



St. John's Lutheran Church
January 5, 2025

Welcome to St. John's

Thanks for being here today! We feel blessed that you're here and truly pray you find the warmth of our Christian family, the powerful truth of God's Word and the peaceful assurance of His promises. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. To start, everything for our worship is projected on the screens up front and printed here in the service folder. God bless your time with us today. We hope you can worship with us again!

If You're New to St. John's:

You and your kids are welcome. We really love and enjoy having kids in worship and encourage the worshipping family! In fact, our worship often includes a children's message with little ones in mind. And if your children are acting up, please know it's never a bother to our worship service. However, if you do need a quiet place to calm a child, a nursery room is available with screens immediately to the left as you exit the sanctuary. There are also changing stations in each bathroom.

Restrooms are located in the entrance as you came into the building

Make yourself at home. You don't have to rush off after service today. Light refreshments are usually provided in our social hall after worship. If you feel comfortable, please stay and follow up with one of our pastors; we'd be honored if you took a moment to introduce yourself!

Don't feel obligated. Our members give financial offerings to the Lord as an expression of thanks and praise for his amazing love. Please know that you are our guests and we're simply happy you've come to hear about Jesus and His Word today. You're not expected to give an offering; it's your choice.

Cell Phones. To remove as many distractions as possible from worshipping God today, we kindly ask you to silence your phone before the service.

Fill out a Connection Card. We'd love to know you were here and help you take the next step. There are Connection Cards inserted in the worship folders, or they can be completed online. Text "Connect" to 651-401-1400, scan the QR code, or visit www.StJohnsLutheran.com/connection-card to complete the card online.



Welcome to St. John's

Opening Worship: Angels from the Realms of Glory *CW 347 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3*



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
o'er your flocks by night, God with us is
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Stand

We Worship with God's Blessing

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our Honest Confession; God's Gracious Forgiveness

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the
 Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your
 voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain
 Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,
 wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

CW 347 sts. Ref, 5

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

God's Word for Our Hearts

1 Kings 10:1–9

¹When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. ²Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. ³Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. ⁴When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

⁶She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. ⁸How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! ⁹Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia. Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

Alleluia.

God's Word for Our Hearts

Acts 13:46-49

⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

⁴⁸When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

⁴⁹The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370 sts. 1-4



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere
4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
ning with - out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!

Continued on the next page



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride - groom and
In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -
And you at length— O glo - rious grace— will take me to



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing
A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n - ly plac - es.
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.

Today's Message based on Matthew 2:1-12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Message Notes: *Things for me to remember this week...*

Our Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Our Offering of Thanks & Love

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” - Colossians 3:17

Our offerings are both an expression of thankfulness for what our Savior has done for us, and a way of supporting the spread of the gospel through the Church’s work. Guests need not feel obligated to contribute.

Ways to Give Electronically

Choose one of 3 Simple, Safe Options for Offering Thanks



- Text “give” to 651-401-1400
- Go to www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give
- Scan the QR code

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It features a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en 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!"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en 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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son’s body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

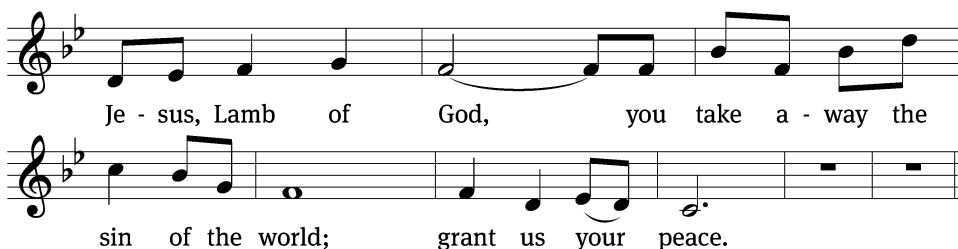
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second and third staves contain the first line of the hymn: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." The fourth and fifth staves contain the second line of the hymn: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." The lyrics are placed below the notes on the second, third, fourth, and fifth staves.



Be seated

A note to our guests: God's Word speaks of the spiritual blessings of this Sacrament (Matthew 26:28). God's Word also warns us against the spiritual danger in sharing this Holy meal (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Because we deeply care about you and don't want to see anyone's faith harmed, we ask that only those persons who are members of our church or fellowship join us in this intimate expression of oneness (1 Corinthians 10:17; Amos 3:3). We are not judging your love for Jesus; we are showing our love for Jesus by obeying his commands (John 14:15,21). Please feel free to ask one of our pastors for more information. We are eager to listen and share over an open Bible. Thanks!

Distribution Hymn: What Is This Bread

CW 665

found on page 15

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Song: As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 372 sts. 1-4



- 1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold,
- 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
- 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
- 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright,
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore,
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last



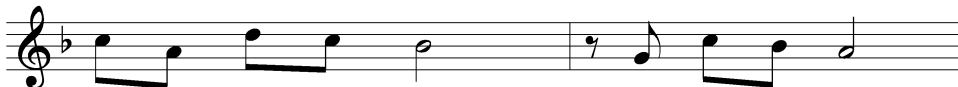
so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.

What Is This Bread

CW 665



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	that	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from	the	dead:	this	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	the	cup	of	grace
live	and	he	should	die	un - der	the	rod?
Word	and	prom - ise	clear,	in	mouth	and	soul
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be - lieve	



this	life	we	take,	was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
brings	his	em - brace		of	life	and	love	un - til	I	
My	God,	my	God,	why	have	you	not	for - sak - en		
he	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru - ly	pres - ent	in	this		
that	I	re - ceive		his	ver - y	bod - y	and	his		



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

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Take the Next Step

If this is your first time with us, we're so glad that you took a big step and came to worship. What's your next step?

Come back next week

Connecting with God at worship is a great way to spend time during your weekend.

Try "God & Me"

God & Me is the place to learn more about God's word in your life, for both long time-members and beginners who want to learn more about God's love, the Bible, and St. John's. A new session of classes will be starting soon. Connect with Pastor and/or check the box on your Connection Card if you'd like to know more.

Join a Grow Group

Grow Groups are small groups that get together in person or online to learn about God's Word. It's a safe, comfortable atmosphere to discuss the way God's love intersects our daily lives. If you are interested in joining or starting a Grow Group or Bible Study, mark the box on your Connection Card and we will reach out to you.

Service Opportunities

There are multiple areas to volunteer each Sunday to make worship happen well for those in person and online: Guest Services & Hospitality Team, Tech Team, & Worship Prep Team. Are you interested in serving? Mark the box on your Connection Card today!

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Visit us online:



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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – WELS