

**Take
the child
and his
mother,
and flee**

MATTHEW 2:13



**First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025**

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville

5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road

Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937

574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
574-8028 or email: stjoh1875@g mail.com

December 28, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.

GATHERING SONG

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

#60

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

+ DIALOGUE

P Let all we are dedicated to serving the Lord come together for worship!

C We bring praise and wonder in our hearts for God's forgiving love.

P yet we are called to dedicate our total lives to the service of Christ.

C Gladly we walk with Christ, for each day we grow in love and wisdom.

P Then let us loudly proclaim the joy and wonder of God's love.

C Blessed be the name of the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C Amen

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5,14-18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

HYMN

I Wonder As I Wander

#642

(verses 1 & 2)

Please us your Blue With One Voice Hymnal for hymn #642.

SECOND READING: Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

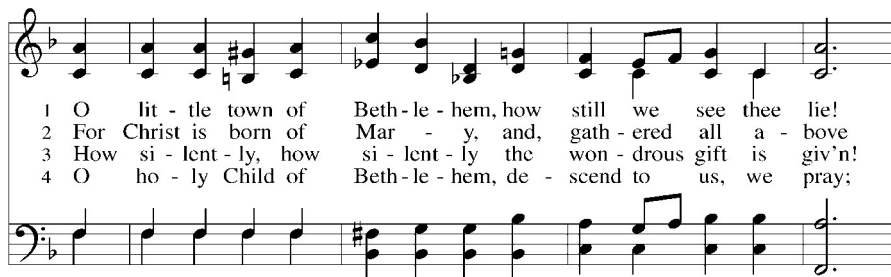
⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

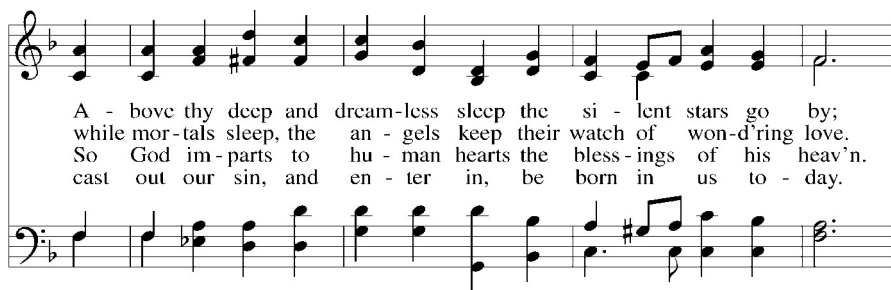
HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

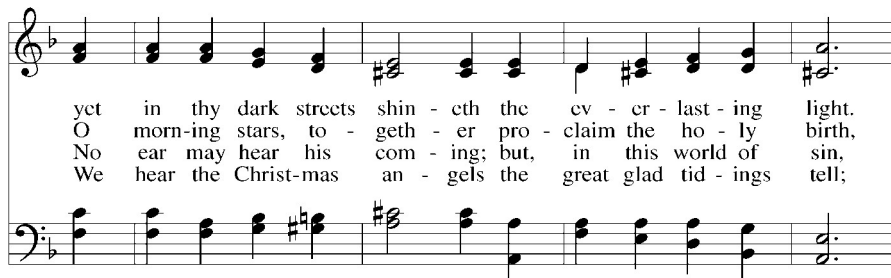
#41



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yct in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose Is Blooming (verses 1 & 2)

#58

1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, a bloom of fin - est grace;
 2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore - told.
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry the an - gels sang that night:
 4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, with fra - grance fills the air;
 5 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt all hu - man woe;

the proph-ets had fore-told it: a branch of Jes-se's race
He came to us through Mar-y who shel-tered him from cold.
how Christ was born of Mar-y; he was the Son of light.
his bright-ness ends the dark-ness that kept the earth in fear.
O Sav-ior, king of glo-ry, who tri-umphed o'er our foe:

would bear one per-fect flow'r here in the cold of
Through God's e-ter-nal will this child to us was
To Beth-le-hem they ran to find him in the
True God and yet true man, he came to save his
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of

win-ter and dark-est mid-night hour.
giv-en at mid-night calm and still.
man-ger as an-gel her-alds sang.
peo-ple from earth's dark night of sin.
heav-en and in-to end-less day.

Text: German, 15th cent.; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: 15 IST EIN ROS. *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1599

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

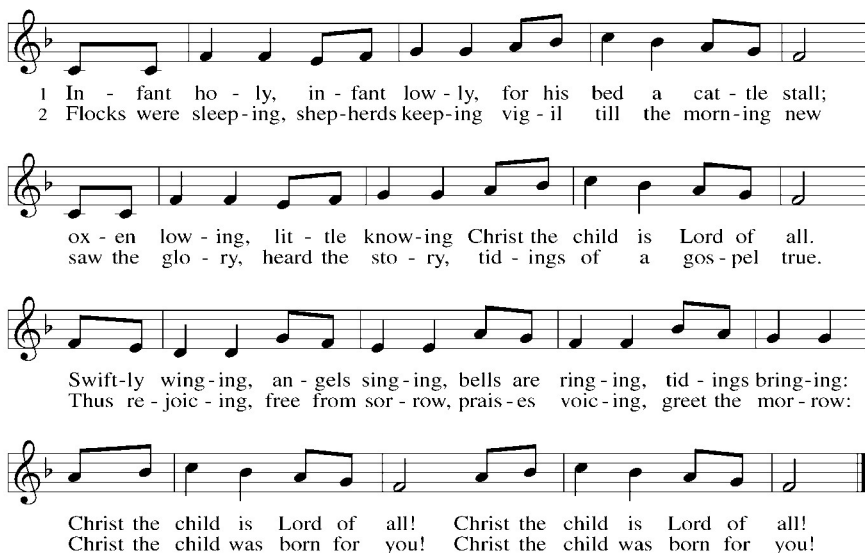
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

FOURTH READING: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
 Music: W ZLOBIE I ZY. Polish carol

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla - tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry; now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon-der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voice raising to the e - ter-nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart. 1813–1879

SIXTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

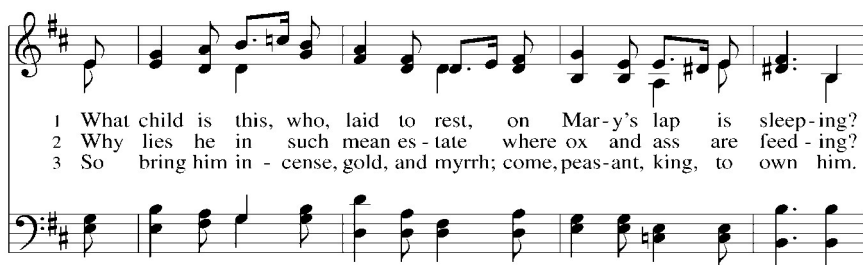
⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they

set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

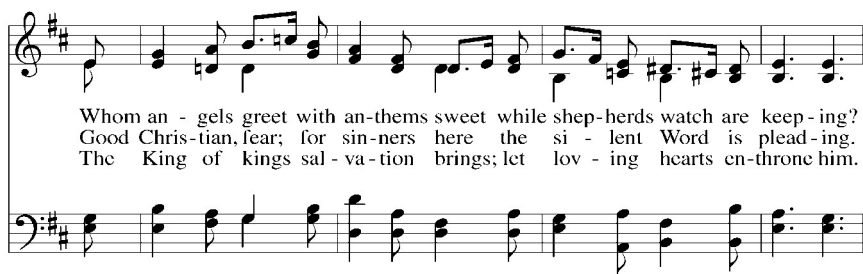
HYMN

What Child Is This?

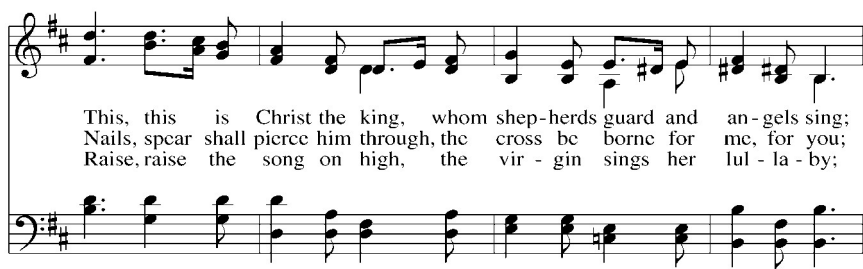
#40



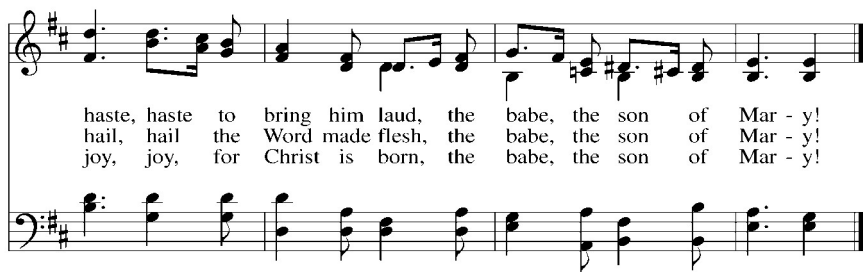
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

SEVENTH READING: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God.

³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being

⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

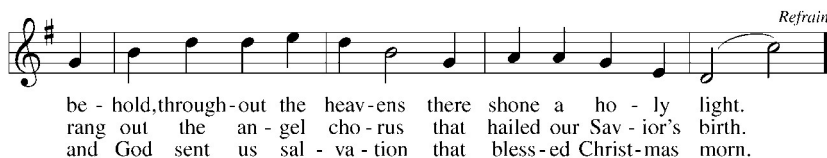
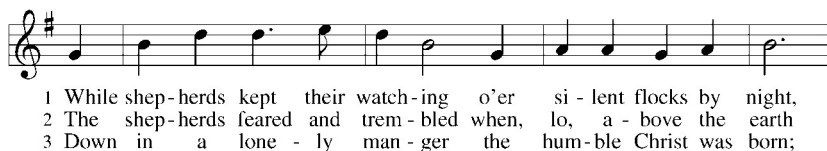
¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN

Go Tell It On the Mountain

#70



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our paths with truth
your Word, Jesus, is truth.
In his light, draw all to the manger
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.
In the light, draw all to the manger
to knell in reverence with the wise ones.
In the light, draw all to the manger
to sing for joy with the angels.
In the brightness of his life
cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.
It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.
Amen.

+ 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

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below!
 You are the shepherds telling the story.
We tell it in the streets and across the land.
 You are the wise ones worshipping with thanksgiving.
We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.
 You are the angels announcing peace.
We live with joy and go now in peace.
 Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 Bless you now and forever
Amen

SENDING SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#55



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Text: medieval Latin carol; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO. German carol, 14th cent

+ Dismissal

P	Go in peace.
Children	Serve the Lord.
C	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

Reprinted from *Lutheran Book of Worship*, copyright 1978

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #8747-L

Readers

Hayley Ramey/Owen Ramey
Shane Tieman
Dene DeGonzague
Kara Tieman
Brian Ramey
Vivian Riffel

SERVING TODAY

Organists
Greeter
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Hughes
James & Kym Hayman
Wendy Queen, Julie Gleim
Rick Williams

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON is the fulfillment of the Advent expectations.

The color of the Christmas season is white, a color associated with festivals of Christ, traditionally suggesting gladness, light, joy. The Christmas season lasts twelve days, from the evening of December 24 through January 5. This is time for Christmas hymns and anthems, decorations, and parties. (From the *Lutheran Book of Worship*)

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Rosemarie Becker, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Paul Means, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Frank Dodd, Linda Martin, Rena McIntyre, Bill Culver, Melaine Hawk, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Joanne Oakes, Vivian Riffel, Donnie Hixon, Rod Schneider, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

PLEASE PRAY FOR the Call Committee and Church Council as we search for a new pastor. May God bless and guide them in this journey.

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be on Sunday, January 11 immediately after worship. Reports will be received and elections for Church Council will be held, along with a few other items of business.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 7th and 8th graders is the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The next class is Sunday, January 11 and January 25 at 9:30 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room.

ALL YEAR END REPORTS are due today, December 28.

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Wendy Queen, Shane Tieman, Ginger Stevenson, Robby Mullins

BAPTISMS: Glenn Rase, Vicki Bradley, Ashley Salyers, Barb Montgomery

ANNIVERSARIES: Chris & Abigail Parish, Jim & Sherry Patterson

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

This Week at St. John

Today—First Sunday of Christmas

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Next Sunday Second Sunday of Christmas

10:00 a.m. **Worship—Holy Communion**

Attendance

2025 Average	62
2024 Average:	62

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

Organist
Assisting the Ministry
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Greeter
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Vivian Riffle
Vivian Riffel
Vivian Riffel
Shirley Gleim
Debbie Clevenger, Cindy Oakes
Rick Williams

Coming Events

Sunday, January 4 at 9:15 a.m. Lite Breakfast and fellowship

Sunday, January 11 immediately after worship Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 18 at 11 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 4 at 9:15 a.m.
Lite Breakfast and fellowship

Sunday, January 11
Annual Congregational Meeting