



December 18, 2022  
10:00 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday in Advent, Year A  
Children's Christmas Program

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*St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA*

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**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
Fourth Sunday in Advent, Year A  
Children's Christmas Program  
Rev. Maggie Westaby

**WELCOME**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Angel's Candle & Candle of Love.*

God of Infinite Love,

May all see the Advent Wreath as a symbol of your never-ending love. May the wreath be a place to acknowledge the blessings you give to us; the blessings of hope, peace, joy, and love. And on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we pray specifically for love. Love that was birthed on the Holiest Night. Love that became incarnate and lived among us. Love that lives with us on earth, and in the resurrection, for your love conquers all.

**Amen.**

*Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah Verse 4.*

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
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## **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**

Loving God,

You come to us in surprising ways, in angel appearances, in the love of a child, and in the Love of Your Child. And so today we pray, O come O come Immanuel. Bring us from fear to peace, from sadness to joy, and from despair to hope. For you are in the midst of all things, and your love shines even in Holy Darkness. For there is no place you are not. Embrace us in your love and inspire us to share your love with the world.

**Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

### **“CHRISTMAS VISITORS”**

Please join the Sunday School students during their program by singing along with the *italic* portions of the songs listed below.

## **OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

*Oh, come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of angels;*

*Oh, come, let us adore him;  
Oh, come, let us adore him;  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God,  
In the highest;*

## **JOY TO THE WORLD**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room.

And Heaven and nature sing.  
And Heaven and nature sing.  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. 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**

Abundant God,  
You make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
Receive these offerings and cultivate them into our ministry. May our offerings guide us, and inspire us to share your mercy and love for all of creation.  
**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**

## The First Noel

1 The first Noel the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

night that was so deep,  
 un - ued both day and night, No - el, No - el, No -  
 star where - ev - er it went,  
 place where Je - sus lay,  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense,

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## 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*

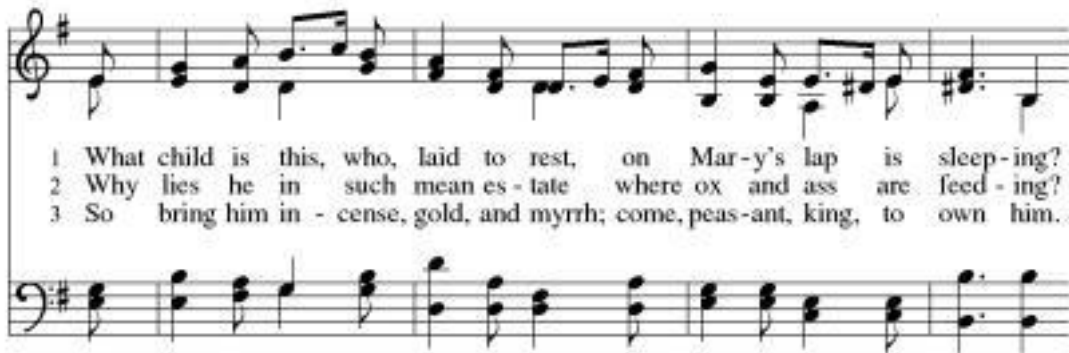
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

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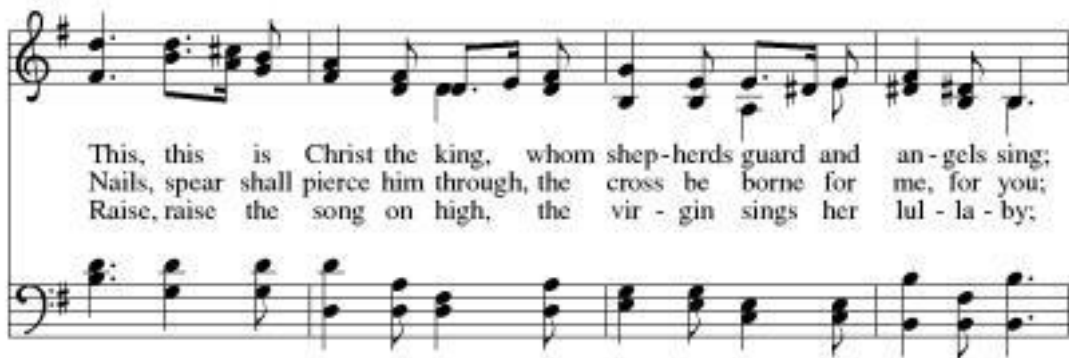
## What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Faithful God,

In this meal you shared with us your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this Holy Mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

May our Creator fill you with love, joy, and hope,

May the Holy Spirit birth peace in your midst,

May Christ be your light and your strength,

And may the Three in One ✝ be the focus of all you are.

Amen.

## **SENDING SONG**

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, 4th.  
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Welcome to all!** ... and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23, NRSV). What message is more comforting and praiseworthy? Welcome to worship.

With ages of worshipers, I pray: “O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home” (“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”).

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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** ‘The Star’ Pizza & Pajama Party. St. John members of all ages are welcome to attend this fun event! Come and watch the cartoon movie ‘The Star’ about the night Jesus was born. Enjoy pizza for dinner and make a star ornament! Wear your PJs and bring something comfy to snuggle with! Kids are welcome to bring friends if they’d like! **Pizza at 5:30pm. Movie 6:30pm-8pm.**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship Service**

**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 18 – December 25**

**Today**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**December 19**

Noon Articles due to Church Office.

1:00 p.m. Pastor Maggie @ Synod Meeting.

**December 20**

8:30 a.m. Quilting

9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

**December 22**

5:30 p.m. Pizza & Pajama Party, “The Star”

**December 24**

4:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service

6:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service

**December 25**

9:00 a.m. Worship