



**WELCOME TO  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

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[www.stjohnsws.com](http://www.stjohnsws.com)

**The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day**

*Festival Service with Holy Communion*

**December 25, 2016 – 10:30 a.m.**

**St. John's Mission: To help one more person get to Heaven  
by pointing them to Jesus Christ.**

We focus our attention this morning on a very different part of the Christmas message than we highlighted yesterday. Gone are the details of Luke's account, and in its place is the grand expression of a cosmic event, long promised and now fulfilled. God's own Son has come to wear human flesh and blood, to be born as a man of the blessed Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. He has come as the Word made flesh to fulfill the promise laid down before the foundation of the world and rescue His lost creation. That same Word remains among His people, the living voice speaking to bestow what He has won, summoning sinners from guilt to righteousness and from death to life. So we come on Christmas morning to rejoice in what the Lord has done to save His people.

### † Prayer Before Worship †

Blessed Lord, long ago You spoke through the voices of men to proclaim Your promise. Now You have spoken through Your Son, the Word made flesh. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe the living voice that bestows upon us the fullness of Your promises, once for all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives in unity with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Prelude**      **“God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen”**

arr. Samuel Wesley

**Welcome & Sharing of the Peace**

**Processional Hymn #387 – “Joy to the World”**

### **Invocation**

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**P:** Recalling our sin and God's mercy, let us examine our lives and consciences. Holy and gracious God,

**C: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before You, O Lord, for all my sins. I have lived as if You did not matter and I mattered most. Your name I have not honored and my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I am sorry for all my sins and plead for Your mercy in Christ Jesus. Graciously forgive me all my sins and help me amend my sinful life. Amen.**

P: God be merciful and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord † be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Be seated.)*

### **Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 52:7-10**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 2**

L: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

**C: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,**

L: “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

**C: He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.**

L: Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

**C: “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”**

L: I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

**C: Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.**

L: You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

**C: Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

L: Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

**C: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

**Epistle Reading – Hebrews 1:1-6**

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

**Holy Gospel**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Reading of John 1:1-14

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

(Be seated)

**Hymn #367 – “Angels from the Realms of Glory”**

**Sermon**

**Prayer of the Church**

**Offering**

**Offertory Anthem “I Saw Three Ships”**

arr. Fred Baldwin

**Offertory Hymn - #386 “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”, verse 1**

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER...**

St. Paul wrote, "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup". Ask yourself: Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe that Jesus died for my sins? Am I resolved, by the work of the Holy Spirit, to use the power of Christ which is offered in this Sacrament, to amend my sinful life? St. Paul also wrote, "He who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly". Do you believe that you receive the TRUE/REAL BODY AND BLOOD of Christ in, under and with the bread and wine for the full pardon of sins? (Please use pages 329-330 in the front of your hymn book to examine yourself.) Children are invited forward to receive a blessing.

**† Service of the Sacrament †**

*(Please stand.)*

**Preface**

P: The Lord be with you.



**C** And al-so 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.

**Proper Preface**

P: ... evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**C:** Amen.

## Words of our Lord

## Lord's Prayer

## Peace of the Lord

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** A - men.

*(Be Seated)*

**Distribution Hymns: #393 – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”  
#365 – “Away in a Manger”**

*(Please Stand)*

**Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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.**

**Hymn #380 – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**Postlude Paen on “Joy to the World”**

David Lasky

**Thank you to Pastor Tom Clocker for serving us this weekend.**

**Worship Assistants:** Steve Anderson & Don Henderson

**Organist and Choir Director:** Frances Burmeister

**Cantor:** Tom Loke

**Altar Guild:** Tina Kottlowski, Anita Hoisington, Jackie Downey, Claudia Essbach

**Lock-ups:** Don Henderson, Glenn Rullman, Brad Honeycutt

**Poinsettias are given to the glory of God by:**

Don & Clare Adamick  
Jeanne Blizard in memory of her husband Richard  
Dot Cleary in memory of her husband Bob  
Steve Covington  
Jane Davidson in memory of Dewey & Debbie Davidson  
Steve & Nancy Golden  
Joan Happel in memory of her husband Loren  
Jim & Fran Johnson  
Arden & Glenda Lackey  
Mark & Beth Meier  
Dale & Alice Mierisch  
Mary Rochester in memory of her parents

You are welcome to take your flowers home to enjoy after the service this morning.

**New Year's Eve** worship service will be at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion.

**New Year's Day** worship service will be at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion.

Regular Sunday worship schedule will resume on Sunday, January 8.