

Grow ... Go ... Gather
December 25, 2021



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

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**Christmas Day
December 25, 2021**

The Order of Service

Preservice Music, Call to Worship and Welcome

The Opening Hymn: LSB 367 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

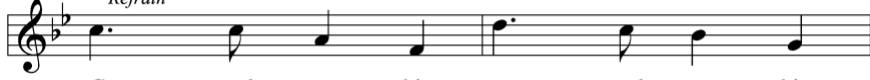


all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Versicles:

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

**C: and the government shall be upon his
shoulder,**

P: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C: Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

P: The Lord has made known his salvation;

C: he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

C: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

ALL: 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.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C: and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

P: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

C: Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

A Hymn: "The First Noel"

Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep

On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Chorus

Noel Noel Noel Noel

Born is the King of Israel

Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night **Chorus**

Verse 3

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went **Chorus**

Verse 4

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay **Chorus**

Verse 5

Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense **Chorus**

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The Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

T The Christmas Day Lessons T

- **The Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How 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."

⁸The 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 ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The 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.**

Solo: Christina Shourds – "Immanuel"

- **The Epistle Lesson:** Hebrews 1:1-6

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For 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"? ⁶And 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.**

A Hymn: LSB 383, "A Great and Mighty Wonder"



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

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- **The Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-14**

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

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Nicene Creed (on the back cover of the hymnal)

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



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 spect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 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.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon: Revelation 2:17, "God's Christmas Gift to You: A White Stone"

Our Christmas Offering (During the offering, we will sing, LSB 391, "Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn")



Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -



to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!



His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from



on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!



My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er



For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Text and tune: Public domain

The Christmas Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

A Hymn: LSB 389, "Let All Together Praise our God"



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 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.

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

D 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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Announcements and Blessings for Online Worshippers

T The Sacrament of the Altar T

Our Confession

- 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.**
- 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.**

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 T 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 T 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

During Holy Communion you are invited to sing;
LSB 358, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"
LSB 374, "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB 358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

sts. 1-3, 7, 13-15



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
 A quiet chamber set apart
 For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
 My lips no more can silence keep.
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
 That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
 While angels sing with pious mirth
 A glad new year to all the earth.

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Tune and text: Public domain

The Post-Communion Prayer *LSB 218*

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Benediction *LSB 183*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: "O Come All Ye Children"

1. Oh come, all ye children, oh, come, one and all
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small
God's Son for a gift has been sent you this night,
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.
2. He's born in a stable for you and for me,
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild,
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.
3. See Mary and Joseph with love-beaming eyes
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies,
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of
love,
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.
4. Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Lift up little hands now, and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly host.
5. Dear Christ Child, what gift can we children bestow
By which our affections and gladness to show?
No riches and treasures of value can be,
But hearts that believe are accepted with Thee.
6. Our hearts, then, to Thee we will offer today,
We offer them gladly, accept them, we pray,
And make them so spotless and pure that we may
Abide in Thy presence in heaven for aye.

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.

Please join us on Sunday, December 26, 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.

