



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christmas Day
December 25, 2021

6950 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120
www.stjohnnt.com, (716) 693-9677

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” by Neil Harmon

WELCOME AND GREETING

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6

- 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 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.

HYMN: “JOY TO THE WORLD”

LSB 387

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
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

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
joy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
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

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
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.

Musical Interlude between 3 & 4

Text and tune: Public domain



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

John 1:4–5

P As we celebrate in the light of Christmas morning, we also recognize the truth that we are by nature spiritually dark and sinful. Our words and deeds often reflect not the light of Christ but the darkness of sin. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P “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.” 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings good news of happiness, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the

return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 1:1–4

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact

imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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 of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN: "SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW"

LSB 373



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,

Musical Interlude between 3 & 4



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Tune and text: Public domain

TEACHING FROM GOD'S WORD

Message Notes

Main Points:

One thing NEW I learned:

What can I apply to my life?

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

"Once in Royal David's City"

by H.J. Gauntlett

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.*

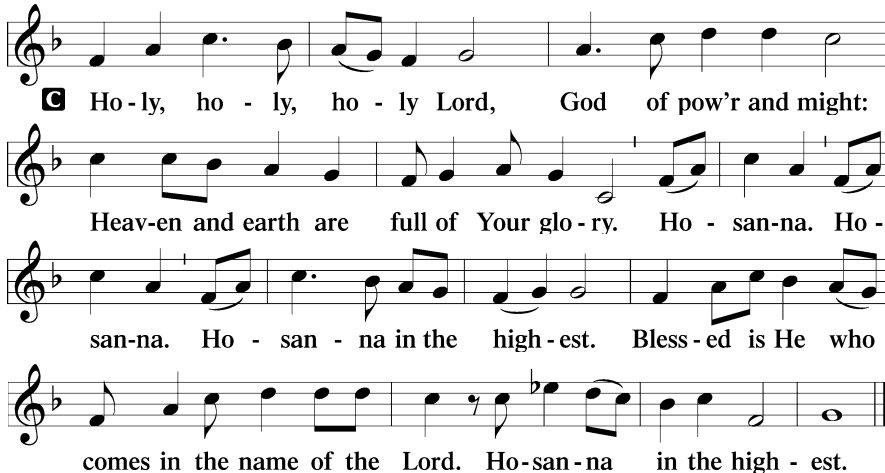
PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for the countless blessings You have bestowed upon us and all creation. Joining with the angelic host, whose word removes all fear, we rejoice in the salvation You have brought into our world. Your holy Child, who came to us that first Christmas, comes to us again this day in His body and blood. Therefore fearing, loving, and trusting in You, along with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 LSB 161



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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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.

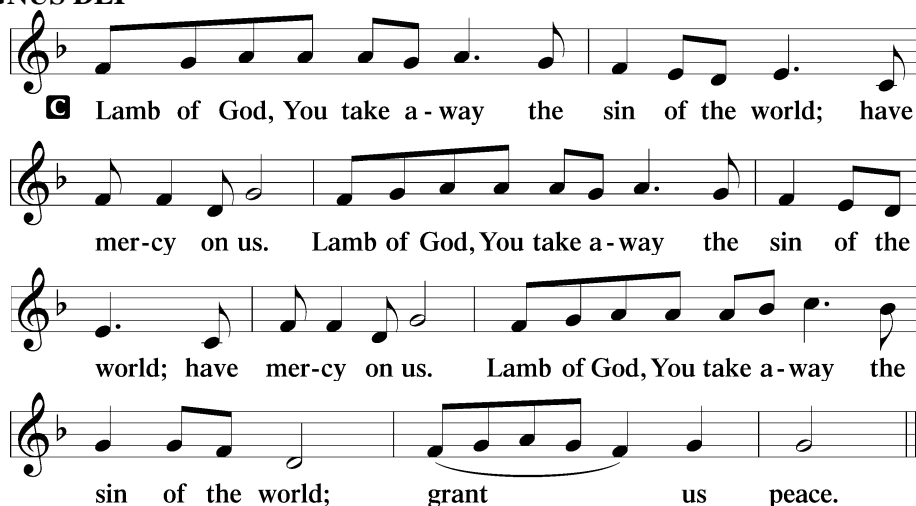
PEACE OF THE LORD - PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

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

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29 LSB 163

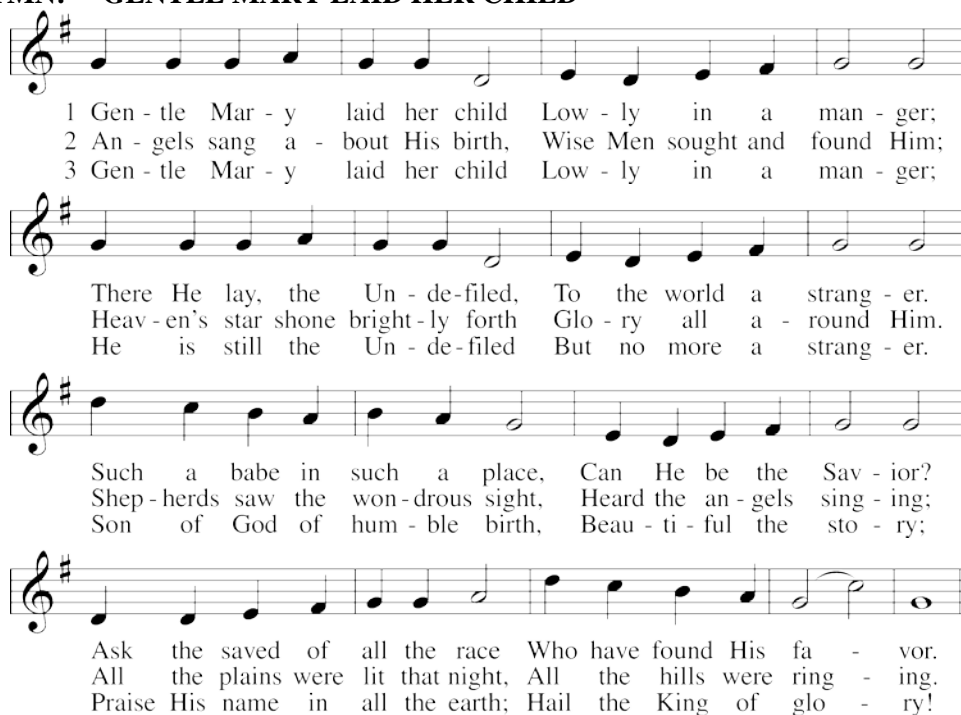


C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: "GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD"

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Tune and text: Public domain

HYMN: "AWAY IN A MANGER"

LSB 364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Tune and text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. O Lord, Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, grant that Your light shine forth in us and through us, that we may carry the holy joy of this day into all eternity; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.



CLOSING HYMN: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

LSB 368

Use the jingle bells as we sing and praise God this Christmas Day.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
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;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
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.



Glo - - - - ri - a



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



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

You can return the jingle bells in the basket in the lobby. Thanks

POSTLUDE "Gloria"

by Robert Buckley Farlee





Flowers adorning our church have been placed to the Glory of God by the following:

In Memory of:

JoAnn Durick
Schroeder – Schumacher Family
June Werth
Bob and Allene Horack
Colleen Syruws
Mr. & Mrs. George Martin, Gordon Martin,
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Lawson, Mary Ann Barnett
Bill & Ruth Stange, Nancy & Rich Musall,
Colleen Syruws
Bryan, Nicole & Jamie
Dad
Grandpa Gordie
Parents and Grandparents
Rich & Nancy Musall
June Werth

Bryan & Nicole Argo
Sam Cascio & Carole Blando
Donald Siegmann, George Mihalko
Ron Harder, Philip & Emma Moll,
Norman & Mabel Harder, John Watt
Those who have been lost this year

In Honor of:

Our children and grandchildren
Nancy & Rich Musall

In Gratitude for Blessings Received:

Bob & Jeanne Borgstede
Jason & Terrie Licht & family
Frank & Kathy Wendt
Scive Family

By:

Anita Garito
Don Schroeder
Marvin Werth
The Milne Family
Frank & Kathy Wendt
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Martin & family

The Drenko Family

Dad, Mom, Rita
Greg & Sherri Martin
Gregory, Jamie, & Alyssa Martin
The Argo Family
Anita Garito
Bruce & Doreen Sutherland &
Family
Grandma & Grandpa Atkinson
Paul & Mary Salefske
Doug & Theresa Siegmann & family
The Harder Family

Jason & Terrie Licht & family

Frank & Kathy Wendt
Anita Garito

Flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Day service.

