

St. John
Lutheran Church

destination *Joy*

12/24 11pm



St. John

WISHES YOU



Merry Christmas

Current Announcements at
stjohnjoliet.org

DEC 26 10am in person worship
and Livestream

**DEC Friday
31** 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!

JAN 01 Happy New Year!
5:30pm in person worship

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



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

Spread Joy.
Share our Worship Link.



Peace

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 or call the church office.

Additional seating is available in the Trinity Room.

Worship Leaders – Christmas Eve 11:00 pm

Deacon	Glenn Smith
Communion Assistant	Linda Koerner, Lynne Smith
Acolyte	Mia Johnson
Ushers	Phil Spung, Bryan Yergler, Jim Yokubonis
Music Director	Tori Hicks
Piano	Susan Fick
Organ	Janet Blomquist
Violin	Rachel Yergler
Flute	Alexa Grundon
Solo	David Luecht
Audio Board	Nick Jakusz
Livestream Team	Dawn MacGregor
Altar Guild	Shirley Masters

Contact Information

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St. John by the Mall – Joliet, IL



St. John Lutheran Church, Joliet

Prelude

Susan Fick, piano	“Ding! Dong! Merrily on High”	Hayes
Susan Fick, piano Rachel Yergler, violin	“Silent Night”	Gruber
Susan Fick, piano Alexa Grundon, flute	“Angels from the Realms of Glory”	arr. Tornquist
Janet Blomquist, organ	“Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”	Hayes

**Indicates Congregation, Please Stand*

Welcome

*Christmas Proclamation

The Proclamation contains a formal announcement of the birth of Christ. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the Proclamation places the whole world into Jesus’ story.

After the Proclamation, the pastor will say:

P Joy has arrived!

C Thanks be to God!

*Processional Hymn

283, Vs. 1, 2, 4

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Text and Music by: Atr. John Francis Wade. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Verse 2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

Repeat Refrain

Verse 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Repeat Refrain

*Greeting and Kyrie

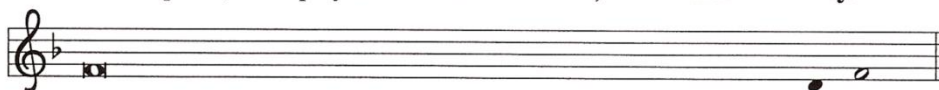
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**


S 138



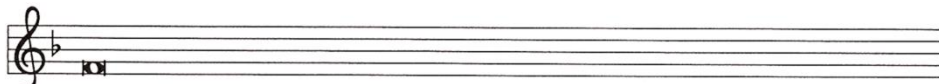
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



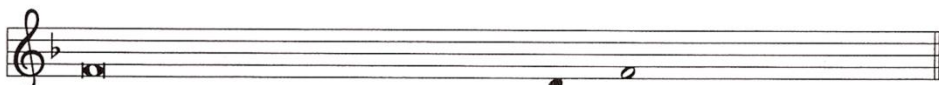
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



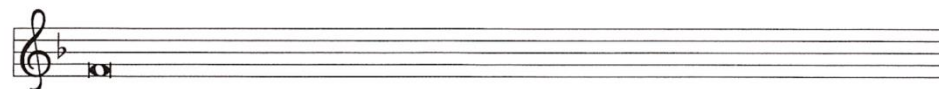
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



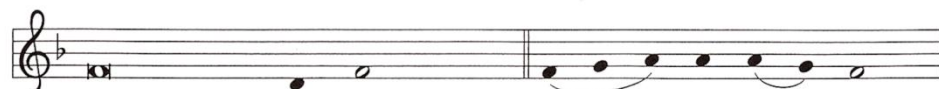
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



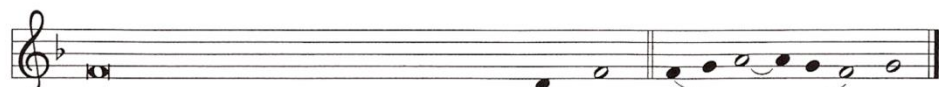
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

*Hymn of Praise

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

289 Vs. 1-2

Text by: French Carol; tr. H. F. Hemy. Music by: French Carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes.
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Verse 1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Verse 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song?

Repeat Refrain

*Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day, wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

D A reading from the book of Isaiah, the ninth chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C **Our ears are open.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

“Heaven Sings Tonight”
St. John Chorale

Alexander

Reading

Titus 2:11-14

D A reading from the book of Titus, the second chapter.
Listen for the Word of the Lord.

C Our ears are open.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

D Word of God, Word of Life!

C Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“Christmastime”
St. John Chorale

Smith, Carlson, arr. Larson

*Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

C Glory to you O Lord.

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her delivery. She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn.

There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid. The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in David’s city, a savior—the Messiah—has been born to you. Let this be a sign to you: you’ll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.” Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in high heaven! And on earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests!”

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us.” They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child. All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds. Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

P The gospel of our Lord.
C **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jen Beamsley
Pastor Robin Caldwell
Pastor Evan Mayhew

*Hymn of the Day

270, Vs. 1-3

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Text by: Charles Wesley. Music by: Felix Mendelssohn. Public Domain.
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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 ye nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 2

Christ by highest heaven 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 the incarnate deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Verse 3

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace.
Hail, the Son of righteousness.
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen 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 them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

*Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

Prayers of the Church

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.

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

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

“O Holy Night”
David Luecht

Dwight, Adam

Commitment to Community

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

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

***Offertory Response**

836, Vs. 3

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Text by: Henry van Dyke. Music by: Ludwig van Beethoven. Public Domain.
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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 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'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.*

Communion Music

277, Vs. 1-2

“Away in a Manger”

Text by: North American, 19th cent. Music by: James R. Murray. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Verse 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

300, Vs. 1-2

“The First Noel”

Text by: English Traditional. Music by: English traditional; arr. John Stainer. Public Domain.
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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.

Refrain 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.

Repeat Refrain

296, Vs. 1-2

“What Child Is This”

Text by: William c. Dix. Music by: English Ballad, 16th Cent. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Verse 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

279, Vs. 1-2

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Text by: Phillips Brooks. Music by: Lewis H. Redner. Public Domain.
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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!

282, Vs. 1-2

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Text by: Edmund H. Sears. Music by: Richard S. Willis. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Verse 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing.
And ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

“On Christmas Night”

274, Vs. 1-2

Text by: Luke Wadding. Music by: English Traditional. Public Domain.
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Verse 1
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful king’s birth.

Verse 2
Then why should we on earth be sad,
Since our redeemer made us glad?
Then why should we on earth be sad,
Since our redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

Blessing *(Please remain seated)*

Prayer after Communion

D Let us pray. Holy 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!

Lighting of the Candles

“Light” your candle when the person near you tips their candle towards your unlit candle.

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

281, Vs. 1-3

Text by: Joseph Mohr. Music by: Franz Gruber. Public Domain.
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Verse 1
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.

Verse 2
Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Verse 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Benediction

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

After the Benediction you may extinguish candles and, when you leave, place them in the baskets located at the exits.

***Recessional Hymn**

#267, Vs. 1, 2, 4

“Joy to the World”

Text by: Isaac Watts. Music by: English melody, 18th cent; arr. Lowell Mason. Public Domain.
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Verse 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

***Sending**

A Go in peace! Rejoice in the Good News! Joy has arrived!
C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!”

Gehrke