



# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christmas Day  
December 25, 2024

6950 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
www.stjohnnt.com, (716) 693-9677

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

*O, Come, All Ye Faithful; Organ and Handbells*

## RANDOM RING

## WELCOME & INVOCATION

- P** We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

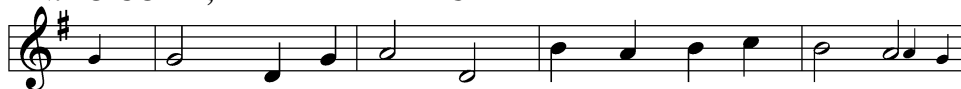
## OPENING SENTENCES

*John 1:1, 4-5, 9; Isaiah 9:6*

- P** In the beginning was the Word,
- C** and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- P** In Him was life,
- C** and the life was the light of men.
- P** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- C** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- P** To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
- C** and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- P** and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
- C** Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

## HYMN: "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

*LSB 379*



- 1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
- 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
- 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



- come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



- Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

### *Refrain*



- O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



- O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick  
Oakeley, 1802-  
80, alt.  
Text and tune:  
John F. Wade, c.  
1711-1786  
Text and tune:  
Public domain

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** As we celebrate in the light of Christmas morning, we also recognize the truth that we are by nature spiritually dark and sinful. Our words and deeds often reflect not the light of Christ but the darkness of sin. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **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. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 52:7–10*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of  
happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”  
<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their  
voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

the return of the LORD to Zion.  
<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## EPISTLE

*Hebrews 1:1–4*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:1–14*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people

did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### NICENE CREED

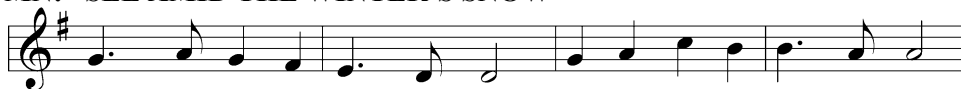
**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### HYMN: "SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW"

LSB 373



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,  
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,  
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,  
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.  
Tune: John Goss, 1800-80  
Text and tune: Public domain



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!  
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



*Refrain*  
Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*after each petition:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

*final petition:*

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C** Amen.

### OFFERING

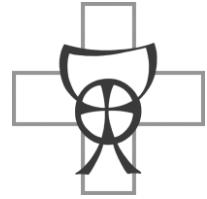
*Christmas Pastorate for Flute and Organ*

## THE SACRAMENT

**TO OUR VISITORS:** The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John in the confession that not only bread and wine, but Jesus Christ's very body and blood are given to us to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our faith in Him and our union (communion) with one another. Our Lord invites to His table all those who believe His words, repent of all sin, and set aside all refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. *If this is your first time at St John or have not been instructed about the Lord's Supper, we ask that you speak to the Pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper.*

### PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also 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.  
**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for the countless blessings You have bestowed upon us and all creation. Joining with the angelic host, whose word removes all fear, we rejoice in the salvation You have brought into our world. Your holy Child, who came to us that first Christmas, comes to us again this day in His body and blood. Therefore fearing, loving, and trusting in You, along with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



### “OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN”

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly  
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing  
He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -  
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

LSB 384 sts. 1, 5

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (st. 1): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V  
Text and tune: Public domain

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.  
**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

Matthew 6:9-13

## PEACE OF THE LORD - PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## “REJOICE, REJOICE THIS HAPPY MORN”

LSB 391

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937  
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608  
Text and tune: Public domain

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -  
to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!  
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from  
on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!  
My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er  
For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

## DISTRIBUTION

### HYMN: “ALL MY HEART AGAIN REJOICES”

LSB 360

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
Text and tune: Public domain

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near  
2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: “Now the foe, Sin and woe,  
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave  
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,  
Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. “Christ is born!” their choirs are sing - ing  
Death and hell are bro - ken!” God is man, man to de - liv - er,  
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en  
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,  
Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.  
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

5 Softly from His lowly manger  
Jesus calls  
One and all,  
“You are safe from danger.  
Children, from the sins that grieve you  
You are freed;  
All you need  
I will surely give you.”

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!  
One and all,  
Great and small,  
Come with songs of gladness.  
We shall live with Him forever  
There on high  
In that joy  
Which will vanish never.

**HYMN: "GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD"**

LSB 374

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859-1933  
Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald  
Text and tune: Public domain



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, grant that Your light shine forth in us and through us, that we may carry the holy joy of this day into all eternity; for You live and reign with the Father 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace. **C Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



HYMN: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"

LSB 368



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 in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.  
Text and tune: French  
Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE

*Halleluiah; Handel*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# Poinsettias

2024

Flowers adorning our church have been placed to the Glory of God:

## In Memory of

June Werth

Ron Sandy & Jeff Kroening  
Joan Piorkowski & Ray Norris  
Gordon Martin  
Bryan & Nicole Argo

Marilyn Britton  
Jan Meissner  
Michael Sonnen  
Estella Bullwinkle  
Ron Harder & John Watt

## Given by

Marvin Werth  
Bruce, Doreen & Luke Sutherland

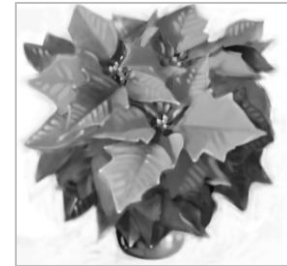
Bob & Patti Norris  
Greg, Sherri & Family  
Dad, Mom & Rita  
Grandpa & Grandma Atkinson  
Barb & Jeff Manning  
Herb Meissner  
Linda Sonnen  
Kathy & Frank Wendt  
The Harder Family

## In Honor of

Cheryl & Jim Oliver, Mike & Sue Hefferon *by the Fontana Family*  
Michael & Christie Scive's 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary *by Michael II, Andrew & Matthew Scive*  
Ruth & Bill Stange, Rich & Nancy Mussall, Colleen Syruws *by the Drenko Family*  
Norman & Hilda Wendt, Theodore & Jean Gallagher *by Kathy & Frank Wendt*

## For Blessings Received

Bob & Jeanne Borgstede  
The Scive Family  
Frank & Kathy Wendt



Flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Day service.



### Handbells

Josiah Borgstede  
Mike Scive  
Suzette Drenko  
Melissa Germann  
Elaine Schaffer  
Michele Steiner  
Lynn Willis  
Lorrie Weir  
Theresa Werth

### Choir

Sara Borgstede  
Peggy Meyer  
Kathy Wendt  
Suzette Drenko  
Heather Arizmendi  
Cheryl Oliver  
Theresa Werth  
Donna Carr  
Emily Carney  
Kelly Carney

### Brass

Josiah Borgstede  
Mike Scive  
Luke Sutherland  
Zachary Will

### Flautist

Michele Steiner

Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Ephesians 5