



We are a Christian community called to **worship** and sent to **serve**,
welcoming all to **walk** with Christ and **grow** in faith.

WELCOME & INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** We gather in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6

- P** The Lord himself will give you a sign.
C **Savior of the nations, come.**
P A virgin shall conceive and bear a son.
C **She shall call his name Immanuel.**
P For to us a child is born,
C **to us a son is given;**
P his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
C **Mighty God,**
P Everlasting Father,
C **Prince of Peace.**
P The Lord himself will give you a sign.
C **Savior of the nations, come.**

The Advent wreath is lit – two purple and one pink for joy.

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

LSB 332 sts. 1, 8

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
△ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the
here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be
That the Lord chose such a birth.
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 1): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004146 Text (st. 1) and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

- P** Dearly loved of the Lord! Let us draw near God our Father with a true heart and confess our sins,
pleading to Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Confident in His steadfast love, let us confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of waiting on You and clinging to Your promises, we impatiently go our own way. Instead of loving our neighbors as ourselves, we put our wants first and serve our interests instead of Yours. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** The Savior of the nations has come. And He continues to come “as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ”. God hears and answers our prayers, taking away our guilt and giving us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our Immanuel, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray together:
- C** **Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers. Embolden our witness to the true light that overcomes our darkness; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2–5a

² 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.
³ 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.
⁴ 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.
⁵ And he shall be their peace.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Galatians 4:1–7

¹ I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is
 no different from a slave, though he is the owner
 of everything, ² but he is under guardians and
 managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the
 same way we also, when we were children, were
 enslaved to the elementary principles of the world.
⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent

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

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26–38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent
 from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to
 a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was
 Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s
 name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said,
 “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and
 tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.
³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid,
 Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And
 behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear
 a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He 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 father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God.

³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of our 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Final petition:

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING

THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your faithful witness, John the Baptist, to prepare the way for Jesus and His coming kingdom. With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 if you have not been instructed about the Lord’s Supper, we ask that you speak to the Pastor before participating in the Lord’s Supper*
For those who wish to take communion in their seat, please notify an usher or elder, and be seated near the center aisle. We offer either individual or common cup for the wine.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF THE LORD - PAX DOMINI

- P** Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

LSB 384 sts. 2-3

2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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

Just a Little Christmas

By Sharon Kay Charwell

HYMN: "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. Refrain*

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

CONGREGATION:

2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

SKIT



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV

HYMN: "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.*



CONGREGATION:

2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
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.
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,
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!
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

❧ SKIT ❧

CHILDREN: "AWAY IN A MANGER"

LSB 365

- 1 *Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright 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 (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt. Text: Public domain

SKIT

HYMN: "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.*

*Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

CONGREGATION:

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

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt. Text and tune: French Text and tune: Public domain



LSB 363

HYMN: "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"

*Children: Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright
 Round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 Sleep in heavenly peace,
 Sleep in heavenly peace.*

CONGREGATION:

2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face

Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy

born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-85 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863 Text and tune: Public domain

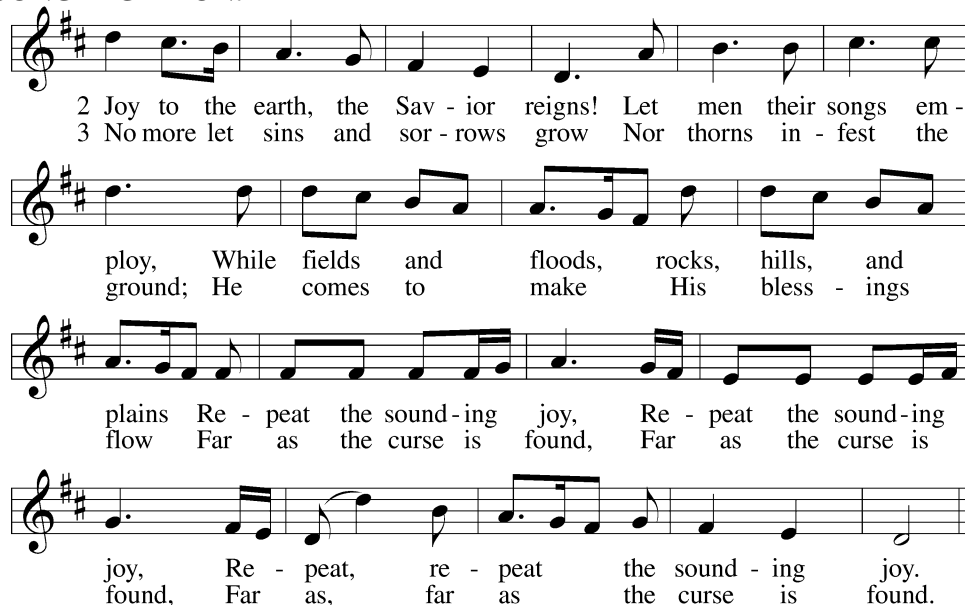


JOY TO THE WORLD

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.*

CONGREGATION:



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
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain



BENEDICTION

Psalm 33:22; Numbers 6:24–26

- P** Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
- C** **even as we hope in You.**
- 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

CAST:

Narrator : Lucy Schultz
Angel: Charlotte Willis
Mary: Ellanora Lindhurst
Joseph: Cody Fontana

Caesar Augustus: Mackenzie Harder
Angel : Makayla Harder
Angel: Aubriella Steiner
Shepherd: Ava Schultz

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