

# Christmas Day



December 25, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Churches

[stjohnslutheranjc.com](http://stjohnslutheranjc.com)

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**About This Service:** The heart of Christianity is not what we do for God but what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We call our service the "Divine Service" because the Divine One, our Lord Jesus, promises to be present to serve us by His Word and with His body and blood.

**Are My Children Welcome?** Our Lord says, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). Yes, your little ones are more than welcome! We are delighted to have them with us in the service!

**Visitors:** Welcome to St. John's! If you have not already done so, please fill out the visitor's book outside of the sanctuary. If don't yet have a church home, or have any questions about what we believe, teach, and confess, feel free to speak with Pastor; he would be happy to talk with you!

**Communion:** We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us. If you are not a communicant member of the LC-MS, please cross your arms when you come up to the communion rail to receive a blessing.

## **Ring of the Bell - Prelude - Welcome**

### **Opening Hymn TLH 98 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"**

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed When the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom Heav'n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;  
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the Long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

△ Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

## **The Order of Worship, Page 15 TLH**

**Invocation:** *TLH Page 15 [Responses Sung]*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father,  
beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.  
Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

**Confession of Sins** *TLH Page 16*

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**Absolution** *TLH Page 16*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen.**

**Introit** (P: Pastor C: Congregation) *Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*

P: For 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: 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;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

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

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

**C: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

**Gloria Patri:** *TLH Page 16 [Sung]*

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**The Kyrie:** *TLH Page 17 [Sung]*

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**The Gloria in Excelsis:** *TLH Pages 17-19 [Sung]*

**C: Glory be to God on high; And on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,**

**We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

**O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.**

**Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Salutation and Collect**

*TLH Page 19*

P: The Lord be with you!

**C: And with thy spirit!**

*(prayed together)* – **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.**

**Response:** *[Sung]* **Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup>How 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.”

<sup>8</sup>The 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.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The 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.

### Epistle Reading – Romans 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but 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. <sup>3</sup>He 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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For 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”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

**Gradual** (*Pastor speaks, congregation responds with “Hallelujahs!”*)

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

and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things!

**C: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*As the Gospel reading is announced, the congregation sings...* **C: GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD!**

**Gospel Reading – John 1:1-18**

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup>And 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. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

*The Gospel ended, the congregation sings...*

**C: PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST!**

**The Nicene Creed** *TLH Page 22*

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Sermon Hymn** *TLH 85 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (stz. 1-5)*

**"From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:**

**"To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child, of lowly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.**

**"This is the Christ, our God and Lord Who in all need shall aid afford;  
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.**

**"He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.**

**"These are the tokens ye shall mark: The swaddling-clothes and manger dark;  
There ye shall find the Infant laid By whom the heavens and earth were made."**

## **The Sermon**

### **Offertory**

*TLH Pages 22-23 [Sung]*

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

### **Prayers**

*TLH Pages 23-24*

## **ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Preface:** *TLH Page 24 [Responses Sung]*

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And with thy spirit.**

**P: Lift up your hearts.**

**C: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.**

**C: It is meet and right so to do.**

**P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:**

**The Sanctus:** *TLH Page 26 [Sung]*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He,**

**Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Lord's Prayer:** *TLH Page 27*

**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;**

*[Sung]* **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Words of Institution:** *TLH Page 27*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**The Pax Domini:** *TLH Page 27*

**P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

**C: [Sung] A - - - men.**

**The Agnus Dei:** *TLH Page 28 [Sung]*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.**

**The Distribution** *(We invite those who are communicant members of the LC–MS to commune with us.)*

**Distribution Hymns TLH 94 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim. "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

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 Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail, the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild, He leaves His throne on high, Born that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth,  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home;  
Oh, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believing heart!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!" Amen.

**TLH 92 “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”**

Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;  
Thro' Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto Thee!, Draw me unto Thee!

Now thro' His Son doth shine The Father's grace divine.  
Death o'er us had reigned Thro' sin and vanity;  
He for us obtained Eternal joy on high.  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing With all His saints unite,  
Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light,  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there! Amen.

**Nunc Dimittis**

*TLH Pages 29-30 [Sung]*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,  
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation:  
which Thou hast prepared before the Face of all people,  
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**The Thanksgiving:** *TLH Page 30*

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: *[Sung]* **And His mercy endureth forever.**

**The Thanksgiving Prayer:** *TLH Pages 30-31*

P: ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God,  
world without end.

C: *[Sung]* **A- - - - men.**

**The Benedicamus:** *TLH Page 31*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *[Sung]* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *[Sung]* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Benediction:** *TLH Page 31*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *[Sung]* **Amen, Amen, Amen!**

**Closing Hymn** *TLH 87 "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come"*

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.

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

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

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. Amen.

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“Let us now go with the shepherds to the manger of Christ, that is, His church, and as He lay in that manger in swaddling clothes, so in the sacred scriptures, we shall find our Saviour. Let us also with a lively recollection of the words of this mystery, like Mary, the blessed mother of our Lord, keep pondering them continually in our hearts (Luke ii. 19). Let us with glad voices join in the angels’ song, and render unto the Lord the thanks due unto His name for His marvelous benefits to us. Let us rejoice and shout for joy with the whole multitude of the heavenly host. For if the angels rejoiced so greatly on our account, how much more ought we rejoice, to whom this Child is born, to whom this Son is given (Is. ix. 6).”

— Johann Gerhard *Sacred Meditations*. Meditation XIV: “The Mystery of the Incarnation”

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**Cover pic artwork:** Allan Forbis

**The Lutheran Hymnal:** St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, © 1941.

Hymn # 98: Scriptures: 1 Timothy 3:16; Corde Natur Ex Parentis; Of The Father’s Love Begotten; Author: Aurelius C. Prudentius († 413, cento); Translators: John M. Neale (1854) and Harry W. Baker (1861); Tune: Divinum Mysterium; Source: Plain-Song tune, 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Hymn # 85: Scripture: Luke 2:1-18; Von Himmel hoch da komm’ ich her; From Heaven Above To Earth I Come; Author: Martin Luther (1535); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1855, alt.); Tune: Von Himmel Hoch; Source: “Geistliche Lieder,” Leipzig, 1539.

Hymn # 94: Scripture: Luke 2:14; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Author: Charles Wesley (1739, et al.); Tune: Mendelssohn; Composer: Felix Mendelssohn (1840, ad.).

Hymn # 92: Scripture: Luke 2:1-14; In dulci iubilo; Now Sing We, Now Rejoice; Author Unknown (c.1300); Translator: Arthur T. Russell (1851, alt.); Tune: In dulci iubilo; German Melody (14<sup>th</sup> Century).

Hymn # 87: Scripture: Luke 2:10; Psalm 98; Joy To The World; Author : Isaac Watts (1719); Tune: Antioch; Composer: Georg F. Handel (1742, arr.)

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