



December 17, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ One God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **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 now, and in what is yet to come, for your love conquers all. Amen.

Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah Verse 4 only.

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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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 Emmanuel. 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 in all things. May we feel your love embracing us now and always, so we can live inspired and share your love with the world. **Amen.**



A Disney Nativity

Please join the Sunday School students in singing 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.

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, wonders of His love.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Respond to "Merciful God," with "receive our prayer."

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

At this time of year, the abundance of some and the needs of many stands in marked contrast. May Christ's heart rejoice and the needs of others be tended to, through our offering.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The final note of the fifth staff is a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness,

By your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts. May they be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

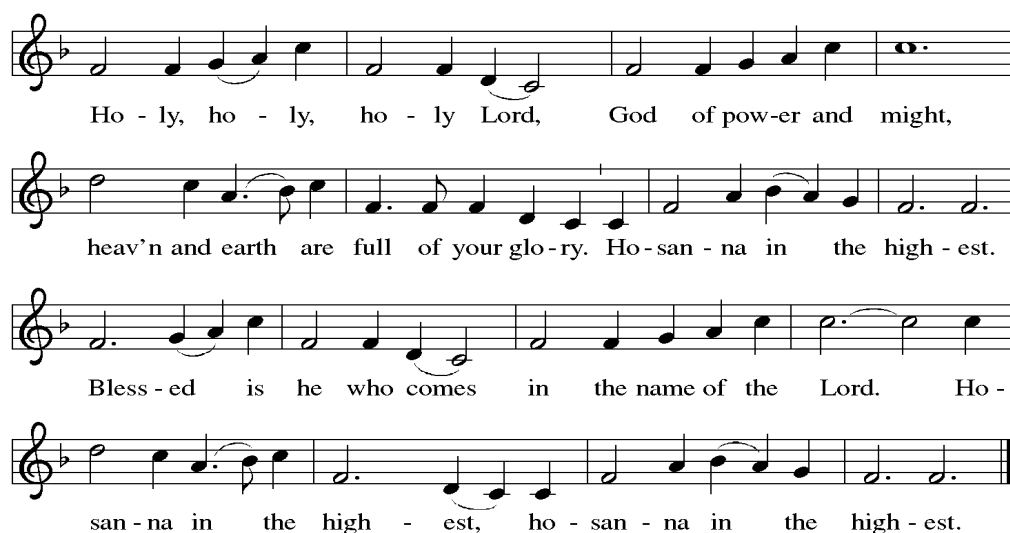
We lift them to the Lord.

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:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

As we journey through this sacred season of Advent, a time of anticipation and reflection, we gather today in the spirit of love. Love that was born and lived among us. Come share in God's love that has been given and shed for you. Amen.



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, grant us peace.

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.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



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



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

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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



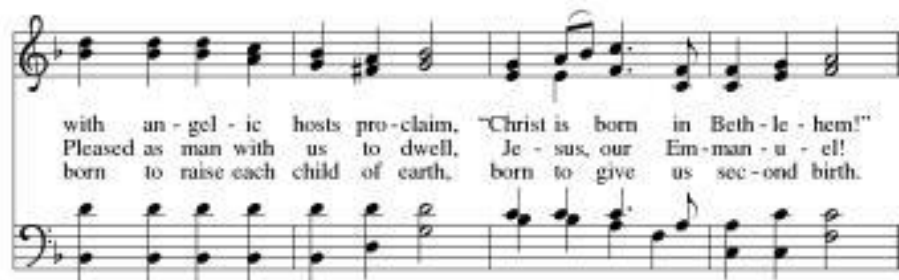
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



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.



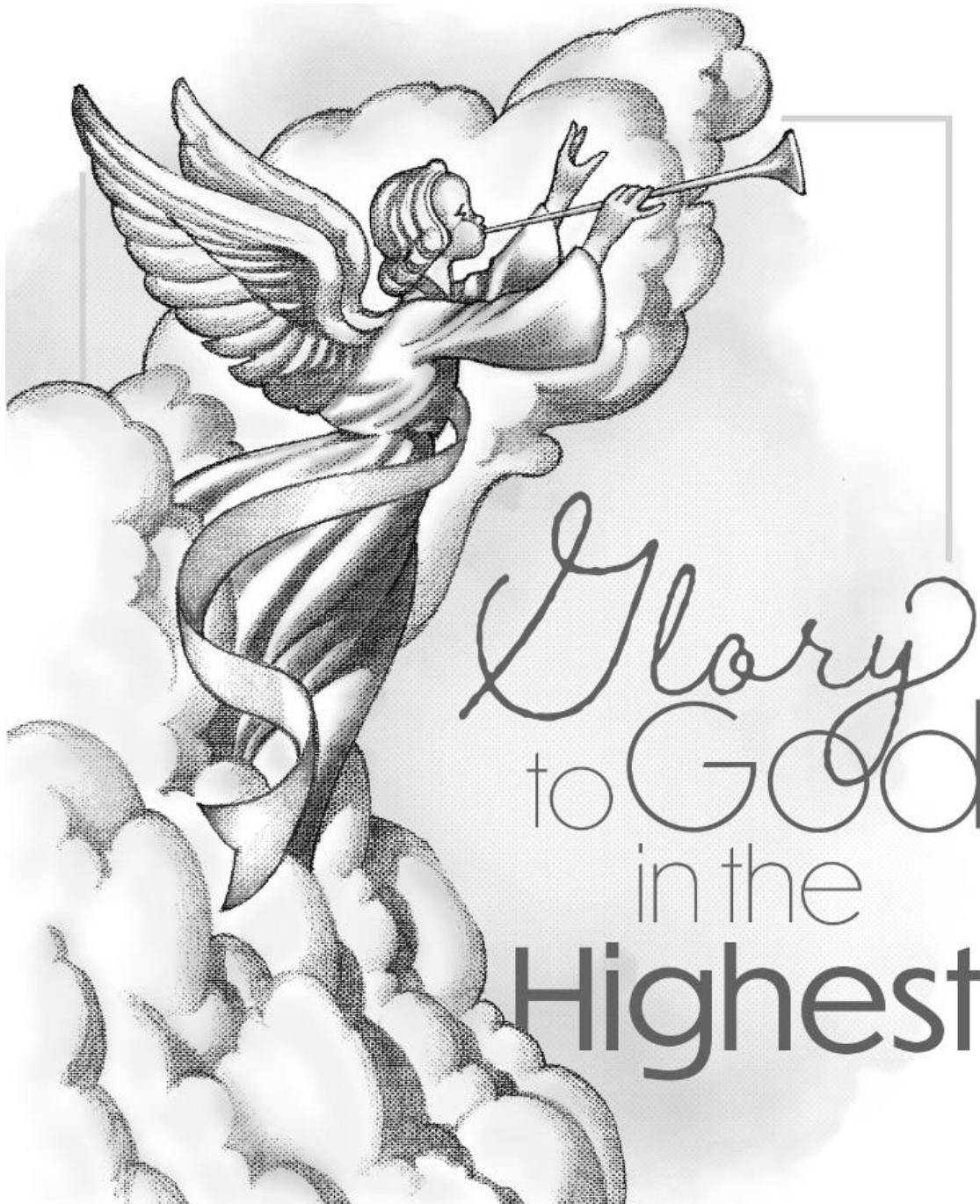
Refrain
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.



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Thank You, Louie for the beautiful Christmas Tree!



Welcome to all! Were we traveling with Joseph and Mary, we'd be nearing Bethlehem now — a relief, especially for the one great with child. So we ponder the solemnity and wonder of this day. Welcome to worship.

With Mary, "my soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47, NIV).

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 the Lord's Supper.

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

2024 Time & Talent sheet is ready for you to select area(s) that you would like to help share your time and talent with your church! There are so many options, and the wonderful thing is that most have very little time investment for you, but the benefit is great to our church! Please take a moment to look over the Time & Talent sheet, it is divided into different areas of service, with the council chairperson's contact info listed, for you to reach out to with any questions you may have. Please fill out and return your sheet in the offering plate on any Sunday, leave in Mary's (secretaries) mailbox, or even call / email me and we'll get you signed up! Please take time to fill out a Time & Talent sheet, even if you already serve in areas of the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lane Bahr.

St. John Quilting Wishlist. Left over fabric or never used fabric, light weight denim, cotton or flannel sheets, pillow cases, cotton curtains (unlined), cotton shower curtains. If you are interested, come join us! You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

Advent Resources Available. ELCA Advent Devotionals & Advent Calendars are in the Narthex. If you are interested in Kate Bowler's Advent Devotional, see Pastor Maggie.

Men's Breakfast. Pastor Will from Trinity in Stettin and St. Peter's in Marathon has invited all men from St. John to meet the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. At LC Restaurant, in Marathon (Formerly the Village Inn).

Sunday, December 17 worship is at 10:00 a.m. for our Children's Christmas Program! Potluck to follow! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas. A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time, and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. All are welcome.

Sunday, December 24. Christmas Eve Worship will be at 4:00 & 6:30 only. We will not have a 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.

Wednesday, December 27 at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Pizza & PJ Party. Pizza served at 6, "Mickey's Christmas Carol" and "A Muppet Family Christmas" from 6:30-8. Kids are welcome to bring a friend! The event is free, please sign up in the Narthex so we have a head count for dinner.

Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. Adult Study on the Gospel of Mark. This first session will focus on Mark 1 through Mark 8:26.

Monday, January 23 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club will discuss, *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate.

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.

Monday, January 8, 2024 – Annual Report Articles due to Church Office.

Coming This Week @ St. John December 17 – December 24

Today

- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Holiday Fellowship & Potluck

December 18

- 12:00 p.m. Newsletter Articles due to Church Office
- 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

December 19

- 8:30 a.m. Quilting
- 9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

December 24 (No 9:00 a.m. Worship)

- 4:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- 6:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service