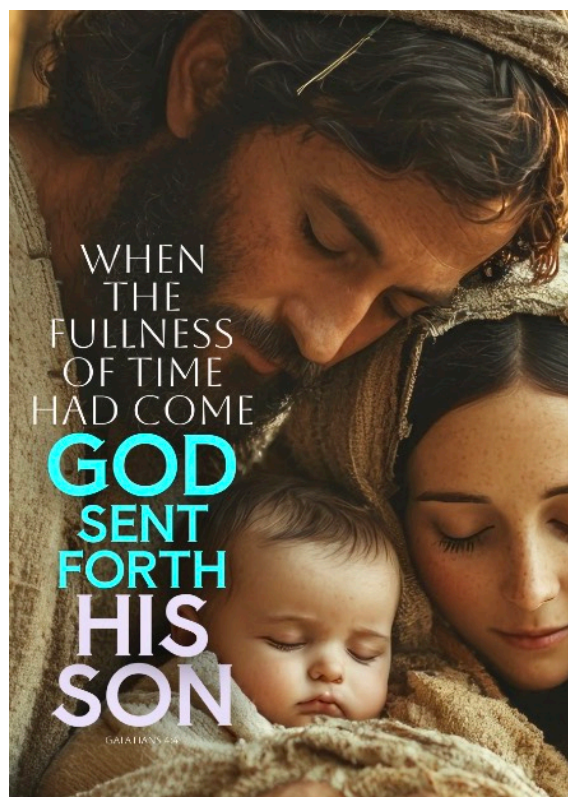


First Sunday after Christmas



December 28, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Churches

stjohnslutheranjc.com

Schubert

4409 Saint Johns Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Babtown

7075 Highway P
Westphalia, MO 65085

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Groh
groh.stjohns@gmail.com

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 475 "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

**Ye watchers and ye holy ones, Bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia! Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O higher than the cherubim, More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluia! Thou Bearer of th'eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Respond, ye souls in endless rest, Ye patriarchs and prophets blest,
Alleluia, Alleluia! Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,
All saints triumphant, raise the song, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**△ O friends, in gladness let us sing, Supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, Alleluia! To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! 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**)

Jeremiah 1:15-17; antiphon: Hosea 1:1

P: When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

**C: Thus says the Lord: "A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.**

P: Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they
are no more."

**C: Thus says the Lord: "Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,**

P: for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

**C: There is hope for your future, declares the Lord,
and your children shall come back to their own country."**

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) – **O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the
incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may
ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Response: [Sung] Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 63:7-14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord,
the praises of the Lord,
according to all that the Lord has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his compassion,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”
And he became their Savior.
⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
¹⁰But they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.
¹¹Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,
¹²who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,
¹³who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.
¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest.
So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

Epistle Reading – Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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 – Matthew 2:13-23

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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 99 "Now Are the Days Fulfilled"

Now are the days fulfilled, God's Son is manifested,
Now His great majesty In human flesh is vested.
Behold the mighty God, By whom all wrath is stilled,
The woman's promised Seed--Now are the days fulfilled.

Now are the days fulfilled, Lo, Jacob's Star is shining;
The gloomy night has fled Wherein the world lay pining.
Now, Israel, look on Him Who long thy heart hath thrilled;
Hear Zion's watchmen cry: Now are the days fulfilled.

Now are the days fulfilled, The child of God rejoices;
No bondage of the Law, No curses that it voices,
Can fill our hearts with fear; On Christ our hope we build.
Behold the Prince of Peace--Now are the days fulfilled. 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 90 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.

Sin and death may well be groaning, Satan now may well be moaning;
We, our full salvation owning, Cast our every care away.

See how God, for us providing, Gave His Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding From earth's woe to heavenly joy.

Christ, from heaven to us descending And in love our race befriending,
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily Foe.

Jacob's Star in all its splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the powers of hell.

From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.

Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to Thee we come confessing, That our freedom thou hast wrought!

Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us, From Thy lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join the angelic choir. Amen.

TLH 97 "Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"

Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.

O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us! 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 88 "This Night a Wondrous Revelation"

**This night a wondrous revelation Makes known to me God's love and grace;
The Child that merits adoration Brings light to our benighted race;
And though a thousand suns did shine, Still brighter were that Light divine.**

**The Sun of Grace for thee is beaming; Rejoice, my soul, in Jesus' birth!
The light from yonder manger streaming Sends forth its rays o'er all the earth.
It drives the night of sin away And turns our darkness into day.**

**This light, which all thy gloom can banish, The bliss of heaven glorifies;
When sun and moon and stars shall vanish, Its rays shall still illumine the skies.
This light thro' all eternity Thy heav'n and all to thee shall be.**

**O Jesus, precious Sun of gladness, Fill Thou my soul with light, I pray.
Dispel the gloomy night of sadness And teach Thou me this Christmas Day
How I a child of light may be, Aglow with light that comes from Thee. 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 # 475: Scripture: Psalm 148; Ye Watchers And Ye Holy Ones; Author: John A. L. Riley (1906); Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen; Source: "Geistlich Kirchengesang", Cologne, 1623.

Hymn # 99: Scripture: Galatians 4:4; Nun is die zeit erfüllt; Now Are The Days Fulfilled; Author unknown (1746); Translator: Frederick W. Herzberger, died 1930, alt.; Tune: Was frag' ich nach der Welt; Composer: Ahaserfus Fritsch (1679).

Hymn # 90: Scriptures: Luke 2:15; Kommt und last uns Christum ehren; Come, Your Hearts And Voices Raising; Author: Paul Gerhardt (1667); Translation: Composite; Tune: Quem Pastores; Source: 14th Century melody.

Hymn # 97: Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:9; Lasst uns alle frohlic sein; Let Us All With Gladsom Voice; Author Unknown (1632); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1863, alt.); Tune: Lasst uns alle; Source: Gesangbuch, Ander Teil, 1632.

Hymn # 88: Text: Luke 1:78-79; Dies is die Nacht, da mir erschienen; This Night a wondrous revelation; Author: Caspar F. Nachtenhoffer (c. 1683, ab.); Tr.: Anna Hoppe (1922); O Dass Ich Tausend; Composer: Johann B. Konig (1738).

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, Dec. 29th**: Matthew 4
- **Tuesday, Dec. 30th**: Matthew 5
- **Wednesday, Dec. 31st**: Matthew 6
- **Thursday, Jan. 1st**: Matthew 7
- **Friday, Jan. 2nd**: Matthew 8
- **Saturday, Jan. 3rd**: Matthew 9
- **Sunday, Jan. 4th**: Matthew 10

Catechism Recitation for the Week: The Second Article

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.