

Grow ... Go ... Gather
December 24, 2020



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

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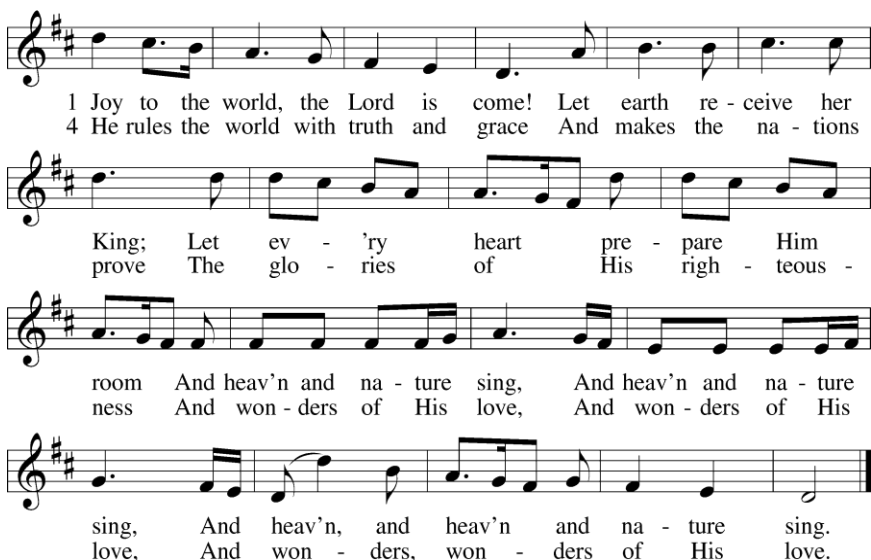
Website: www.stjamesgr.com

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.

**Pre-Service Hand Bell Music , The Call to
Worship, and The Welcome**

Please turn off your wifi
Please wear your masks when singing

The Opening Hymn: LSB 387 "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions
King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -
room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

C: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: For he has done marvelous things!

A Hymn: LSB 377, "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
 an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
 made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
 hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
 mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?

Tune and text: Public domain

A Prayer

P: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ **Readings from the Bible** ✠

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you

wear my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

A Song: LSB 370, "What Child Is This?"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public domain

The Epistle Lesson: 1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God

so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

A Song: LSB 361, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

Text and tune: Public domain

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

- 2** And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.
- 2** (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
- 3** And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
- 4** 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:)
- 5** To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
- 6** And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
- 7** 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.
- 8** And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9** 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.
- 10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- 11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
- 12** And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
- 13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
- 14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
- 15** 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.
- 16** And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

- 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
- 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
- 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Special Music: "Mary, Did You Know?"

A Sermon Hymn: LSB 384, "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Christmas Message: Luke 1:26-35 – “The Masks God Wears: Our Savior”

The Offering Prayer

A Christmas Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**☩ 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.**

A Song: LSB 364, “Away in a Manger”

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Tune and text: Public domain

Announcement and Benediction for our on-line worshipers.

The Words of Institution

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Distribution of the Lord's Supper (During the Distribution you are invited to sing):

LSB 359, "Lo, How A Rose is Blooming"

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness
sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright
cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

Anthem: "O Holy Night" sung by the Adult Choir

LSB 366, "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Post-Communion Prayer

(Pastor Schaeffer will light his candle from the Christ Candle in the Advent Wreath and the Light will be shared by the ushers with the congregants.)

The Service of the Light

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening.

C: And the day is almost over.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness.

C: And illumine Your Church and the world.

P: Let us pray....

C: Amen.

“Silent Night” sung by the Adult Choir

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

Tune and text: Public domain

The Congregation joins in singing “Silent Night”

A Hymn: LSB 363 “Silent Night”

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diantbeams from Thy ho - ly face
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
peace, born! birth, Sleep Christ, Je - sus, Lord, in heav - en - ly peace.
the Sav - ior, is born! at Thy birth.

Tune and text: Public domain

The Benediction

P: May God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
keep you in His light, truth, and love now and
forever.

C: Amen.

(Please Extinguish Your Candle.)

The Closing Hymn: LSB 380, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Tune and text: Public domain

Acknowledgement:

We appreciate Alexis Popma for sharing her talents
playing the flute this evening.
Thank you once again Lexi!