

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.
- Large print service folders are available from an usher. Assisted listening devices, including both ear bud and loop receivers for digital hearing aids, are also available from an usher.
- 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. God bless you for your care and concern.

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2018

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 PM at King's College in Cambridge, England. It has been a tradition at King's since 1918.

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 50

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.**

**But 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

God announces in the garden of Eden 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

Adult Choir

The Tree of Life

setting by Walker Williams

The tree of life with ev'ry good in Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned against whose eating God had warned.

The stillness of that sacred grove was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice to Eve beguile and Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness, when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death
Its awful poison first displayed within the world so newly made.

What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by his grace:
In sending One from woman's seed, the One to fill our greatest need –
For on a tree uplifted high his only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread to crush the ancient serpent's head.

Now from that tree of Jesus' shame flows life eternal in his name;
For all who trust and will believe, salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit, so pure and sweet, the Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood the tree of life with ev'ry good.

Second 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

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide
Christian Worship 22

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

Isaiah the Prophet

by Joy F. Patterson and Daniel C. Nelson

Isaiah the prophet has written of old
How God's new creation shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;
The wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall burst forth into song,
The peoples be led forth in peace,
For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
As the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,
And conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;
The briar and the thorn tree grow wild.
God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,
That no one shall hurt or destroy,
That wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
And your people shall go forth in joy.

Fourth 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
Christian Worship 66

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

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

Magnificat/All Praise to You, Eternal God

by William Braun

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

All praise to you, eternal God! Now clothed in human flesh and blood,
You took a manger for your throne while worlds on worlds are yours alone. Alleluia!

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm;
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
And has lifted up the lowly.

O little Child, you were our guest that weary ones in you might rest;
Forlorn and lowly was your birth that we might rise to heav'n from earth. Alleluia!

He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
For he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise made to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his children forever. Amen.

All this your love for us has done; by this our love for you is won;
For this our joyful songs we raise and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise. Alleluia!

Sixth 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

Christ the Lord to Us Is Born
Christian Worship 59

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*Adult Choir***Rui, Rui, Chui***arranged by Hal H. Hopson*

“Riu, riu, chiu,” manger birds are winging;
Holy Child, now hear them, hear their joyful singing.

Many ancient prophets told of his arriving;
Here is the Messiah, we end our endless striving.
He is light of lights, who of daylight is our token;
Lamb of God is he, yes, the one that John has spoken.

“Riu, riu, chiu,” manger birds are winging;
Holy Child, now hear them, hear their joyful singing.

Hosts and hosts of angels fill the air with singing;
Joy rings through the earth with a thousand voices ringing.
“Glory be to God,” hear them sing in all their brightness;
Peace shall come at last through this Son of such uprightness.

“Riu, riu, chiu,” manger birds are winging;
Holy Child, now hear them, hear their joyful singing.

Through this child so small, a King to us is given;
He is Christ the Savior, through him we are forgiven.
Though he is immortal, he is of our own station;
He has come to give us life and our salvation.

“Riu, riu, chiu,” manger birds are winging;
Holy Child, now hear them, hear their joyful singing.

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led 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!**

Please stand

The ninth 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.**

**This is he whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

St. 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!**

**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 the Spirit ceaselessly
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.**

Be seated

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

The Word Was God

music by Rosephanye Powell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
And the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made that have been made.
Nothing was made he has not made.
All things were made by him.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
And the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

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

Closing Prayer

The minister says the closing prayer.

C: Amen.

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**Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

Christian Worship 34

*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.*

Postlude

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister

Pastor Joel Leyrer

Lectors

Pastor Eric Schroeder

Pastor Kyle Bitter

Pastor Joshua Yu

Martin Luther College ministry student Christian Willick

Martin Luther College ministry student Zach Kopplin

Adult Choir Director

Dr. William Braun

Musicians

Lynn Kozlowski, organ

Rich Bakken & Mandy Treder, piano

Adam Sipe, trumpet

Heidi Braun-Hill, Holly Schmidt, Heather Braun-Bakken, Hannah Braun & Rachel Wendland, violin

Adelaide Braun-Hill, bassoon

Head Usher

Doug Knuth

Acknowledgements

“Once in Royal David’s City” Text public domain.

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“Magnificat/All Praise to You, Eternal God” Magnificat text based on Luke 1:46-55. *All Praise to You, Eternal God* text public domain.

“Riu, Riu, Chiu” Refrain text public domain. Verses text © 2002 Birnamwood Publications.

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

“The Word Was God” Text based on John 1:1-3.



St. John's Holiday Worship Schedule

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, December 25 | Christmas Day Festival Worship 10:00 AM |
| Saturday, December 29 | Worship 5:30 PM |
| Sunday, December 30 | Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM |
| Monday, December 31 | New Year's Eve Worship 6:45 PM |
| Tuesday, January 1, 2019 | New Year's Day Worship 10:00 AM |

Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays at 5:30 PM – Worship in English

Saturdays at 7:00 PM – Worship in Mandarin Chinese

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 AM – Worship in English

Sundays at 9:15 AM – Sunday School & Bible Classes (beginning January 6, 2019)



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

