

**CHRIST THE  
SAVIOR IS BORN**

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**THE DAWN OF  
REDEEMING GRACE**



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**January 4, 2026**

# Welcome to St. John's

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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](http://www.StJohnsLutheran.com/connection-card) to complete the card online.



## Welcome to St. John's

### Opening Worship: O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort CW 326



1 O Je - sus, grant me hope and com-fort; O let me ne'er in  
2 O Je - sus, with thy ad - vent qui - et my rest - less soul and



sor - row pine. My heart, my soul, yea, all my be - ing, O  
anx - ious mind. In true hu - mil - i - ty I wel-come thee,



Je - sus, trust a - lone in thee. Thou Prince of Peace, thou  
Je - sus Christ, my joy di - vine. My thoughts, de - sires, and



Pearl from heav - en, true God, true man, my Morn - ing Star!  
all my long-ings I ded - i - cate, O Christ, to thee.

#### *Refrain*



O come, thou pre - cious Sun most ra - diant, thy beams il -



lu - mine my heart, my soul. O come, thou pre - cious



Sun most ra - diant, thy beams il - lu - mine my heart, my soul.

*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*

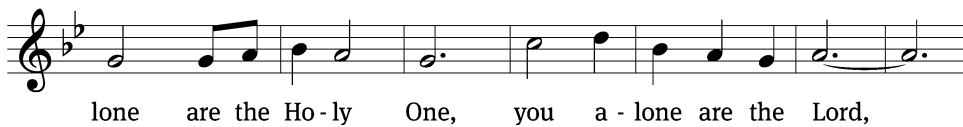
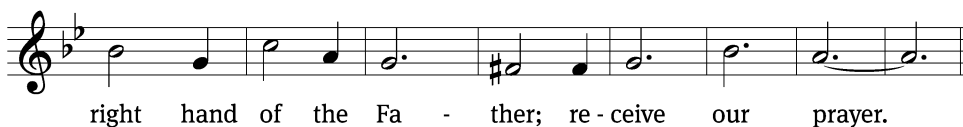
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son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

# Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo and meter are not explicitly stated, but the notation suggests a moderate, steady pace. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score consists of ten lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the'.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,  
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we  
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your  
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; 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

*Ephesians 1:3–18*

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup>For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup>he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup>to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup>In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup>in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup>I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup>I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Psalm 98:3*

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Alleluia.**

## The Gospel Reading

*John 1:14–18*

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”)

<sup>16</sup>Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Once in Royal David's City

*CW 343*

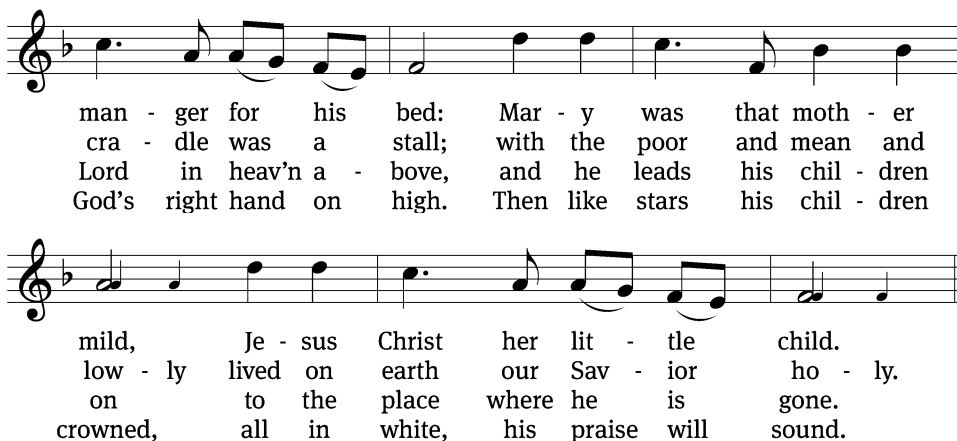


1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -  
4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en



cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our  
stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at





man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and  
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren  
God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
on to the place where he is gone.  
crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

## Today's Message based on Isaiah 61:10—62:3

<sup>10</sup>I delight greatly in the LORD;

my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation

and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,

as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the soil makes the sprout come up

and a garden causes seeds to grow,

so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise spring up before all nations.

<sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,

for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,

till her vindication shines out like the dawn,

her salvation like a blazing torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations will see your vindication,

and all kings your glory;

you will be called by a new name

that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

<sup>3</sup>You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,

a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

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## **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.*

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### 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](http://www.StJohnsLutheran.com/give)
- Scan the QR code

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## 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

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!

## 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



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CW 363



- 1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
- 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
- 3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa-ther's grace di - vine.
- 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;  
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty  
where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.  
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee!	Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there!	May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

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.**

## Blessings

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: Love Has Come**  
*found on the next page*

CW 364

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## Staff

**Dennis Harbach** | Pastor  
pastordh@stjohnslutheran.com  
(262) 402-2664

**Jon Zimpelmann** | Pastor  
Jon.zimpelmann@gmail.com  
(651) 829-4574

**Michelle Schulte** | Office Admin  
Admin@StJohnsLutheran.com  
(651) 438-3730



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[StJohnsLutheran.com](http://StJohnsLutheran.com)



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – WELS

# Love Has Come

CW 364



1 Love has come, a light in the dark-ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come share in the won-der. Love is God now a-  
 3 Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev-er-



Beth-le-hem skies. See, all heav-en has come to pro-claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth-er;  
 last-ing and free. Love is Je-sus with-in and a-mong us.



hear how their song of joy a-ris-es: Love! Love! Born un-to  
 what is the name her heart is say-ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek-ing, Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav-ior! Love! Love! Glo-ry to God on high!  
 name she whis-pers. Love! Love! Je-sus, Im-man-u-el.  
 gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!