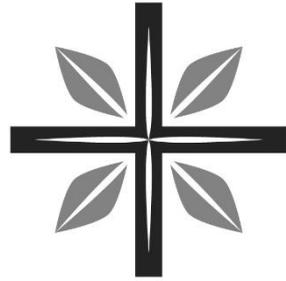


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- We enjoy sharing the Good News of Christmas with our family and friends. On this day, 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.
- Large print service folders, assisted listening devices, children's service folders, and children's worship notes are available from the ushers.
- 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.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- As the offering is received, members and guests are asked to sign the Friendship Register. Please pass the register to your neighbor and then return it to the center aisle. Visitors are also asked to fill out a guest card and give it to an usher.
- 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 Day

December 25, 2019

Proclaim the Good News: God has kept his promises.

Call to Worship

Adult Choir

Ding, Dong! Merrily on High!

arranged by Ryan Murphy

Ding, dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing,
Ding, dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And, i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen.
Ding, dong, hosanna in excelsis! Ding, dong, hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rhyme your eve-time song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Christian Worship 55

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C: He was with God in the beginning.

M: 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.

C: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

M: 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.

C: **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.**

M: It is with great joy that we gather this morning to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Yet we also remember that he came into this world because of our sin. Let us come before God with humble hearts, acknowledging our sinfulness and asking for his forgiveness.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God –

C: **Children born not of natural descent nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 1:1-5, 9-14

(sung) **Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

(continued on the next page)

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

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 Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10

Through the incarnation, the world saw God's salvation.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.

When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.
Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

From Heaven Above

arranged by Bradley Norris

“From heav’n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev’ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:

“To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.

“The blessing that the Father planned the Son holds in his infant hand,
That in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share.” Alleluia.

Second Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-9

Through the incarnation, God became man.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 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. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son; today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.”

But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,
and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia, alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia.

Please stand

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20 (*King James Version*)

Through the incarnation, Jesus came into our world

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.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Be seated

Anthem*Adult Choir***Oh, Come, Little Children***arranged by David M. Cherwien*

Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all.
 To Bethlehem's stable, in Bethlehem's stall,
 And see with rejoicing this glorious sight,
 Our God in heaven has sent us this night.

Oh, see in the manger, in hallowed light
 A star throws its beam on this holiest sight.
 In clean swaddling clothes lies the heavenly Child,
 More lovely than angels, this baby so mild.

Oh, there lies the Christ-Child, on hay and on straw;
 The shepherds are kneeling before him with awe.
 And Mary and Joseph smile on him with love,
 While angels are singing sweet songs from above.

Hymn of the Day**Where Shepherds Lately Knelt***Christian Worship 54***Sermon****John 3:16-18****God So Loved the World**

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.”

*Please stand***Athanasian Creed**

**C: It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe
 that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.**

Now this is the true Christian faith:

**We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
 is both God and man.**

**He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father,
 and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,**

fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,
equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;
and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one,
one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;
one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;
for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being,
so God and man are one Christ.
He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell,
rose the third day from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,
and from there will come to judge the living and the dead. +

Be seated

THANKSGIVING

Offering

*The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work
in our community and around the world, and our offerings are
a joyful response of our faith. To submit your offering electronically,
scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/giving. If you are a visitor today,
you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.*



Please stand

***Athanasian Creed:** Along with the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed is an *ecumenical* or universal creed. It was written to assist the Church in combating two errors that undermined Bible teaching: the denial of the doctrine of the Trinity and the denial of the dual nature of Jesus Christ (true God and true man).

In our worship today, we use the second half of the Athanasian Creed to confess our faith in Jesus Christ, our newborn Savior and King. Because of its defense of Jesus' dual nature, the second half of the creed is a beautiful explanation of the doctrine of *Christology*: the study of the nature and person of Jesus. It is particularly relevant on Christmas Day as we marvel how Jesus – Emmanuel, God with us – became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Prayer of the Church for Christmas

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love you have shown to us, your fallen and sinful creatures.

C: **You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.**

M: Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servantlike heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh. You became fully human so that you might live the holy and perfect life that we could not.

C: **You endured the agony of the cross and suffered death as our substitute.**

M: O Holy Spirit, you have opened our eyes to see that despite his humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of the world.

C: **We thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior.**

M: God of our salvation, we also ask that you would work powerfully in the hearts of those who do not yet know the Christ Child. Grant that they may see him as more than a seasonal attraction.

C: **Bring them to faith in you that they may also share in the sure hope of life eternal in heaven.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

M: Let the joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and let it find ready acceptance in believing hearts.

C: **Use this message for the extension of your kingdom and for the glory of your holy name.**

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

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Christian Worship 61

Please stand

M: Holy and eternal Word of God, through the mystery of your incarnation you became fully human. We marvel with the shepherds at the miracle of your birth. Work in the hearts of your faithful people that the good news of salvation revealed through you, the Word made flesh, might be spread in all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Christian Worship 62

Announcements

Postlude

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Presiding Minister	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Lectors	Pastor Joel Leyrer Pastor Joshua Yu
Musicians	Lynn Kozlowski, organ Mark Maurice, Jr. & Adam Sipe, trumpet Christian Willick, French horn Ed Miller, trombone Hannah Braun, violin & percussion
Adult Choir Director	Dr. William Braun
Head Ushers	Jon Johnson
Greeters	Adam & Jenny Greggs, Mark & Chris Rindfleisch
AV Operator	Jonah & Riley Rindfleisch

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“Oh, Come, Little Children” Text public domain.

St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 28	No evening worship service
Sunday, December 29	Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 31	New Year's Eve Worship 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1, 2020	New Year's Day Worship 10:00 a.m.

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 5, 2020)



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, goodwill towards

men

Luke 2
13-14

