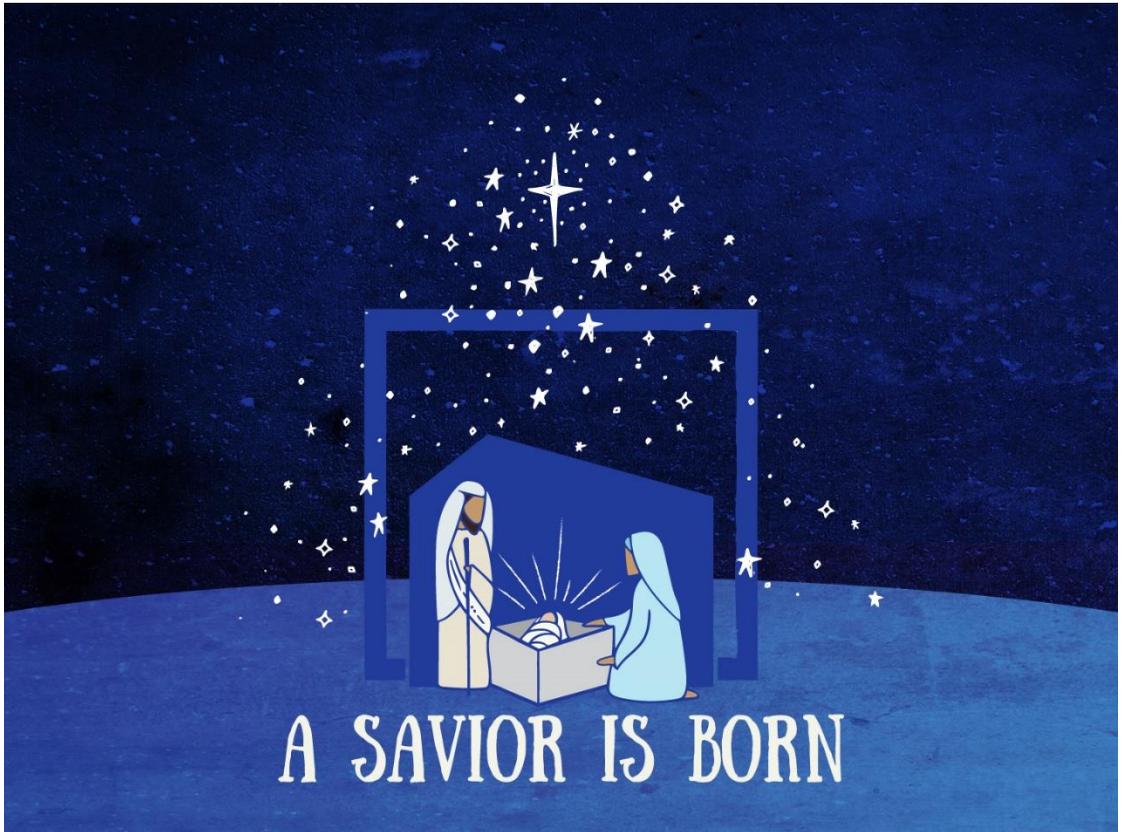




St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



Welcome to Worship!

The first Christmas sermon was preached to a small congregation consisting entirely of shepherds. The preacher? An angel. The message? “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.”

Savior...that’s a heavy word. When Jesus came into our world, he did not come to be just a helper or a teacher, just a mentor or a preacher. He descended into our brokenness to free us from hopelessness, guilt, and shame—to be our Savior. That means we need saving, a fact that we understand well if we are honest with ourselves. So God sent his one and only Son to be our Savior—to save us from our helpless state. This morning, we celebrate the good news that a Savior is born!

Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God’s Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother’s room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. 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 located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

The pastors, staff, principal, school faculty members, 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. God bless you for your care and concern.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year. Please return to worship with us again soon!

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

A Savior Born to Dwell Among Us

Prelude

Call to Worship

Adult Choir

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arranged by Bryan L. Greer

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.

His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth, ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him.

Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!

God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him.

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us, peace and love he gave us.

Text: Public domain

Opening Hymn

Stanzas 1 & 4: congregation; stanzas 2 & 3: choir

Please stand to sing the final stanza

O Come, All Ye Faithful

setting by James Chepponis

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

Let us adore him! Adore the Lord!

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:

***Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of light,
lo! He comes forth from the virgin's womb!
Our very God, begotten, not created: *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: *Refrain*

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!
Let us adore him! Adore the Lord!

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

Text: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dialogue for Christmas Day

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 all mankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light that gives light to everyone 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.

John 1:1-5, 9-11

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.

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.

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.

Amen.

To all who did receive 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 Son,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:12-14

Song of Praise

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Christian Worship 350

**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!"
Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain***

(continued on the next page)

**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. *Refrain***

Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

*The prophet foretold that the LORD would dwell among us
and would bring the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98

Refrain

Sing to the LORD a new song, for
he has done mar - vel - ous things.

Tone

Sing to the LORD a / new song,
for he has done / marv'ulous things.
The LORD has made his sal- / vation known
and revealed his righteousness to the / nations.
He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to / Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation / of our God. *Refrain*

Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with / music;
make music to the LORD / with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of / singing.
Shout for joy before the / LORD, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with / equity.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1–9

In these latter days, God speaks to us through his Son who came to dwell among us.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors 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 also 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 spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”

But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice 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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Galatians 4:4,5

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

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 all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone 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 did receive 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 Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem

Adult Choir

All Praise to Thee

by Elaine Hagenberg

All praise to Thee, eternal God, who clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
dost take a manger for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine alone.
Alleluia.

Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,
to make us in the realms divine, like thine own angels, round Thee shine.
Alleluia.

A little child, thou art are our guest that weary ones in Thee may rest;
forlorn and lowly is thy birth that we may rise, to heaven from earth.
Alleluia.

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Hymn of the Day

Stanzas 1, 2 & 4: congregation; stanza 3: choir

Joy to the World
Christian Worship 353

Sermon

John 1:1-14

We Are the Visited Planet

Please stand

Athanasian Creed⁺

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation that one faithfully 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 is one human being, so God and man is 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.

Prayer of the Church

Eternal and gracious Lord, on this holy day we rejoice with hearts and voices because you sent your one and only Son from his majestic glory to save us from the slavery of sin and the agonies of death.

He took on our human flesh that he might reveal your divine glory. He became our brother that we might become your children forever.

Give us quiet time during these busy days to reflect on your love and ponder the miracle of our Savior's incarnation. Help us look beyond our gift-giving and gift-receiving, and discover the greatest gift: the forgiveness of sins and life with you.

Put the joys of Christmas into the perspective of our eternal celebration, and let music and art lift our hearts to Christ who is truly the center of the season.

Keep in your loving care all whose Christmas joys are diminished by sickness and sadness, by unhappy recollections and uncertain hopes. Comfort those who sense this Christmas may be their last, and raise their eyes to the brilliant lights of heaven.

Soothe consciences that are troubled by guilt and regret, and show them the forgiving love of Christ.

We commend to your care all who proclaim the message of Christ during these holy days; all who care for people in hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons; and all who put themselves out to bring joy to others, especially children.

Let the light of your grace shine through all ministries of mercy.

Send us your Holy Spirit, gracious Lord, that the proclamation of the Christmas gospel may lighten the load of guilt and fear and lift our hearts to confident faith and holy living. By the power of your Word, bring your light to hearts struggling to understand you and searching to find you that they may know the joys of this season as we do.

Empower us to lead them to your love in our words and deeds.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

All this we ask in the name of the newborn King, born in Bethlehem and now living and reigning forever in heaven.

Amen.

Be seated

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. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Hymn

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt
Christian Worship 345

Please stand

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.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Christian Worship 363

Announcements

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Serving at Worship

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Preacher | Pastor Joel Leyrer |
| Presiding Minister | Pastor Eric Schroeder |
| Lector | Pastor Joel Schwartz |
| Musicians | Lynn Kozlowski, organ Megan Bauer, piano Tom Bauer & Mark Maurice Jr., trumpet Mike Swenson, French horn Eric Sipe, trombone Hannah Braun, violin |
| Adult Choir Director | Adam Sipe |

In Our Prayers

- Juniper Quinn Johnston, daughter of Dan and Megan (nee Schaeuble) Johnston, who will be baptized in a private ceremony on Monday.

Parents' Preview for January 1

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Christian Worship 496



1 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, to the maid - en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth to the fall - en here on earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, giv - en to the ho - ly Child
5 Je - sus! On - ly name that's giv'n un - der all the might - y heav'n
6 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, hu - man name of God a - bove;



un - to which must ev - 'ry knee bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, by the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
for the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall his peo - ple save."
when the cup of hu - man woe first he tast - ed here be - low.
where - by those to sin en - slaved burst their fet - ters and are saved.
plead - ing on - ly this, we flee help - less, O our God, to thee.

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

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org

Pastor Eric Schroeder
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org

Pastor Joel Schwartz
joel.schwartz@sjtosa.org

Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
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School Principal

Mr. Dan Markgraf
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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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