

*St. John*  
Lutheran Church

destination

*Joy*

12/26 10am



# St. John Christmas Edition

**DEC 31 Friday** Last day for 2021 Giving

If you would like your offerings and gifts posted on your 2021 Giving Statement, please bring it to the church office on/before 12/31. The church office is open until noon, please arrive before noon. Thank you!

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 Food Pantry All food pantry operations closed through Jan. 1

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**JAN 01** Happy New Year! 5:30pm Worship

**JAN 02** 10am worship with Livestream    
11am De-decorate. Sign up at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org) to help.

**JAN 08** Food Pantry Distribution resumes, 8-10am

**JAN 09** Sunday School resumes, 9:45am

**JAN 12** Confirmation resumes, 7pm

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SAVE THE DATE  
YOUTH  
weekend  
JAN 22 - 23

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church as we gather for this time of worship and reflection on God's love for the world.*

*The Poinsettia plants on the altar today are given by our members in memory, in honor, and in thanksgiving of family and loved ones. You can find these names on the sponsorship sheet in the narthex.*

*To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at [stjohnjoliet.org](http://stjohnjoliet.org) or call the church office.*

**Additional seating is available in the Trinity Room.**

### **Worship Leaders – Sunday 10:00 am**

<b>Deacon</b>	Eddy Crews
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Cheryl Lovell
<b>Greeter</b>	Sam Riggi
<b>Ushers</b>	Joe Blomquist, Duane Johnson
<b>Organ</b>	Janet Blomquist
<b>Audio Board</b>	Bill Bromer
<b>Livestream Team</b>	Elliott Liss
<b>Counters</b>	Nancy Kautz, Sharon Sullivan
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joan Nunemaker, Carol Robinson

### **Contact Information**

Pastor Jennifer Beamsley	<a href="mailto:jenbeamsley@stjohnjoliet.org">jenbeamsley@stjohnjoliet.org</a>	708-305-5561
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 **St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**

 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

*\*Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

**Prelude**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Gehrke

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin before God and one another, trusting in God’s endless mercy and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Merciful God,

C **We confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.**

P Joy has arrived! Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of † Jesus, who has come among us. Rejoice in this love and share it with others.

C **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

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**Verse 1**                   Hark! The herald angels sing,  
                                  "Glory to the newborn king;  
                                  Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
                                  God and sinners reconciled."  
                                  Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
                                  Join the triumph of the skies;  
                                  With angelic hosts proclaim,  
                                  "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Refrain**                   Hark! The herald angels sing  
                                  "Glory to the newborn king!"

**Verse 2**                   Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
                                  Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
                                  Late in time behold him come,  
                                  Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
                                  Veiled in flesh the God-head see!  
                                  Hail, incarnate deity!  
                                  Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
                                  Jesus, our Emmanuel!

**Repeat Refrain**

**Verse 3**                   Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace!  
                                  Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
                                  Light and life to all he brings,  
                                  Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
                                  Mild he lays his glory by,  
                                  Born that we no more may die,  
                                  Born to raise each child of earth,  
                                  Born to give us second birth.

**Repeat Refrain**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**P**           The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of  
                  the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C**           **And also with you.**

**P**           Let us pray. Holy God, John calls us from lost places to make straight the  
                  way for you. Give us ears to hear your voice and eyes to see your Spirit so  
                  we may not miss your presence.

**C**           **Amen.**

## Psalm 32:1-7

D A responsive reading from Psalm 32. Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all who are faithful  
offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters  
shall not reach them.

**You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

#253 Vs. 1

### "He Came Down"

Text by: Cameroon Traditional. Music by: arr. John L. Bell. © 1986 Iona Community. Gia Publications, Inc.  
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#### Verse 1

He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
He came down that we may have love;  
Hallelujah forevermore.

## **\*Gospel**

**John 1:19-34**

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

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

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

**P** The gospel of our Lord.

**C** **Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Children's Sermon**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Robin Caldwell**

**“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

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**Verse 1**                    Good Christian friends, rejoice  
                                  With heart and soul and voice;  
                                  Give ye heed to what we say:  
                                  Jesus Christ is born today;  
                                  Ox and ass before him bow,  
                                  And he is in the manger now.  
                                  Christ is born today!  
                                  Christ is born today!

**Verse 2**                    Good Christian friends, rejoice  
                                  With heart and soul and voice;  
                                  Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
                                  Jesus Christ was born for this!  
                                  He has opened heaven’s door,  
                                  And we are blest forevermore.  
                                  Christ was born for this!  
                                  Christ was born for this!

**Verse 3**                    Good Christian friends, rejoice  
                                  With heart and soul and voice;  
                                  Now ye need not fear the grave;  
                                  Jesus Christ was born to save!  
                                  Calls you one and calls you all  
                                  To gain the everlasting hall.  
                                  Christ was born to save!  
                                  Christ was born to save!



## \*Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

## Joys and Concerns of our Faith Community

*Prayer request cards are available in your pews.  
You may place the card in the offering plate or give to a pastor.*

## Prayers of the Church

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**P** Rejoicing that the grace of God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Response (sing):*

**Peace, be still. Peace, be still.  
The storm rages. Peace, be still.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Emmanuel, God with us, help us to listen to the angels and not be afraid of you, of your weakness or your glory. We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.  
**C** Amen.

## \*Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **And also with you.**

*You may share the peace of Christ with others. Those who choose to stay in their pew may wave or give signs of peace. Those who move to greet others may choose their greeting at the discretion of the person you are greeting.*

*Please be mindful of the non-verbal cue you are receiving, and ask what the person is comfortable with before greeting.*

## Offertory

### “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Hayes

#### Commitment to Community

*Today we celebrate joy’s arrival and the impact of God’s love on the world. In turn, remembering that joyful day, we try to make a similar impact by giving what we can. We pray that the gifts we give now—our time, our money, our talents—will be infused by the Spirit to make a more purposeful world of love and belonging for one another.*

*Let our giving be part of a foundation for a better world.*

## \*Offertory Response

# 836, Vs. 3

### “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

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**Verse 3** Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

## \*Offertory Prayer

D Let us pray. **Holy One, you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to be joyful in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving** *(sung)*

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.

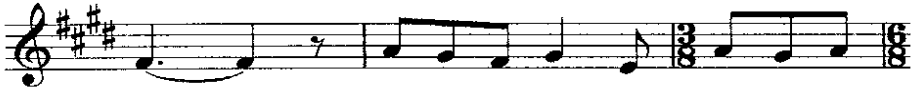
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the



One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the



high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## \*Words of Institution

### \*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.

### \*Invitation to Communion

P God's joy has come for all people!  
C Thanks be to God!

### Distribution

*We believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ in this meal and at this table.  
All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.*

*There are two ways to receive communion today:*

#### **Receiving Communion in your pew**

*You may receive communion in your pew with the elements contained in the communion pod. The pastor will say the words of distribution after the Invitation to Communion:*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

#### **Receiving Communion at the altar**

- *You will be invited forward by the usher.*
- *You may bring your offering/attendance slip forward and place in the offering basket or place in the offering plates by the doors as you leave.*
- *Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Inform the pastor when receiving communion.*
- *Wear your masks as you come forward; lift your mask when receiving the wafer and then again with the grape juice or the wine.*
- *The deep purple wine is on the outer rings of the tray; the golden grape juice is on the inner rings of the tray.*
- *After receiving communion, place the used communion cup in the basket, and return to your pew via the side aisle.*

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have  
you are the way of jus-tice and peace:  
you are God's light to all of the world:



mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Music

# 279 Vs. 1-4

### “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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#### Verse 1

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.

#### Verse 2

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

**Verse 3**           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.

**Verse 4**           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;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

### **\*Blessing**

#### **\*Prayer after Communion**

**D**           Let us pray. God, you gave us Christ the Son to give us joy. As you sent  
the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the  
gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that  
fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C**           **Amen.**

### **\*Benediction**

**C**           *Sing* **AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

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**Refrain**                    Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

**Verse 3**                    Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

**Repeat Refrain**

**\*Sending**

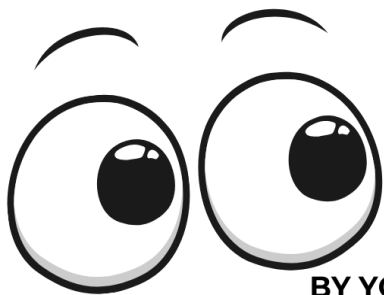
**D**        Go in peace. Serve the Lord!  
**C**        **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

“Fuga”

Pachelbel

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# LOOK NO FURTHER!

WE HAVE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONNECT

**BY YOURSELF    WITH A FRIEND  
IN A GROUP    AS A FAMILY**



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS** - Ushers, Readers, Greeters  
Communion Assistants



**SET UP HELPERS** - 1 Saturday a month, 1 hour



**DAYBREAK** - Monthly, First Thursday, 1-2 hours



**MEALS ON WHEELS** - 1 Friday a month, 1 hour



**SEE PASTOR ROBIN OR NICOLE ADAMS FOR MORE DETAILS**



## Spread Joy.

## Share our Worship Link.



*Silent night, holy night!*

*All is calm,*

*All is bright*

*Round yon Virgin,*

*Mother and Child*

*Holy infant so tender*

*And mild*

*Sleep in heavenly*

*Peace*

*Sleep in heavenly*

*Peace*