

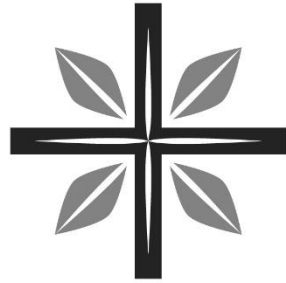


St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- We enjoy sharing the Good News of Christmas with our family and friends. On this night, it is our prayer that the message compels you to praise God along with us for his precious Son. He entered our world with a singular purpose: to rescue us from slavery to sin. As the King from heaven came down to earth, he broke death's grip on our eternity. By faith in him, we are free from the fear of the grave. We can be certain of our future. Our confidence lies not in our own good works, but in his manger stall. He alone, as God made man, opens the door to heaven for us. We pray that you will return to worship with us again.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- Large print service folders and assisted listening devices are available from an usher. Children's service folders and worship notes are available in the round tract rack in the entry area.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or available online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.
- The pastors, staff, principal, faculty, and their families wish to thank the members of St. John's for all the Christmas cards and gifts received during this festive season. Your expressions of love and gratitude for our ministry are genuinely appreciated.

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2021

One of the great traditions of the Christmas season is the Festival of Lessons and Carols, sung by church choirs large and small in every part of the English-speaking world. The model upon which this nativity event is based is the service which takes place annually on Christmas Eve at 3:00 p.m. at King's College in Cambridge, England. It has been a tradition at King's since 1918 and will be held once again this year with an audience in attendance.

As the creator of Lessons and Carols pointed out in the first printed program, the "pattern and strength" of the service resides with the lessons themselves, not with the music. "The main theme of the service is the development, through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, of the loving purpose of God in sending his Son. The carols and hymns are simply here to guide us in our response to the Word of God's promise."

Prelude

Processional Hymn

Once in Royal David's City
Christian Worship 343

During the singing of the processional hymn, the congregation is asked to rise and turn to the back of the church to visually follow the entrance of the cross on its way to the chancel.

Solo: Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

**C: He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love,
For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n above,
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
Shall we see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars his children crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.**

M: We recall our baptism into Christ, in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Dear people of God, 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 to 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 into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, who do not love him, and who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

Lord's Prayer

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Be seated

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

In the Garden of Eden, God announces that the seed of a woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly

and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (see pg. 16)

Christian Worship '93 6

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed, the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

Savior of the Nations, Come

setting by Michael Praetorius

Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon his throne.

Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.
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.
Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

The People Who in Darkness Walked (stanzas 1-3)

Christian Worship 381

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him –

the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD –
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him,
and his place of rest will be glorious.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

Lo, How a Rose

arranged by Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as prophets long have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, thie rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe,
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know:
Bring us, at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven, and to the endless day.

Fifth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth
and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they will live securely,
for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

O Little Town of Bethlehem (stanzas 1 & 4)

Christian Worship 333

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed virgin Mary.

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word*Adult Choir***A Dove Flew Down***arranged by Johannes Brahms*

A dove flew down from heaven, a dove rare and pure,
In angel garb appearing, to greet a maid demure:
"All grace I bring you, tender, lovely maid.
No soul with such adorning has ever been arrayed." Kyrie eleison.

"I bring you joyous greetings: the Lord is with you!
A child you will be bearing; you must believe it's true.
So welcome, welcome, open wide your heart
That God upon this visit his favor may impart." Kyrie eleison.

To this the virgin, bowing, responded with awe:
"If this is what he wishes, his wish shall be my law.
Yet more than willing I surrender me,
If such love is my master, his servant I will be." Kyrie eleison.

And so the gift was given, our helper in need,
New life to dwell among us, eternal God indeed!
This Jesus Christ Child, Son whom Mary bore,
Is come to be our Savior, to heav'n our open door. Kyrie eleison.

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Silent Night, Holy Night
Christian Worship 337

Eighth Lesson

Luke 2:8-18

The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Away in a Manger (stanzas 1 & 2)

Christian Worship 340

Ninth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led to Jesus by the star.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

The Coventry Carol

arranged by William Ferris

Lullay, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay,
Lullay, thou little tiny child,
By by, lully lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we sing,
By by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight,
All children young to slay.

Then woe is me, poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting, nor say nor sing,
By by, lully lullay!

Please stand

The last lesson will be read in the nave, to symbolize the truth that the Word made flesh now dwells among us. Please join in singing the indicated stanzas during the processional to and recessional from the nave.

**C: Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.**

The apostle John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

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

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**This is he whom seers and sages sang of old with one accord;
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.**

**Let the heights of heav'n adore him, angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.**

**Christ, to you, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost to thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory evermore and evermore.**

Be seated

Christmas Message

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. To submit your offering electronically or to fill out an online Connection Card, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Please stand

Closing Prayer

The minister says the closing prayer.

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And may the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, the Son ☩ and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Recessional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Christian Worship 354

*During the recessional, the congregation is asked to remain standing to sing and turn to visually follow the cross as it leaves the sanctuary.
Please be seated at the completion of the hymn to await dismissal by the ushers.*

**C: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Only-begotten Son of the God the Father:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

(continued on the next page)

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Postlude

6

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set your peo - ple free;
 2 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,



From our sins and fears re - lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry.
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope to all the earth im - part,
 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Presiding Minister	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Lectors	Pastor Eric Schroeder Pastor Joshua Yu Martin Luther College ministry students Jacob Leyrer & Zach Kopplin
Adult Choir Director	Dr. William Braun
Musicians	Lynn Kozlowski, organ Adam Sipe, trumpet Heidi Braun-Hill, Holly Schmidt, Heather Braun-Bakken & Hannah Braun, violin Adelaide Braunhill, bassoon

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“A Dove Flew Down” Text public domain.

“The Coventry Carol” Text public domain.

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Text public domain.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Text public domain.



St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 25	Christmas Day Festival Worship 10:00 a.m.* (preservice music begins at 9:30 a.m.)
Saturday, December 25	No evening worship
Sunday, December 26	Worship 8:00* & 10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 31	New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion 6:45 p.m.*
Saturday, January 1	Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 2	Worship with Holy Communion 8:00* & 10:30 a.m.

Services marked with a * will be broadcast online at www.sjtosa.org/video.

Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. – Worship in English

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. – Worship in Mandarin Chinese

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. – Worship in English

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. – Sunday School & Bible Classes (beginning January 9, 2022)



The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

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*Pastor Eric Schroeder
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