



# St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

**Second Sunday after Christmas**

**January 5, 2025**

**8 a.m. Worship**



**TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE ...** go to our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/>. Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

*The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.*

**NOTE:** Announcements and Prayers can now be found online by clicking on the “Church” tab and then going to “Church”

# Preparation for Worship and Welcome

## Hymn

“The Only Son from Heaven”

*LSB 402*

The only Son from heaven,  
Foretold by ancient seers,  
By God the Father given,  
In human form appears.  
No sphere His light confining,  
No star so brightly shining  
As He, our Morning Star.

O time of God appointed,  
O bright and holy morn!  
He comes, the king anointed,  
The Christ, the virgin-born,  
Grim death to vanquish for us,  
To open heav'n before us  
And bring us life again.

O Lord, our hearts awaken  
To know and love You more,  
In faith to stand unshaken,  
In spirit to adore,  
That we, through this world moving,  
Each glimpse of heaven proving,  
May reap its fullness there.

O Father, here before You  
With God the Holy Ghost  
And Jesus, we adore You,  
O pride of angel host:  
Before You mortals lowly  
Cry, “Holy, holy, holy,  
O blessed Trinity!”

## Invocation and Exhortation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

## Introit

*Ps. 147:1,5,11-12; antiphon: John 1:14*

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.

**But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

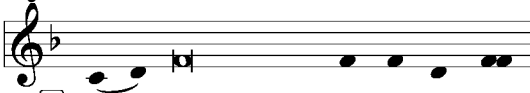
Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

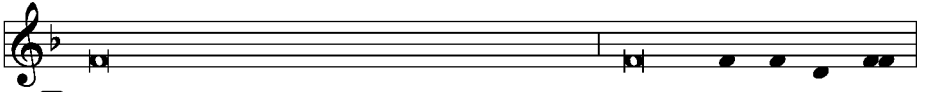
# Kyrie



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



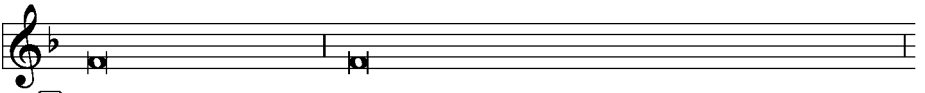
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

**C** A - men.

### This Is the Feast

*Refrain*

**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 5 For the Lamb \_\_\_\_\_ who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



*Final Refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 30:15-17*

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling, and you said, “No! We will flee upon horses”; therefore you shall flee away; and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Romans 8:26-39*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? 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 with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Common Alleluia and Verse

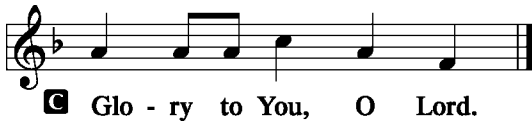


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 12:35-40*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to You, O Christ.

**Nicene Creed** (see inside back cover of the hymnal)

**Children’s Message**

Pastor Josh Parsons



# Hymn

“O Word of God Incarnate”

LSB 523

O Word of God incarnate,  
O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O Light of our dark sky:  
We praise You for the radiance  
That from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps,  
Shines on from age to age.

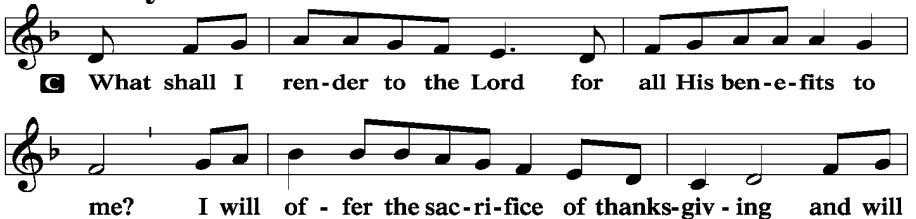
The Church from You, dear Master,  
Received the gift divine;  
And still that light is lifted  
O'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass  
That, all life's voyage through,  
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands  
Still guides, O Christ, to You.

O make Your Church, dear Savior,  
A lamp of burnished gold  
To bear before the nations  
Your true light as of old!  
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims  
By this their path to trace  
Till, clouds and darkness ended,  
They see You face to face!

# Sermon

Chaplain Eric Gledhill

# Offertory



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will

call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the  
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Offering

## Prayer of the Church

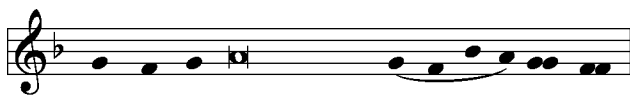
## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## The Lord's Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Institution

### Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

### Agnus Dei



**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

### Distribution Hymns

“What Child Is This”

*LSB 370*

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!  
Why lies He in such mean estate

Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*LSB 361*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

### “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story,  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. (*Refrain*)

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. (*Refrain*)

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. (*Refrain*)  
Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. (*Refrain*)

All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the\_ eternal Three in One. (*Refrain*)

## Thank the Lord



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

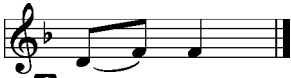


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.



**C** A - men.

## Announcements

### Blessing and Dismissal

P May you be captivated by the mystery of the Lord and trust Him to lead you, to guide you, and to instruct you this week.

**C** Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

LSB 850

God of grace and God of glory,  
On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
Crown Your ancient Church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Cure Your children's warring madness;  
Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving You whom we adore,  
Serving You whom we adore.

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