



## St. John Lutheran Church

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# 9:00 - Traditional



*January 5, 2025*

# Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service .

May God bless your worship with us today,

*Paul Kruse, Pastor*

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Mobile: 989-992-6030

*Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn,  
Share, and Serve'*

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of Christian faith in our community, to all generations, wherever they may be'*

**Epiphany/ Second Sunday after Christmas**

**DS1** (pp 151ff)

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Sharing of the Peace**

**Opening Song**

**"We Three Kings of Orient Are"** (not in Hymnal)

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain,  
Moor and mountain,  
Following yonder Star.

**Ref:** Oh, star of wonder, star of might,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to the perfect Light.

Born a Babe on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold we bring to crown Him again;  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign. **Refrain**

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh,  
Pray'r and praising all men raising,  
Worship God on high. **Refrain**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain**

Glorious now behold Him rise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Heav'n sings "Hallelujah!"  
"Hallelujah!" earth replies. **Refrain**

## Invocation

LSB 151

- L** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** Amen.

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

## Confession and Forgiveness

- L** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- G** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- L** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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

- L** Most merciful God,
- G** **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- L** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- G** Amen.

## Service of the Word

- L** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
- G** **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**
- L** Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
- G** **for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**
- L** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
- G** **his understanding is beyond measure.**
- L** But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
- G** **in those who hope in his steadfast love.**
- L** Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

- C** Praise your God, O Zion!
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### Lord, Have Mercy - *Sung*

LSB 152

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let  
us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.

### Hymn of Praise *Sung*

LSB 155

- C** This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy  
is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people  
of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are  
His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing  
with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation. Blessing,  
honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is  
the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb  
who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory  
for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### Prayer of the Day

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- L** Let us pray together...
- C** Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your  
incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives;

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

## First Reading

Ephesians 3:4-10

<sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia *Sung*

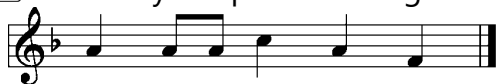
LSB 156

**C** **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



**C** **Glo - ry to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land

of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** 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.

## Children's Message

### Message Song

### **"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"** *LSB 394*

Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem  
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana wedding guest  
In Thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in pow'r divine,  
Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,  
Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be,  
Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine,  
All will see His glorious sign;  
All will then the trumpet hear,  
All will see the Judge appear;

Thou by all wilt be confessed,  
God in man made manifest.  
Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,  
Present in Thy holy Word—  
Grace to imitate Thee now  
And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee  
At Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.  
Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Message

## Offering

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“DEI”



## Offering Song - Sung

LSB 159

- ☐** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

## Prayer of the Church

### Service of the Sacrament

- ☐** 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 right to give Him thanks and praise.  
**☐** It is truly good, right, and proper ... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



## Holy, Holy, Holy Lord – *(Sung)*

LSB 161

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

## The Peace of the Lord

LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

## Lamb of God - *Sung*

LSB 163

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

*The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:*

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
2. *Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
3. *Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
4. *Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
5. *Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
6. *Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

*If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.*

## Distribution Song **“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”** *LSB 411*

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus. **Refrain**

**ref** In Him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934

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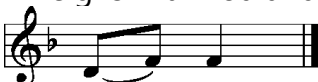
## Post-Communion Song *Sung*

*LSB 164*

- ☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Post-Communion Prayer

- ☐** 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 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.



**☐** A - men.

## Blessing

LSB 166

- L** 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** A - men.

## Closing Song

### **“As with Gladness Men of Old”** *LSB 397*

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev’ry day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

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