



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL  
Wheatfield, New York

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 19, 2021



### AS WE GATHER – Children’s Christmas Program

For the message today our children will be performing a skit entitled, “New Star.” An Old Star (the star of Bethlehem) tells to a New Star exactly what happened on the first Christmas. They take us from Nazareth to Bethlehem visiting Mary, Joseph and the stable, explaining the greatest story ever told.

### INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES

*Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.*

- P** The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.  
**C** We thank You, O Lord!
- P** The Lord’s mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.  
**C** We adore You, O Lord!
- P** The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.  
**C** We praise You, O Lord!
- P** The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.  
**C** We worship You, O Lord!

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

- P** Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C** Amen.



### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 25:6–7*

- P** Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

*A time of silence is observed.*

- P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.  
**C** Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.  
**P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
**C** according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## KYRIE FOR THE FOUR SUNDAYS IN ADVENT



4 For-give us, Lord, for times when love was lost, And  
mo-ments when we nev-er thought to care, For  
times when we de-stroy and sub-due The  
Word that brings Your peo-ple close to You.  
For-give, for-give, for-give us all our  
sins And help us love so new-ness can be-gin.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Micah 5:2–5a*

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

## HOLY GOSPEL

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Luke 1:39–45*

the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

## NICENE CREED

**C** 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 Spirit 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in 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  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### OFFERING

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

**TO OUR VISITORS:** The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John in the confession that not only bread and wine, but Jesus Christ's very body and blood are given to us to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our faith in Him and our union (*communion*) with one another. Our Lord invites to His table all those who believe His words, repent of all sin, and set aside all refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. *If this is your first time at St John or have not been instructed about the Lord's Supper, we ask that you speak to the Pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper.*

## PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Thank You, Lord of all creation, for Your constant, abiding, seeking love, given to us now in the Supper of our Lord. You created the heavens, the earth, all creatures, and human beings. You promised a Savior when Adam and Eve rebelled against You. You made Your covenant with Abraham and Sarah to bless the world through their offspring. You saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and guided them through the wilderness. You sent prophets to people who had again rebelled against You. In the fullness of time, You sent to us Jesus, Your Son, who proclaimed, taught, and demonstrated the coming Kingdom and who suffered, died, rose, and ascended. You provide for us the body and blood of Christ to forgive our sins, and You empower us to love the world as You have first loved us. In You we find the peace that surpasses human understanding.

**C** We thank You. We praise You. We adore You. Amen.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- 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.

## PEACE OF THE LORD - PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## DISTRIBUTION

### HYMN: "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"

LSB 384

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray. Thank You, Lord, for the peace that comes to us through Christ's body and blood. Help us leave this Table so filled with Your peace that it overflows to our homes, our church, and our community; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – New Star

based off the original skit by Sharon Kay Chatwell, copyright 2017



## SKIT

### O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

LSB 357

**Children** *O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

### HYMN: "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

LSB 357

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

## SKIT

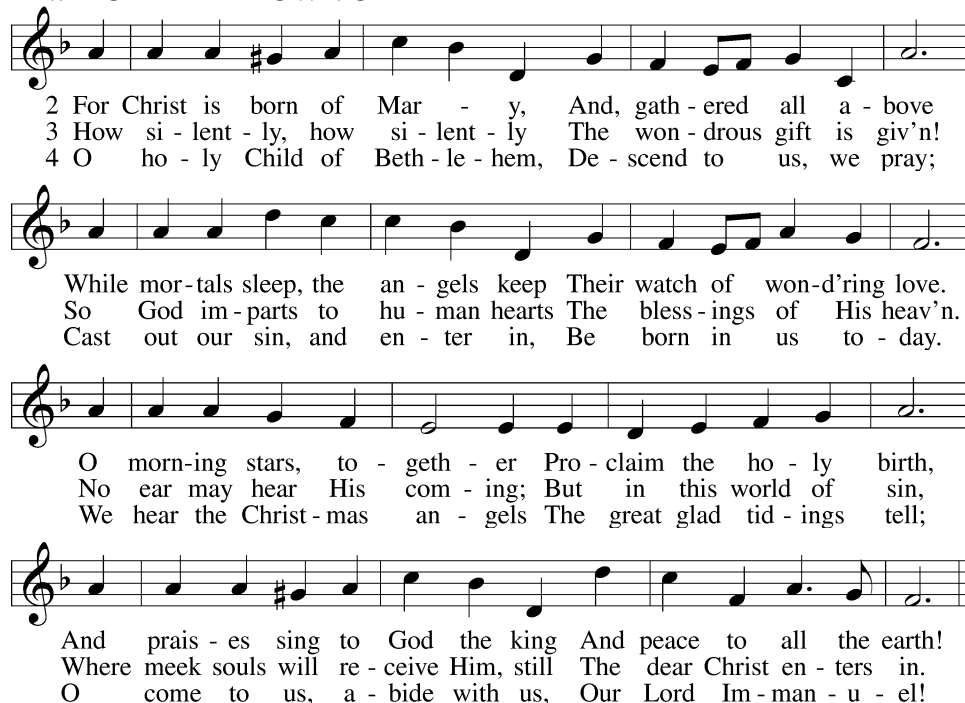
### O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

LSB 361

**Children** *O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.*

### HYMN: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

LSB 361



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;  
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.  
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;  
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.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

## SKIT

### AWAY IN A MANGER

LSB 364

**Children**

- 1 *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*
- 2 *The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*
- 3 *Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.*

Text: Public domain

## SKIT

### ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

LSB 368

**Children** *Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

### HYMN: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

LSB 368

2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and tune: Public domain

## SKIT

### JOY TO THE WORLD

LSB 387

**Children** *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.*

## HYMN: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

LSB 387

2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions  
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.  
**C** Amen, amen, amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**OAR:** One and All Rejoice hymnal

**LSB:** Lutheran Service Book hymnal

## Cast:

Old Star: Peyton Weir  
New Star: Tanner Cornell  
Gabriel: Adelaide Willis  
Mary: Lucy Schultz  
Joseph: Charles Weir  
Shepherds: Charlotte Willis and Cody Fontana  
Angels: Camryn Fontana and Ava Schultz

## Adults Leaders

Lynn Willis, Lorrie Weir, Cheryl Oliver, Mary Salefske and Heide Cornell