger in the midst of the humblest of beginnings as we look through faith upon His face, but the truth remains. We are unworthy guests. We are sinners who have no right to approach the sinless Son of God. Yet His very presence in our world testifies to God's love and intention to save His people from their sins. In grace the Father sends His Son and invites us to approach. Confident in the love God has shown us through Jesus Christ, we confess our sins before God and one another.

C **Heavenly Father, we humbly bow before You on tonight filled with awe at Your great love for us. We know that we are unworthy of such love because of our sins in thought, word, and deed. Yet in the midst of our failings, You have given us the gift of Your only Son. Forgive our sin and fill us with the everlasting peace only You can give. We approach Your throne of grace in Jesus' name. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

M Standing in the presence of our Holy God, I announce His peace to you! The separation between God and sinful mankind has been healed by Jesus Christ. He was born in our midst to give us Christmas peace. What joy to announce the angels' message to you: *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."* His name is Jesus—He has saved His people from their sins. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song Response:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Christians Worship, Hymn #350

C Verse 1

♪ **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 th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)



Verse 3



**Hail, the heav'nly 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

PRAYER OF THE DAY



Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Amen.

Song Response:

Christmas Songs of Joy

Praise Choir sings

OLD TESTAMENT TESTIMONY

(selected verses)



You may ask: Who is it that has come to us? Hear the words of the prophets, who answer.



Moses proclaims him the Prophet:



"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; that one you shall heed."

(Deuteronomy 1:15)

M Isaiah proclaims him Immanuel:

C **“The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”**

(Isaiah 7:14)

M Ezekiel proclaims he is the Shepherd:

C **“I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.”**

(Ezekiel 34:5-16a)

M Micah proclaims him from Bethlehem:

C **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come from me, one who is from of old, from ancient times.”**

(Micah 5:2)

M Zechariah proclaims him the humble King:

C **“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your King comes to you, triumphant and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey.”**

(Zechariah 9:9)

M Isaiah proclaims him the Prince of Peace:

C **“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

(Isaiah 9:6)

M We hear the words of the prophets. It is God’s Son who has come!

Song Response:

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Christians Worship, Hymn #345

C Verse 2

- ♪ **In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! And in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still small voice to cry one day for me.**

C Verse 3

- ♪ **How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.**

C Verse 4

- ♪ **Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me.**

The Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-4

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. **4** So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Song Response:

Praise Choir sings

He Made a Way



The Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **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 testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn of the Day:

What Child Is This

Christians Worship, Hymn #344

G Verse 1 **♪** **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!**

G Verse 2 **♪** **Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

G Verse 3 **♪** **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 the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

Galatians 4:1-7

God Gave Us His Bundle of Joy

4 What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. **2** The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. **3** So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. **4** But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. **6** Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." **7** So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Song Response:

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Christians Worship, Hymn #331

C Verse 3 **♪ This is the Christ, our God most high,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.**

C Verse 4 **♪ He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in his kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us his glory share.**

C Verse 8 **♪ Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That you might share your joy with me.**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

C Verse 13 ♪ **Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, made clean and new,
A quiet chamber kept for you.**

C Verse 14 ♪ **My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle song:**

C Verse 15 ♪ **Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us his Son has given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

M What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

(Prayer continues on the next page.)

M In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities the holidays present.

C **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

M As the angels sang out their praises, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

BLESSING

M May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

Joy to the World

Christian Worship, Hymn # 353



Verse 1

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.



Verse 4



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.

Join us tomorrow at 9:00 AM for a new Sunday morning service. God Bless your Christmas!

A CHRISTMAS WISH FROM OUR STAFF

Pastor & Karla Aden, Rick & Sarah Zimmerman, Phil & Abby Stuebs, Corey & Sarah Marohn, Matt & Kristen Hillmann, Tom & Nancy Schwartz, Jake & Katie Janssen, Andy & Bekah Bubolz, Nick & Amanda Schrubbe, Scott & Cindy Bubolz, Bob & Mary Busse, and Dean & Rose Behnke and their families extend to all of you, both members and guests, sincere wishes for a most blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. May the message of the Savior's birth fill your hearts with peace and joy throughout the coming year. Also receive their thanks for the many kindnesses you have shown to them in gifts, cards, prayers, and support this season and throughout the year. Thank you and God bless!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

DONATED BY:

IN MEMORY OF:

Lorna Bastian	Kermit Bastian
Nancy & Richard Baumgardner	Lloyd & Florence Behnke
Hank Behnke	Doris Behnke
Marcus & Rhonda Behnke	Milton & Dorcella Lau; Roland & Loretta Behnke
Shawn & Melissa Behnke & Family	Rosie Nennig
Steve & Suzi Bratz Family	Margaret Bratz
Raymond & Suzanne Bubolz	Lester & Erma Behnke and Raymond Sr. & Helen Bubolz
Roger & Carol Bubolz	Harvey & Lillian Bubolz; Hugo & Eida Porr
Brad, Becky, Jade & Paige Busse	Evey Busse & Judy Korstad
Robert & Mary Busse	Henry & Dora Busse; Herb & Helen Thoele
Florence Denor	Wilbert Denor; Great-Granddaughter Sadie Denor
Randy & Gail Denor	Robert Wenzlaff; Julie Grimm
Dan & Audrey Duchow(2)	Clarence & Ella Luedtke; Adolph & Eleanor Duchow
Mary Fenlon & Family(2)	Patrick Fenlon
Joanne Fischer(2)	Loved ones gone but not forgotten.
Curt Grimm & Family	Julie Grimm
Ida May Krepline	Orville Krepline
Larry, Amanda & Nevaeh Krepline	Orville Krepline



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

DONATED BY:	IN MEMORY OF:
Mary Lou Krepline	All deceased family members
Val Jean Link	Peter Link
Phyllis Nienhaus	Myron & Judy Schreiber
Arlie & Pat Olp(3)	Leonard Denor; Maria Dolan; Tim McCianahan
Olp Family	Harold & Rosie Olp & Arnie Olp
Quinn & Pierce Popp	Julie Grimm (Grandma)
Mark, Darlene, Briana & Heidi Propson	Lloyd & Florence Behnke; Joe & Bernice Propson; Lorraine Loose
Erdine Schultz	Roger Schultz
Tim & Joan Sheahan(12)	Raymond Sheahan; Donald & Joanne Bubolz
Gary Torsch	Bonnie Torsch
Erwin Waack	Elaine Waack
Tim, Amy & Maisie Waack(2)	Brendan Waack; Harvey & Charmaine Waack
Gene & Charmaine Wagner	Family Members
Yvonne Wenzlaff	Julie Grimm; Robert Wenzlaff
Linda Worgull & Lorenda Goertz	Merlin & Germaine Luedtke
Terry Zeller	Mary Zeller

Thank you for all the lovely poinsettias donated by our congregation! Don't forget to take along your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Day services, **please leave behind the trays that the poinsettias are placed in. There are plastic bags and cardboard trays left in the West Church office to transport your plants home safely.