

Merry Christmas! Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church. Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will use a version of Divine Service Setting Three. The parts of the liturgy that are not in your hymnal are printed for you in this bulletin.

Hand Bells “Joy to the World”

Hymn of Invocation “Joy to the World”

LSB 387

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.

C **We are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**

P John writes in our Gospel lesson, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

C **Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.**

P For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

C **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and

ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

C and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Introit

John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10

P In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P In Him was life,

C and the life was the light of men.

P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

P and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

C and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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.

Kyrie *LSB 186*

Old Testament Reading

Epistle

Holy Gospel

Catechism *The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed*

Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

St. 1; LSB 380

C I Believe 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 in to heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

St. 2; LSB 380

P *What does this mean?*

C 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.

Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

St. 3; LSB 380

Sermon God’s Angelic Sign for Us

Text: Luke 2:8-11

Hymn “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

LSB 374

Offering & Hand Bells Angels We Have Heard on High

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray... to forgive our sins.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

P Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

P Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.**

P Gracious Lord...All these things we bring before You, through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**

Hand Bells “Song of the Angels”

Hymn From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” *LSB 358*

Hymn “Angels from the Realms of Glory” *LSB 367*

Acknowledgments

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Those Serving This Week

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Reader	Candice Kowalski
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**St. John Services can be heard Sundays at 10:30am
on 99.9 FM**

**Lutheran Hour: Sundays at 7am on 92.5 FM & 11am on
1450 AM**

Listen online or via podcast at www.lutheranhour.org

***Mission Statement:
To be an anchor of hope in Christ!***

We cordially welcome all who are worshiping with us this week. May our Lord Jesus Christ grant you the will and the wisdom to renounce the world and to live as His follower and disciple.

ST. JOHN COMMUNION POLICY

As an expression of our faith and fellowship as Missouri Synod Lutherans we welcome to the Sacrament those baptized Christians who:

- confess and repent of their sins; believe in the Triune God, and in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior;
- believe that they receive Christ's true Body and Blood with the Bread and Wine for forgiveness of sins, new life and salvation;
- promise to change their sinful life with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Oneness at the altar requires oneness in doctrine, faith, and life (Acts 2:42). Therefore, "Let each person examine himself, and thus eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Visitors and Guests - please speak with the Pastor or a Deacon before the worship service.

Visitors and Members - please fill out a communion registration card found next to the hymnals. Please hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

Visitors – please write your names and addresses in our Guest Book in the entry way of the church.

Parents – we encourage you to bring your children up with you during the communion celebration for a pastoral blessing. Remember Jesus' words: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14).