

**Grow ... Go ... Gather**  
**December 24, 2021**



**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(LCMS)**

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T

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**The Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 2021**

**The Order of Service**

**Preservice Music: Bell Choir**

**The Lighting of the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath**

P: Advent and Christmas are colorful seasons in the church year!

**C: White, gold, green, purple, red and blue adorn our celebration as we prepare for the advent of our Lord.**

P: White is the color of purity.

**C: Jesus, the Christ Child, is pure and holy.**

P: The angel announced, *"Mary, 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."* (Luke 1:35)

**C: But St. Paul says of the Infant born in Bethlehem, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)**

P: Yes, Jesus came to be our Savior and on the cross of Calvary, He bore the curse of our sin so that we are forgiven of our sin in the sight of God!

**C: "Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow!" (Psalm 51:7)**

P: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

**C: Alleluia! Amen! On this holy night, we praise  
You and worship You, O Jesus Christ, our  
Lord, and our Savior!**

*(As we sing our opening hymn, we will light the white candle on the Advent wreath which is called the Christ candle because Jesus is the Light of the world.)*

**The Opening Hymn: "O Holy Night"  
Solo by Christina Shourds Verse 2 & Chorus**

**Verse 1** (congregation)

O holy night the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

**Chorus 1** (congregation)

Fall on your knees  
O hear the angel voices  
O night divine  
O night when Christ was born  
O night O holy night  
O night divine

**Verse 2 (Solo)**

*Led by the light of faith serenely beaming  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
Here came the wise men from Orient land  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger  
In all our trials born to be our Friend*

**Chorus 2 (Solo)**

*He knows our need  
To our weakness is no stranger*

*Behold your King  
Before Him lowly bend  
Behold your King  
Before Him lowly bend*

**Verse 3** (congregation)

Truly He taught us to love one another  
His law is love and His gospel is peace  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother  
And in His name all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us praise His holy name

**Chorus 3** (congregation)

Christ is the Lord  
O praise His name forever  
His power and glory  
Evermore proclaim  
His power and glory  
Evermore proclaim

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**The Versicles**

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.**

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, 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  
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



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  
 in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then  
 sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



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  
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may  
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
 sing, All for to see the new - born King,  
 men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

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**The Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**Choral Anthem: "For Unto Us A Child is Born"**

## The First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

<sup>14</sup>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.**

## Choral Anthem: "Lo, How A Rose is Blooming"

### A Hymn: LSB 369, "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:  
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;  
Sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:  
His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.  
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

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## The Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>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 Hymn: LSB 366, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.  
Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:  
When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”  
A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-’ring wing,  
Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,  
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
And ev-er o’er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

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

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.



P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**A Hymn: LSB 386, "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"**



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to Thee.  
3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.  
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth      Poor in a man - ger lies;  
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,      O pure and ho - ly Child;  
Death was reign - ing o'er us      Through sin and van - i - ty  
Where the an - gels sing - ing      With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth      The sun in yon - der skies.  
Through Thy grace and mer - it,      Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
Till He o - pened for us      A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing      In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
Draw me un - to Thee!      Draw me un - to Thee!  
May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!  
Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

Text and tune: Public domain

**The Christmas Message: Isaiah 1:18 and Luke 2:1-20, "White: the Color of Purity"**

**The Christmas Offering – Bell Choir**

**The Christmas Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** (on the back cover of the hymnal)

## A Hymn: LSB 387, "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Announcements/Blessing for Online Worshippers

### T The Service of the Sacrament T

#### Preface

*LSB 216*

- P The Lord be with you.  
 C **And also 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, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## **The Distribution** (Continuous Distribution)

During the Distribution we will sing Hymn 388;


**Adult Choir** – “See Amid the Winter Snow”

**LSB 388, “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”**


**Duet: Christina Shourds and Sandra Schaeffer** -  
“Away in a Manger”

## LSB 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain


*Refrain*




Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*

Be - hold, through - out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Tune and text: Public domain

## A Post-Communion Prayer

### Lighting of the Candles

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

### A Reading of Luke 2:1-20 KJV

- <sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup> (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)  
<sup>3</sup> And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. <sup>4</sup> 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:) <sup>5</sup> To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with

child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

# The Closing 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, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Please extinguish your candles.

Please continue to worship the Christ Child as we begin this Christmas season – the Twelve Days of Christmas.  
 Join us for our Christmas Day service at 10:00 a.m. and on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.  
 On New Year’s Eve we will thank God for this past year and ask His blessing upon 2022 as we gather for worship at 7:00 p.m. on December 31.

# COMMUNION

## What do I do?



The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. James Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as Jesus says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our relationship with Him and one another.

Our Lord invites to His table those who:

- trust His words,
- repent of all sin,
- and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their spiritual harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed in this church, ***any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, unrepentant of sin, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or deacon.***

If you are unsure about receiving Holy Communion but desire to receive a blessing, we invite you to come forward at the time of Holy Communion to receive a blessing from Pastor Schaeffer. We ask that you cross your arms over your chest so that he knows you are not partaking of Holy Communion but desirous of a blessing.

**NOTE:** For those whose diets restrict the intake of gluten or alcohol, gluten free wafers are available as well as non-alcoholic wine. As Pastor Schaeffer is distributing the wafer, let him know you prefer a gluten free wafer. For those who require non-alcoholic wine, please take the purple foil individual cup from the individual cup tray.



For  
unto  
you is  
born this  
day in the  
city of David  
a saviour, which  
is Christ the Lord.

Luke  
2:11