

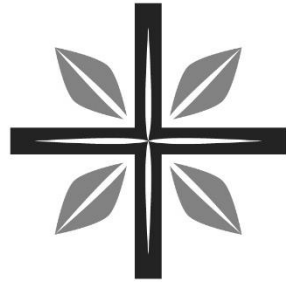


St. John's Lutheran Church

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 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.
- 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 Day

December 25, 2021

What Child Is This? God in the Flesh

Call to Worship

Adult Choir

Gaudete

arranged by Robert J. Batastini

Refrain: Gaudete, gaudete, Christus est natus ex Maria Virgine, gaudete.
Gaudete, gaudete, Christus est natus ex Maria Virgine, gaudete.
Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, rejoice.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger. *Refrain*

Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor. *Refrain*

Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him.
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him. *Refrain*

Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing.
All the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing. *Refrain*

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger. *Refrain*

Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story!
Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory! *Refrain*

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly (see pg. 12)

arranged by William Braun

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

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

M: Almighty God, before whom angels veil their faces, and in whose presence they delight, we acknowledge your glory with reverence and joy and worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal Trinity.

C: **Praise be to you, O God, for your great glory and majesty.**

M: Confessing our sin and our unworthiness, we beseech your mercy and forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh to dwell among us, full of grace and truth.

C: **Thanks be to you, O God, for your forgiving grace and mercy.**

M: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Galatians 4:4, 5

C: **Thanks be to you, O God, for adopting us as your children.**

M: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep darkness, the light has shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:2, 6

C: **Accept our praise and thanks this day, O Lord, as we meditate on the miracle of the birth of your Son, our Savior and our God.**

(sung) **A great and mighty wonder, a glorious mystery:**

A virgin bears an infant who veils his deity.

Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,

And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

Since all he comes to ransom, by all he is adored,

The infant born in Bethl'em, the Savior and the Lord.

Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

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

Exodus 33:18-23, 34:5-7

Moses could not see God's face, but we see this child – God in the flesh – in the manger.

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

Then the LORD said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

Let Our Gladness Have No End

arranged by William Braun

Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!
For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!
On this day God gave us
Christ, his Son, to save us.

Prophesied in days of old, alleluia!
God has sent him as foretold, alleluia!
On this day God gave us
Christ, his Son, to save us.

See the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!
From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia!
On this day God gave us
Christ, his Son, to save us.

Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia!
On this day God gave us
Christ, his Son, to save us.

Second Lesson

Romans 8:31-32

God gave up his Son – this child, God in the flesh – for us.

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Verse of the Day

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)

In the city of David, this child – God in the flesh – was born 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

Lullay My Liking

by Gustav Holst

Refrain: Lullay my liking, my dear Son, my sweeting;
Lullay my dear heart, my own dear darling!

I saw a fair maiden sitten and sing:
She lulled a little child, a sweeté lording: *Refrain*

That eternal lord is he, that made allé thing;
Of allé lordés he is Lord, of allé kingés King. *Refrain*

There was mickle melody at that childés birth:
Although they were in heaven's bliss, they madé mickle mirth: *Refrain*

Angels bright they sang that night and saiden to that child:
"Blessed be thou, and so be she that is so meek and mild." *Refrain*

Pray we now to that child, born of his mother dear,
God grant them all his blessing that now maken cheer: *Refrain*

An Apodosis for Christmas

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. †**

†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.

Be seated

THANKSGIVING

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

Prayer of the Church for Christmas

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.**

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 this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning this child.

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

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

M: As the angels sang out their praise, 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 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

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Christian Worship 345

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

Adult Choir & Congregation

Joy to the World
Christian Worship 353

**C: 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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

Choir: No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

**C: 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.**

Announcements

Postlude

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly

Christian Keimann, 1607–62
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

FREUET EUCH, IHR CHRISTEN ALLE
Andreas Hammerschmidt, c. 1611–75
arr. William Braun

Introduction: Choir and instruments



All 1. Oh, re-joice, all Chris-tians, loud - ly, For our joys have now be - gun;
Choir 2. See, my soul, your Sav - ior choos - es Pov - er - ty and weak-ness, too;
Choir 3. Lord, how shall I thank you right - ly? I am saved e - ter - nal - ly
All 4. Je - sus, guard and guide your mem-bers; Make us chil-dren of your grace;



Won - drous things our God has done. Tell a-broad his good-ness proud - ly,
In such love he comes to you. Nei-ther crib nor cross re - fus - es,
By your life and death for me. Let me not re - gard you light - ly
Hear our prayers in ev - 'ry place. Fan to life faith's glow - ing em - bers;



Who our race has hon - ored so, That he lives with us be - low.
All he suf - fers for your good To re - deem you by his blood.
But on you in faith de - pend, Prais - ing you, my heav'n - ly friend.
Give all Chris - tians far and near Ho - ly peace, a glad new year.

Refrain: Congregation and choir



Joy, oh, joy be-yond all glad-ness, Christ has done a-way with sad-ness!



Hence all sor-row and re-pin-ing, For the Sun of grace is shin-ing!

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Presiding Minister	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Lector	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Adult Choir Director	Dr. William Braun
Musicians	Lynn Kozlowski, organ Adam Sipe & Mark Maurice, Jr., trumpet Whit Hill, French horn Heidi Braun-Hill, Holly Schmidt, Heather Braun-Bakken & Hannah Braun, violin Adelaide Braunhill, bassoon

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“Lullay My Liking” Text public domain.

“Joy to the World” Text public domain.

St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

Saturday, December 25 No evening worship service

Sunday, December 26 Worship
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Friday, December 31 New Year's Eve Worship
6:45 p.m.

Saturday, January 1, 2022 Worship
5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 2, 2022 Worship
8:00 & 10:30 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 9, 2022)





Joy
TO
THE
world

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.

Pastors

*Pastor Joel Leyrer
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org*

*Pastor Eric Schroeder
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*Pastor Kyle Bitter
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