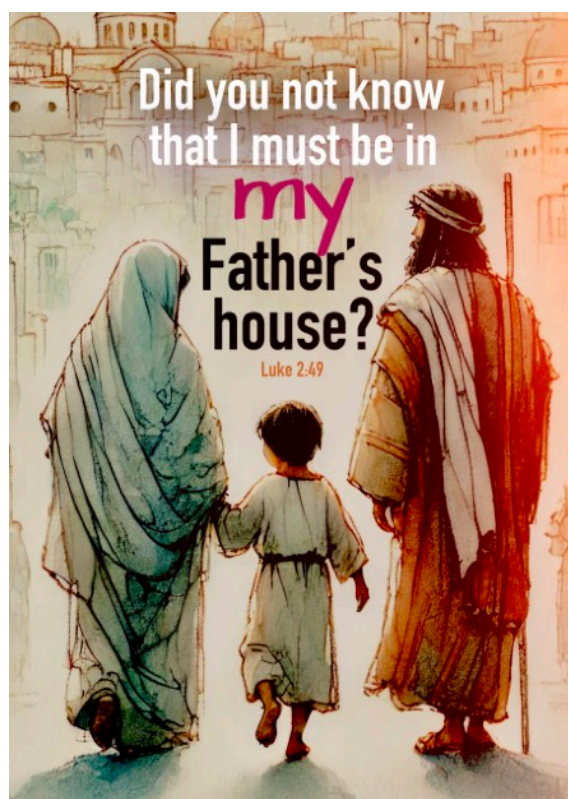


Second Sunday after Christmas



January 4, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Churches

stjohnslutheranjc.com

Schubert

4409 Saint Johns Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Babbtown

7075 Highway P
Westphalia, MO 65085

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Groh
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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 you 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 294 "O Word of God Incarnate"

O Word of God Incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky—
We praise Thee for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our foot-steps, Shines on from age to age.

The Church from her dear Master Received the gift divine,
And still that light she lifteth O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the golden casket Where gems of truth are stored;
It is the heav'n-drawn picture Of Christ, the living Word.

It floateth like a banner Before God's host unfurled;
It shineth like a beacon Above the darkling world;
It is the chart and compass That o'er life's surging sea,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, Still guides, O Christ, to Thee.

Oh, make Thy Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations Thy true light as of old!
Oh, teach Thy wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see Thee face to face! 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 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14*

P: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

C: glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

C: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

his understanding is beyond measure.

P: But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,

in those who hope in his steadfast love.

C: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

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, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same 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 – 1 Kings 3:4-15

⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Epistle Reading – Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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 – Luke 2:40-52

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

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 133 "Within the Father's House"

**Within the Father's house The Son hath found His home,
And to His Temple suddenly The Lord of Life hath come.**

**The doctors of the Law Gaze on the wondrous Child
And marvel at His gracious words Of wisdom undefiled.**

**Yet not to them is giv'n The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil which hides Incarnate God below.**

**The secret of the Lord Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pondering hearts await The full epiphany.**

**Lord, visit Thou our souls And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself With loving awe to trace,**

**Till from our darkened sight The cloud shall pass away
And on the cleansed soul shall burst The everlasting day,**

△ **Till we behold Thy face And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Co-equal Three in One. Amen.**

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 308 “Invited, Lord, by Boundless Grace”

Invited, Lord, by boundless grace, I stand a guest before Thy face;
As Host Thou spreadst no common food: Here is Thy body and Thy blood.

How holy is this Sacrament Where pardon, peace, and life are spent!
This bread and cup my lips have pressed; Thou blessedst, and my soul is blessed.

Now lettest Thou Thy guest depart With full assurance in his heart.
For such communion, Lord, with Thee A new life may my offering be.

When Thou shalt in Thy glory come To gather all Thy people home,
Then let me, as Thy heavenly guest, In anthems praise Thee with the blest. Amen.

TLH 387 “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice, And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God hath done, How His right arm the vict'ry won;
Right dearly it hath cost Him.

Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay, Death brooded darkly o'er me,
Sin was my torment night and day, In sin my mother bore me;
Yea, deep and deeper still I fell, Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.

My own good works availed me naught, No merit they attaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought, Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left naught but death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.

But God beheld my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of His mercies great, He planned my soul's salvation.
A father's heart He turned to me, Sought my redemption fervently:
He gave His dearest Treasure.

He spoke to His beloved Son: 'Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of My crown, And bring to man salvation;
From sin and sorrow set him free, Slay bitter death for him that he
May live with Thee forever.

The Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin mother,
And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my Brother.
No garb of pomp or power He wore, A servant's form, like mine, He bore,
To lead the devil captive.

To me He spake: Hold fast to Me, I am thy Rock and Castle;
Thy Ransom I Myself will be, For thee I strive and wrestle;
For I am with thee, I am thine, And evermore thou shalt be Mine:
The Foe shall not divide us.

The Foe shall shed My precious blood, Me of My life bereaving.
All this I suffer for thy good; Be steadfast and believing.
Life shall from death the victory win, My innocence shall bear thy sin;
So art Thou blest forever.

Now to My Father I depart, The Holy Spirit sending
And, heavenly wisdom to impart, My help to thee extending.
He shall in trouble comfort thee, Teach thee to know and follow Me,
And in all truth shall guide thee.

What I have done and taught, teach thou, My ways forsake thou never;
So shall My kingdom flourish now And God be praised forever.
Take heed lest men with base alloy The heavenly treasure should destroy;
This counsel I bequeath thee. 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 83 "Hark! What Mean Those Holy Voices"

Hark! what mean those holy voices Sweetly sounding through the skies?
Lo, the angelic host rejoices, Heavenly hallelujahs rise.

Listen to the wondrous story Which they chant in hymns of joy,
Glory in the highest, glory! Glory be to God most high!

Peace on earth, good will from heaven, Reaching far as man is found;
Souls redeemed and sins forgiven! Loud our golden harps shall sound.

Christ is born, the great Anointed; Heaven and earth, His praises sing!
Oh, receive whom God appointed For your Prophet, Priest, and King.

Hasten, mortals, to adore Him, Learn His name and taste His joy,
Till in heaven ye sing before Him, "Glory be to God most high!"

Let us learn the wondrous story Of our great Redeemer's birth;
Spread the brightness of His glory Till it cover all the earth. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Have A Blessed Week!

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Cover pic artwork: Allan Forbis

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

Hymn #294: Text: Psalm 119:105; Author: William W. How, 1867; Tune: Munich; Source: "Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch", Meiningen, 1693.

Hymn # 133: Scripture: Luke 2:41-52; Within The Father's House; Author: James R. Woodford (1863); Tune: Franconia; Source: Harmonischer Liederschaltz" Frankfurt, 1738.

Hymn #308: Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:26; Invited, Lord, by Boundless Grace; Author: Emanuel Cronenwett (1880); Tune: Das walt' Gott Vater; Composer: Daniel Vetter (1713).

Hymn #387: Scripture: Romans 3:28; Nuin freut euch, liebe Christen g'mein; Dear Christians, One And All, Rejoice; Author: Martin Luther(1523); Tr: Richard Massie (1854, alt.); Tune: Nun freut euch; Source: "Etlich' christliche Lieder" Wittenberg, 1524.

Hymn # 83: Scripture: Luke 2:14; Hark! What Mean Those Holy Voices; Author: John Cawood (1819, alt.); Tune: Stuttgart; Source: "Psalmodia Sacra", Gothia, 1715.

Bible Readings: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

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Daily Bible Reading:

- **Monday, Jan. 5th:** Matthew 11
- **Tuesday, Jan. 6th:** Matthew 12
- **Wednesday, Jan. 7th:** Matthew 13
- **Thursday, Jan. 8th:** Matthew 14
- **Friday, Jan. 9th:** Matthew 15
- **Saturday, Jan. 10th:** Matthew 16
- **Sunday, Jan. 11th:** Matthew 17

Catechism Recitation for the Week: The Third Article

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

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.