

St. John
Lutheran Church

destination

Joy



Sunday, December 19, 2021
8:30am

Jesus Take the Wheel

St. John
Advent 4 Edition

**DEC
19**

This Sunday Longest Night Service  



In our Sanctuary, pastors offer you healing words of comfort when "the most wonderful time of the year" isn't quite so wonderful. 6:55pm Livestream* *Only pastors will be seen on camera.*

**DEC
24**



Destination: Joy

**CHRISTMAS
EVE AT** *St. John*
3PM 5PM 11PM 

Livestream begins 10-15 min. before Sanctuary Worship.

Worship with candle lighting and singing *Silent Night* at all services. We are looking forward to welcoming the Christ child with you in the Sanctuary and online. All services Livestream.  

DEC 25 Merry Christmas! Building Closed.

DEC 26 10am worship with Livestream.  

Dec 31 Church office open until Noon.

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

JAN 02 10am worship with Livestream.  
11am De-decorate. Sign up at stjohnjoliet.org to help.



Don't forget!

Offerings and gifts will be received in the church office on 12/31 before Noon to be counted on your 2021 Giving Statement.



The Salvation Army volunteers picked up your Angel Tree gifts this week. They asked us to pass along their sincere thanks for your kindness.



St. John Food Pantry volunteers distributed 300 Christmas dinner meal kits on Saturday, December 18. Our neighbors were thankful and expressed their gratefulness to our team. Thank you to everyone who donated funds, time, and prayers to make this a successful event!

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 altar flowers today are given by the Elizabeth Borges in memory of Janet & Bill Gierich and by Tori and Dan Hicks in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jordan and Kelsie Hicks on their first Christmas as husband and wife, and also in honor of grandson, William Dane Lambert's first Christmas. To sponsor altar flowers for our worship space, sign up at stjohnjoliet.org or call the church office.

Additional seating is available in the Trinity Room.

Worship Leaders – Sunday 8:30 am

Deacon	Jim Bartz
Communion Assistant	Wendy Eklund
Greeter	Sam Riggi
Ushers	Jon Blomquist, Mark Collins, Judy Mihavics-Dachman
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Organ	Janet Blomquist
Audio Board	Nick Jakusz
Livestream Team	Elliott Liss, Dawn MacGregor
Counters	Frank Norem, Norm Roland
Altar Guild	Karen Becker, Marge West

Contact Information

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 **St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL**

 **St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet**

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Prelude

“Songs of Praise the Angels Sang”

Arnatt

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering

P We are gathered today in the name of the Father, Son, and † Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

*Opening Hymn

#265, Vs. 1-3

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Text and Music by: Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman and John Wickham. Arr. © 1955, 1983 E.H. Freeman, Ltd, admin. Glenwood Music Corp. Reprinted & streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-712815. All Rights Reserved.

- Verse 1** The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- Verse 2** For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- Verse 3** Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Prince of Peace,

C **Keep our eyes fixed on your coming.**

P We gather together, resisting what threatens hope.
O Prince of Peace,

C **Keep our eyes fixed on your coming.**

P We stay present by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future,
awakening joy within us.

O Prince of Peace,

C **Keep our eyes fixed on your coming.**

P Christ, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of our Advent
wreath, whose flame brings warmth to winter, and fills this place with the
glow of hope.

C **Amen!**

*Advent Song

“Advent Processional”

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We will keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
Til He comes again.

We will reach our hands out in service,
Reach our hands out in service,
Reach our hands out in service,
Til He comes again.

*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. You walked the earth when you created it. You walked it again
when Word became flesh. Help us imagine what would happen if we
believed you walked with us, still. In your name we pray.

C **Amen.**

Anthem

“Come, Savior Come”
St. John Chorale

Mengel

Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

- D A responsive reading from Luke, the first chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.
- C **Our ears are open.**

And Mary said,
**“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
**His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.**

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
**he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.**
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
**according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

- D Word of God, Word of Life!
- C **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation

#253 Vs. 4

“He Came Down”

Text by: Cameroon Traditional. Music by: arr. John L. Bell. © 1986 Iona Community. Gia Publications, Inc.
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Verse 4 He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forevermore.

***Gospel**

John 1:1-14

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

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

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent's only child, full of grace and truth.

P The gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Jen Beamsley

“Canticle of the Turning”

Text by: Rory Conney. Music by: Irish Traditional. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
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Verse 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Verse 2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn.

Refrain

Verse 3 From the halls of pow’r to the fortress tow’r,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev’ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.

Refrain

Verse 4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God’s mercy must believer us
From the conqueror’s crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which hold us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around.

Refrain

***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 With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church,
the world, and those in need.

Response (sing):

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

The prayers conclude:

P Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your peace,
we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

“Away in a Manger”

arr. Martin

Commitment to Community

In this past year, you’ve faithfully tended to the ministry of our church. You encouraged one another when times were difficult, cared for the vulnerable in our community, and walked alongside youth and families during their highs and lows.

You are signs of God’s hope for our world.

Just as you have committed to love this church, this church commits to love as God loves-- with generous hearts full of mercy and hope. The sharing of our resources makes this possible.

Let us give with grateful hearts.

***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. **God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new. 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

S 144b



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. 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.

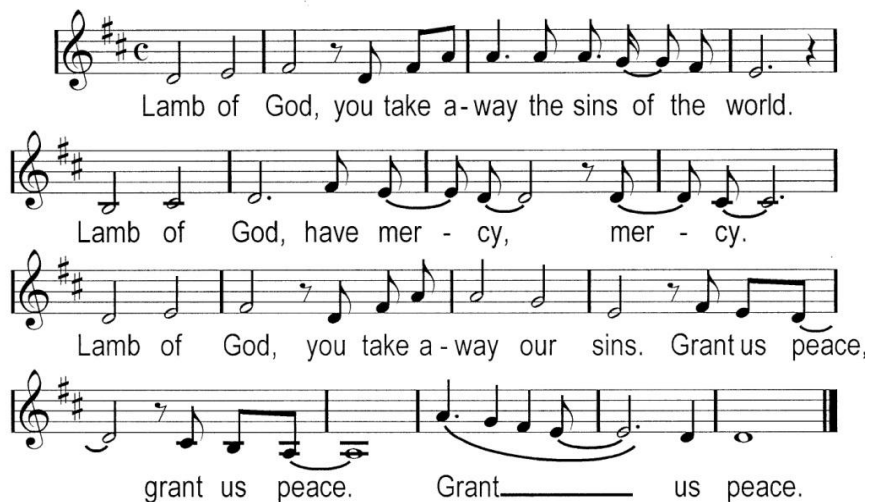
*Invitation to Communion

P God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

C Thanks be to God!

Lamb of God

Music by: Ellen Goodwin © 2008 used by permission.



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

Lamb of God, have mer - cy, mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way our sins. Grant us peace,

grant us peace. Grant us peace.

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 elements of bread 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.*

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Text by Edith M.G. Reed. Music by: Polish Carol. Public Domain,
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Verse 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall:
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Verse 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

“Another Year is Dawning”

Havergal, Wesley, arr. Christopher

*Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

D Let us pray. Holy God, you have come among us at this table. By the
Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your joy, sharing gifts of mercy
and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
C Amen.

*Benediction

C Sing AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

*Sending Hymn

275, Vs. 1

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

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Verse 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

***Sending**

D Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“Prélude Du Cinquième Ton”

Nivers

Christmas Poinsettias



Honor, celebrate and remember your family and friends with a Christmas poinsettia plant.

Order plants at stjohnjoliet.org, the church office, or use the form below. Please bring this form and your payment to the church office. Make checks payable to: "St. John Lutheran Church."



Your Name



of Plants _____ X \$15 each = _____



Will you take your plant/s home after 11pm worship?

 Yes No

In Honor of _____

Name/s

In Memory of _____

Name/s

In Thanksgiving of _____

Name/s