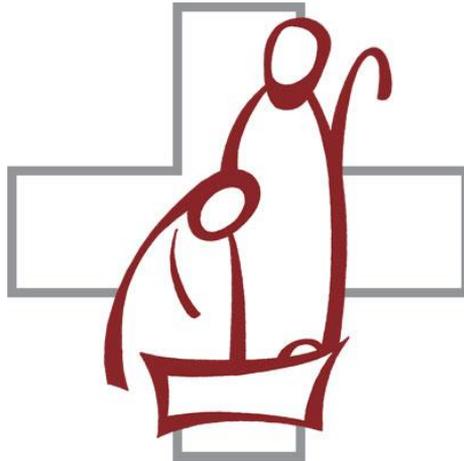




St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Christmas Day
December 25, 2025
10 a.m. Worship



Regarding Holy Communion, the scriptures teach that in this sacramental meal, our Lord gives His own true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. In the forgiveness of our sins we become partakers of the new covenant in His blood. For this reason, scripture also teaches that anyone who receives the sacrament ought to examine himself (see 1 Cor. 11:17-29). To that end, we encourage all who receive the sacrament regularly to make use of the literature provided for this purpose and to regularly visit with the pastor personally.

For guests and visitors: If you are a member of a Missouri Synod church or a church which shares fellowship with the Missouri Synod, you are welcome to commune with us. If not, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing while the sacrament is being given out (Please indicate your desire to receive a blessing by crossing your arms in front of you). If you would like a pastoral exception, please arrange for a meeting with the pastor.

The Dawn of Glory

On this joyful morning, the miracle of Christmas expands into glory as we proclaim that the Child born in Bethlehem is the eternal Word made flesh. The Light has not only dawned—it shines with brilliance and truth for all creation. Today we celebrate the fullness of God’s redemption as Christ comes to dwell among us, revealing God’s heart, grace, and everlasting life. The Dawn is not fleeting; it is the glory of God abiding with His people.

Invocation and Call to Worship

- P** In the beginning was the Word.
C **And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**
P In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
C **And the Light shines in the darkness!**
P Come, let us worship the Word made flesh.
C **We rejoice in His glory, full of grace and truth.**

Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379

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)*

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *(Refrain)*

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: *(Refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;

Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** **Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to bring Your glory into our world. We confess that we have not always lived as children of the Light. Forgive us, renew us, and shine upon us with Your mercy.**
- P** The Word became flesh and dwells among us. In Christ we have grace upon grace and the full forgiveness of all our sins. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Almighty God, on this holy day You made known the gift of Your Son, the Light and Life of the world. Fill our hearts with joy as we behold His glory. Help us live as children of Your Light, reflecting His grace in our homes, our communities, and our world. In Jesus' name.
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-6

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He

is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 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 bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And 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. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn

“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*)

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

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.

Communion Preparation

P Let us pray.

C O God, in the sending of Your Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary, Your Word became flesh, and we have seen a new and radiant vision of Your glory. His name is above every name, the Prince of Peace and Savior of all. In Him we have been brought out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

LSB 383

A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure! (*Refrain*)

Refrain: 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. (*Refrain*)

While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. (*Refrain*)

Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl’em,
The Savior and the Lord. (*Refrain*)

All idols then shall perish
And Satan’s lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. (*Refrain*)

“See amid the Winter’s Snow”

LSB 373

See amid the winter’s snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years. (*Refrain*)

Refrain: Hail, O ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Lo, within a stable lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim. (*Refrain*)

Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this! (*Refrain*)

Teach, O teach us, holy Child,
By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee
In Thy sweet humility. (*Refrain*)

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and ✠ give thee peace.
- C** Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

- P** May the glory of the Word made flesh fill your hearts with faith, hope,
and joy. Walk in His Light now and forevermore.
- C** Amen.
- P** Go in peace, serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

LSB 389

Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav’n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.

He leaves His heav’nly Father’s throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Silent Prayer

Heavenly Father, be with me as I carry Christmas into everyday life. Amen!

Prayers of the Church

Pray for:

- The Church around the world
- Mission and witness in the Light of Christ
- Faithful proclamation of the Incarnation
- Those in need of healing and hope
- Gratitude for God dwelling with His people

Message Summary (6–10 minutes)

John's Gospel takes us behind the manger to reveal the eternal majesty of the One born for us. The Child in the feed trough is the Creator of all things—the Word who brings life and light. Christmas Day proclaims that God's Light not only enters the world but transforms it. In Christ we see God's fullness—grace that forgives, truth that endures, and glory that never fades. The Dawn is now a radiant and everlasting glory for all who believe.

Sermon notes:

Acknowledgments

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