



# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christmas Day  
December 25, 2023

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

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

James Marriot  
Linda R. Lamb

## RANDOM RING

## 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: “HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

*LSB 380*



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!



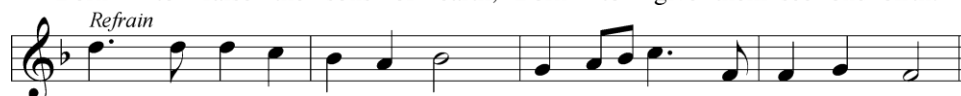
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King!”

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47 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*

<sup>7</sup>How 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.” <sup>8</sup>The 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.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The 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*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but 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. <sup>3</sup>He 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, <sup>4</sup>having 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.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM: “Away in a Manger”

*Jeffrey Blersch*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:1–14*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

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

<sup>14</sup>And 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: "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY" Introduction by Brass

LSB 376



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
 God - and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our glad-ness.  
 leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.  
 stars His chil-dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt. Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76 Text and tune: Public domain

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

<p><i>Something new I heard:</i></p>	<p><i>Thoughts this Christmas Day:</i></p>
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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### OFFERING

*"He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising"*

Paul Manz with Flute

## 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:



### “OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN”

LSB 384

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly  
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing  
He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -  
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (st. 1): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V Text and tune: Public domain

### 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.

## "REJOICE, REJOICE THIS HAPPY MORN"

*LSB 391*

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -  
to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!  
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from  
on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!  
My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er  
For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937 Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

## DISTRIBUTION

### CHOIR ANTHEM


*I Trust You*, Skip Ewing & Don Schultz  
Solo – Theresa Werth



**HYMN: "GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"** Introduction by Brass

LSB 388

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt. Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual Text and tune: Public domain

**HYMN: "NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE"**

LSB 386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.  
 3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?

He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;  
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
 Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty  
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,

Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.

Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!  
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!  
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt. Tune: German, 14th cent. Text and tune: 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.

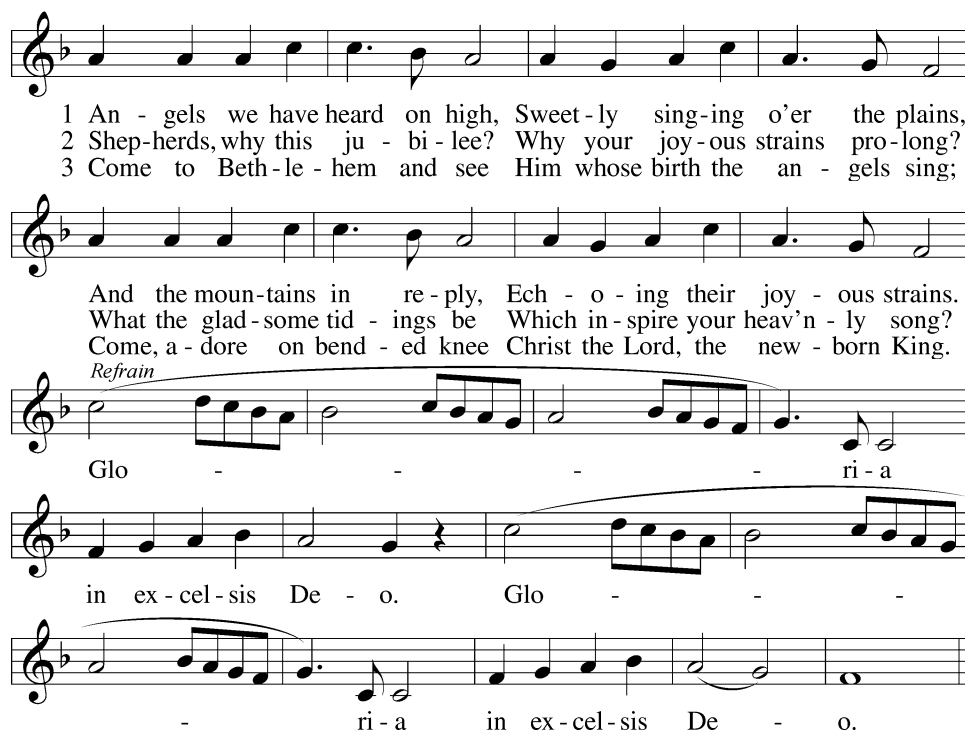
## BENEDICTION

- 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.

*Refrain*

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. Thank you.*

## POSTLUDE “Angels We Have Heard on High”

by Jacob B Weber



# Poinsettias

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

## ***In Memory of***

Jan Meissner  
Our Parents  
June Werth  
K. Gilbert Kroening,  
Helen & Steve Warchocki  
Mom & Dad  
Michael Sonnen  
Bryan, Nicole, & Jamie  
Dad  
Bill & Ruth Stange, Rich & Nancy Musall,  
and Colleen Syruws  
Grandpa Gordie  
June Werth, Bob & Jean Sutherland  
Bryan & Nicole Argo  
Fred & Janet Mumm  
Ron Harder, John Watt, Philip & Emma Moll,  
and Norman & Mabel Harder

## ***Given by***

Herb Meissner  
Barb & Jeff Manning  
Marvin Werth  
  
Dave & Wendy Warchocki  
Don Schroeder  
Linda Sonnen  
Dad, Mom, & Rita  
Greg & Sherri Martin  
  
The Drenko Family  
Gregory, Jamie, & Alyssa Martin  
Bruce, Doreen, & Luke Sutherland  
Grandpa & Grandma Atkinson  
Heidi Sue McCormick  
  
The Harder Family

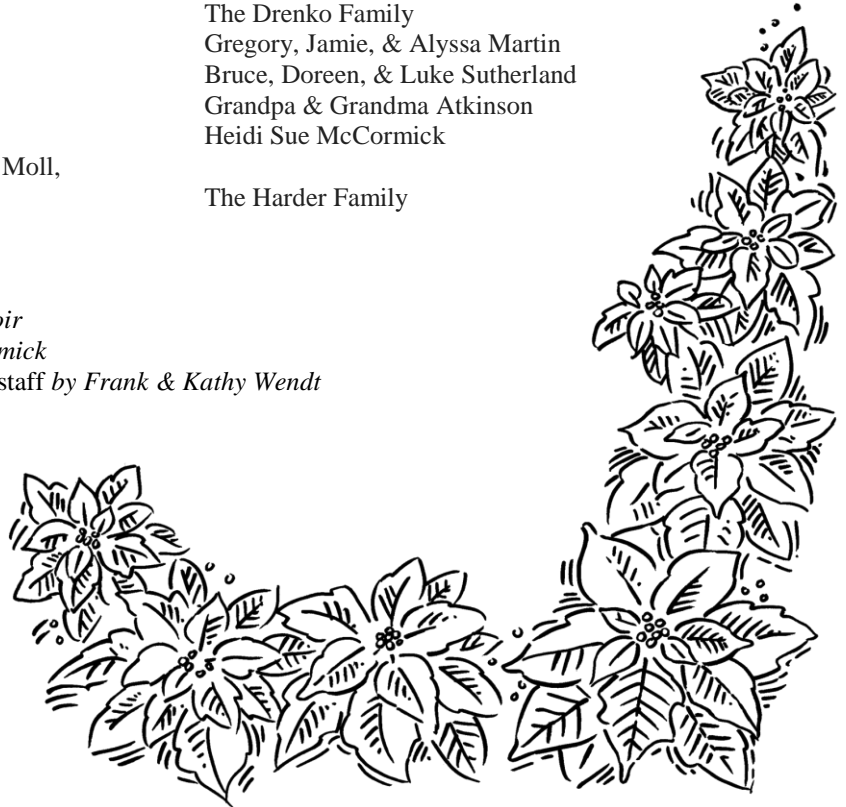
## ***In Honor of***

Our Parents *by Cathy & Dan Schultz*  
Doreen Sutherland *by The Handbell Choir*  
My Kindergartners *by Heidi Sue McCormick*  
All the teachers, Pastor Mike, Sara, and staff *by Frank & Kathy Wendt*

## ***For Blessings Received***

Bob & Jeanne Borgstede  
The Scive Family  
The Weir Family  
Frank & Kathy Wendt

*Flowers may be picked up after  
the Christmas Day service.*



## **Brass:**

Josiah Borgstede  
Luke Sutherland

## **Handbells:**

Josiah Borgstede  
Suzette Drenko  
Melissa German  
Elaine Schaeffer  
Michele Stiener  
Lynn Willis  
Lorrie Wier  
Theresa Werth

## **Choir:**

Sara Borgstede  
Thomas Carney  
Emily Carney  
Donna Carr  
Roger Carr  
Suzette Drenko  
Herb Meissner  
Peggy Meyer  
Cheryl Oliver  
Kathy Wendt  
Theresa Werth