



December 25, 2022  
9:00 a.m.  
Carols, Scripture, Blessings & Prayer  
Christmas Day

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*St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA*

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**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
Carols, Scripture, Blessings & Prayer  
Christmas Day  
Rev. Maggie Westaby

**WELCOME**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING OF JOY**

Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy!  
Lift up your eyes to the hills, to the stars, and to the galaxies,  
For it is there you will see the limitless expanse of joy to be found.

Joy in Christmas morning, and the birth of Christ.  
Joy in the winter sunrise, and the brave birds who sing God's praise.  
Joy in frozen crystals of water, where baptisms are forever embodied.  
Joy in the Spirit's Breath that fills your lungs with vitality.

For God is in your midst, your comings, and goings.  
Immersing every molecule of your being with joy and delight.  
For God so loved the world that all might be reconciled to God in Christ.

Where pain and suffering will be no more,  
Where a new creation of joy, love, and peace will reign.  
Joy that all the angels and all creation sings,  
Joy allowing you to be still and know our Creator is God.  
Amen.

**HYMN**

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be - . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels;  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

*Refrain*  
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also, with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Joyful God,

We come to you this morning with hearts of gratitude. Hearts that are filled with joy, wonder, and awe for all you have done for your creation. Help us to embody your love and grace so that we can share it with a world that is desperately in need. Prepare our hearts for a new year, that we may bring your word to a world that is thirsty for your good news. Prepare our spirits that we may share your love and joy with all creation.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

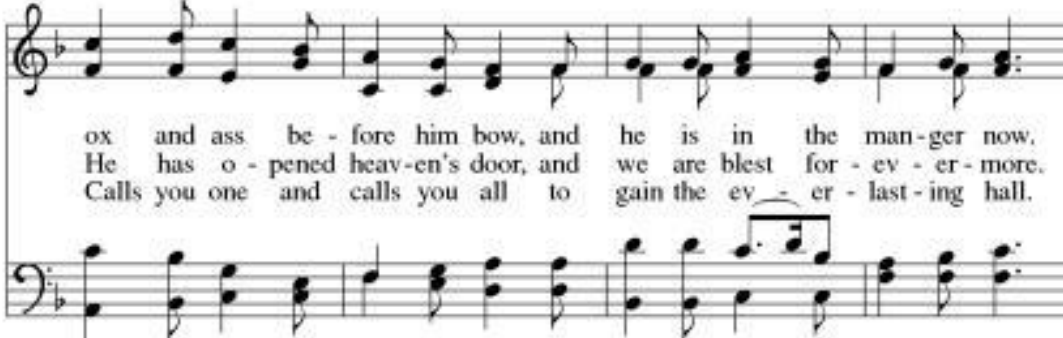
## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



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 the ev - er - last - ing hall.



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

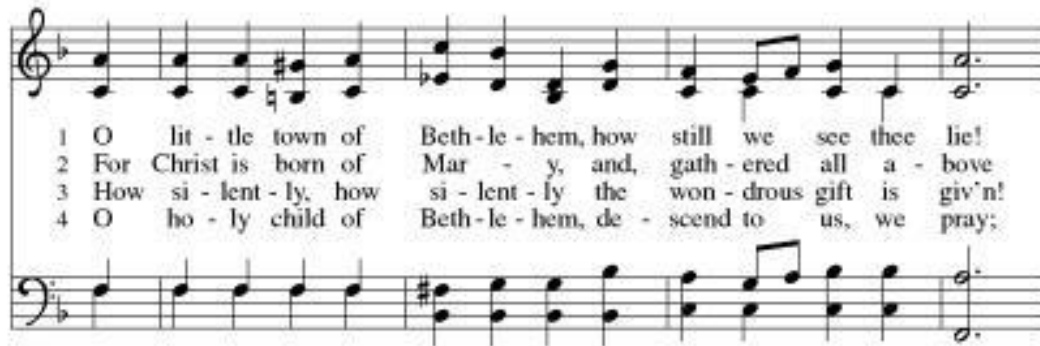
Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866  
 Music: EN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

## **CHRISTMAS MORNING POEM**

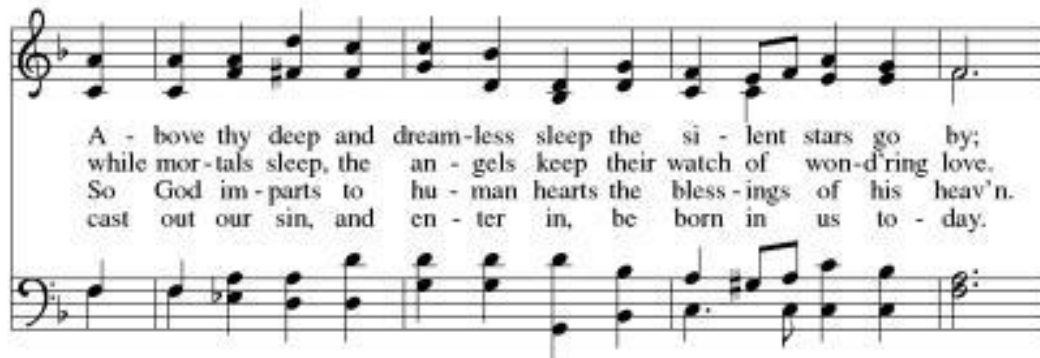
'Twas the morning of Christmas and all through St. John, the parishioners' were merry and not one of them yawned. To begin with a blessing was a nice change of pace, no confession to start was some well needed grace. Singing songs of joy and gladness of heart, each parishioner was ready and doing their part. Going to God in prayer and one another in love, to share God's joy that was sent from above. Where on this day so many years ago, all creation was changed from all that we know. For Christ was born, behold what a sight! Merry Christmas to all, from that most Holy Night.

## **HYMN**

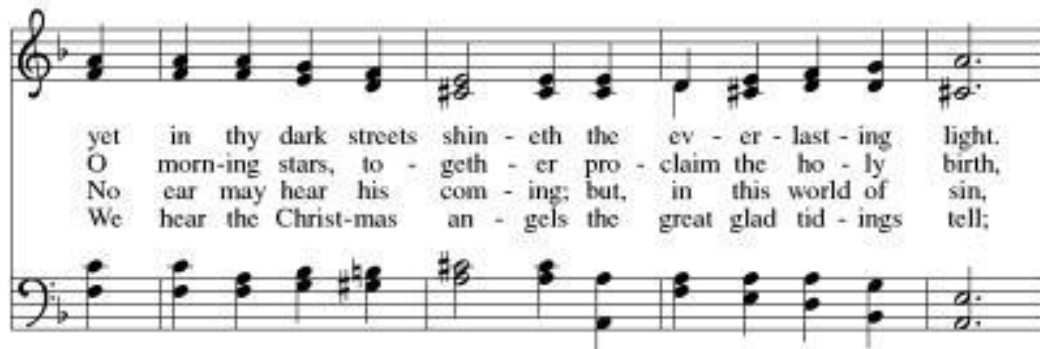
## O Little Town of Bethlehem



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.



yet 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

## Isaiah 62:6-12

<sup>6</sup>Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,  
I have posted sentinels;  
all day and all night  
they shall never be silent.  
You who remind the LORD,  
take no rest,  
<sup>7</sup>and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:  
I will not again give your grain  
to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink the wine  
for which you have labored;  
<sup>9</sup>but those who garner it shall eat it  
and praise the LORD,  
and those who gather it shall drink it  
in my holy courts.  
<sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates,  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway,  
clear it of stones,  
lift up an ensign over the peoples.  
<sup>11</sup>The LORD has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:  
Say to daughter Zion,  
“See, your salvation comes;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.”  
<sup>12</sup>They shall be called, “The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the LORD“;  
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 97 (from *Psalms for Praying*)**

The Creator reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the cosmos be glad.

**Justice preserves creation, allowing it to blossom and thrive; hidden within creation, God is the Heart of everything.**

Fire goes before you, burning away the chaff and the tares. Your Light enlightens the world.



**All of creation is clothed in your love, mirroring your love throughout the cosmos. The heavens declare your righteousness, O Creator, and all the peoples see your glory. For you are the Creator, most high over all the earth; you are exalted throughout the universe.**

You are the Light of the saints; you hide yourself in every soul. Light dawns for the just, and joy for the upright of heart.

**Rejoice in the Most High all of creation, and give thanks to the Radiant One, the Bestower of Life!**

**Amen.**

### **Luke 2:8-20**

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

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### **HYMN**

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions 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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance,

Receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

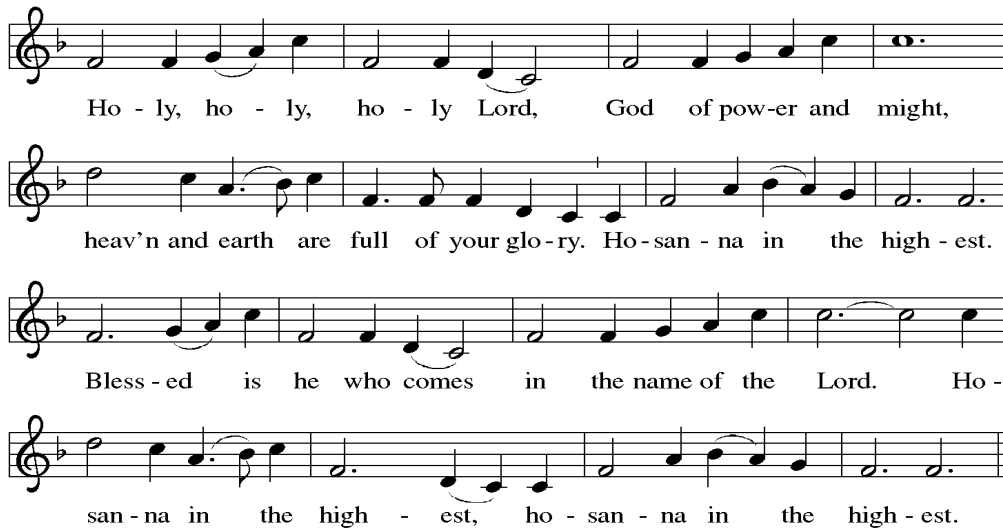
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## COMMUNION HYMNS

## Angels We Have Heard on High

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.

*ritard*  
 Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

May God bless you and keep you,

May Christ grant you grace and truth,

May the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,

And may the Three in One ✝ fill all your days with the joy of Christmas morning. Amen

### SENDING SONG

## Go Tell It on the Mountain

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

## DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Welcome to all!** Merry Christmas! Welcome to the manger, which cradles the very Word made flesh.

“Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning!” (“O, Come, All Ye Faithful”).

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

**To those who are visiting:** Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

**Reminder!** If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John’s at (715) 675-6950

**Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord’s Supper with us.

**Food Basket.** Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

**The wreaths in the entryway to the church are in memory of Patsy Askew and Pat Rogalla**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Pastor Maggie’s Book Club. We will be discussing the book, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)* by Kate Bowler.

**Live Streaming and Photography Notice.** When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children’s sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

**Coming This Week @ St. John December 25 – January 1**

**Today**

9:00 a.m. Worship

**December 26**

All Day Church office closed in observation of Christmas

**December 27**

8:30 a.m. Quilting

**January 1**

9:00 a.m. Worship