

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois

Rev. Mark A. Nebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Brian L. Nowak, Associate Pastor

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2023

3, 5, and 9 p.m.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S: May God bless you this wonderful night as you join together in His house to celebrate the birth of our Savior from sin, Jesus Christ. The Baby in the manger is the Son of God born in human flesh for us. We welcome our visitors. Please introduce yourself to our pastors. We invite you to worship with us again.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION TONIGHT: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this sacrament is a way that we confess our common Christian faith, we invite to the Lord's Table all those who are confirmed members of congregations of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The cups of white non-alcoholic wine in the center of the trays are for those who prefer this.

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

THE PRELUDE: "A Great and Mighty Wonder" *arranged by Heinrich Scheidemann*

THE RINGING of the Bell calls us to reverent and joyful worship.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

(if able, please stand as the cross enters the sanctuary)



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!



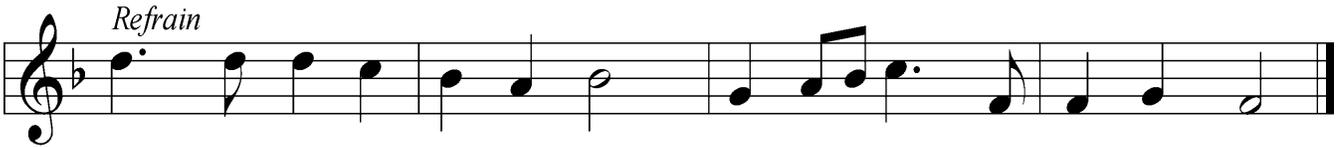
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



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

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THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: In the name of our life-giving Father and of His new-born (+) Son and of the faith-creating Holy Spirit. **Congregation: Amen.**

P: We are here to worship in the name of our loving Triune God;

C: our one God who is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

P: In joy this night we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: We confess that our sins made necessary His birth, life and death.

P: We sadly have separated ourselves from our God by our sins.

C: Instead of faithfulness to God's will for our lives, we have followed our own evil desires.

P: There is nothing we can do to make up for our sins in the sight of God.

C: The destiny we deserve is death. Our proper punishment is condemnation.

P: We are sorry for our selfish sins. We ask, O God, for Your full and free forgiveness.

C: We ask for Your Spirit's strength to help us lead holy lives in Your name.

P: Jesus Christ was born on earth to save sinners. Upon this your confession of your sins, I, as a called and ordained servant of God's Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great, glad tidings tell; oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PSALM 96:

P: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day.

P: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

C: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.

P: For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

C: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and glory are in His sanctuary.

P: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

C: Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

P: they will sing before the Lord, for He comes, He comes to judge the earth.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His truth.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: O God, You

make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; **C: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns**

with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (please be seated)

HYMN: 369 “Where Shepherds Lately Knel”



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find Him as they said:
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
 Sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:
 His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
 Its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
 A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
 A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
 To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before You as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, You have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.

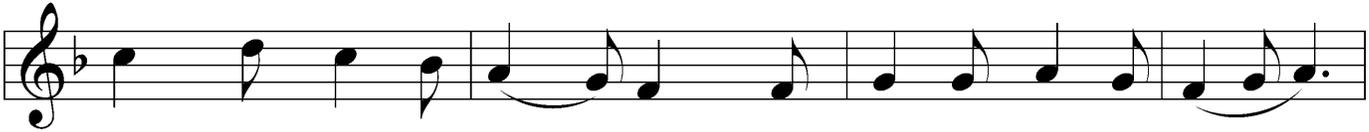
P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF JOY: 386 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"



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.
 Through 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!

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(please stand if you are able) THE GOSPEL READING:

(read from the center of the sanctuary accompanied by the cross)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. *(Luke 2:1-20 is read.)*

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

THE CHRISTMAS CREED: *(spoken in unison)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the wise men; who lived to suffer, die and rise from the dead to free us from our sin, from death and from the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas, and by whose work in my heart I am strengthened to lay before the feet of Jesus the treasures of my life and to love and serve Him as my King now and forevermore.

Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN OF THE DAY: 383 “A Great and Mighty Wonder”



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain: Pro-claim the Sav-ior's birth: “to God on high be glo-ry And peace to all the earth!”

SERMON: “Sing, Praise, Proclaim and Declare” Palm 96:1-3

- I. Has Christmas Become “Old” For Us?*
- II. How Might Christmas Be “New” For Us?*
- III. We Declare God's Glory*

OFFERTORY:

**Some-one Spe-cial, that You are, To cre-ate the Christ-mas star,
 Her-ald-ing the Sav-ior's birth, Bring-ing peace and joy to earth.
 Some-one spe-cial I must be, Since You made that star for me!
 Some-one Spe-cial, who would give His own Son that all might live,
 And by Him would set us free From all sin and mis-e-ry.
 Some-one spe-cial I must be, Since You gave Your Son for me!**

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Prayer of the Church

HEALING AND COMFORT: Edna Moeller, Lorine Reinhardt, Sharon DeRousse, Ruth Hecht, Rev. Russell Koen, Sherry Winkelman, Gary Schwartzkopf, Nancy Langrehr, Jay Prigge, Marcy Watters, JoAnna Ellner, Ryan Valleroy, Sarah Roy, Ashlynn Crafton, Jack Kennedy;

Family/Friends of St. John's Members: Gary Hayes, Caleb Caesar, Karen Stark, Tyson Moonier, Dorothy Fulton, Rhonda Black, Mike Coffey, Jeff Gulley, Victor Both. *Help us keep this list current!*

MILITARY: *(Please call with names.)* Army- Casey Vallett, Tanner Valleroy, Brandon Voss, Adrienne Vallett, Easton Lucht, Chase Lucht, Ethan Summers, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Austin Scheibe, Jessica DeMarco, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan, Tyler Wahlman, Gavin Roche-Voss; Navy- Carl Muehler; Air Force- Gage Baldwin, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, Terry Koester, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Keenan Turnure, Austin Grohmann; National Guard: Jeremiah Brandt

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL: Fire/EMS- Jerre Atchison, Tom Beshoar, Kevin Biffar, Breanna Bingel, Savannah Cowell, Chad Crafton, Steven Falkenhain, Chad Grohmann, Curt Guebert, Jason Guebert, Scot Heller, Blake Koppel, Chad Langrehr, Matt Liefer, Kevin Miller, Alan Piel, Jason Rippelmeyer, Brad Stechmesser, John Valentine, Mike VanDorn, Tanner Winkelman; Police- Abigail Browne, Ralph Sievers, Chris Hewitt, Nick Mounts, Doug Brennan, Jason Roscow.

+those who mourn: family of Eli Sullivan, a kindergarten student at St. John's Lutheran School in Seymour, Indiana (student of Clara Nebel); Eli died in the Lord Thursday as a result of injuries suffered in an auto accident with his family; siblings Addi and Archer are recovering.

+for peace in the Holy Land and comfort for those who mourn and suffer

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREFACE: *(please stand if you are able)*

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts in praise to God. **C: We lift them up 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 good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord God, Almighty Father, especially that You humbled Yourself and took up our human nature in Your only Son, through whom You created the universe and who is the Light of the world and at whose cradle we bow and worship; therefore with the Christmas angels and all Your people we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

THE SANCTUS: *(sung to the tune of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord! God of hosts by all a-dored!

Heav'n and earth can-not con-tain all the glo-ry of Your name!

Hail, ho-san-na, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh

In the name of God the King! Hal-le-lu-jahs glad we sing:

Hail, ho-san-na! Prais-es due, be for-ev-er, Lord, to You!

P: Assembled now in Your name, Lord Jesus, and in the fellowship of all who worship You as King of the Ages and the Light of life, we join together in prayer as You have taught us:

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: ...The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

THE AGNUS DEI: (*sung to tune of "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*)

**O Lamb of God who takes a-way the sin of all the world,
Up-on us all have mer-cy, too, ac-cord-ing to Your word.
O Lamb of God, may e-ver our love for You in-crease,
and may You grant to us a-gain the pro-mise of Your peace.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: (*please be seated*)

392 "God Loves Me Dearly"



1	God	loves	me	dear	-	ly,	Grants	me	sal -
2	I	was	in	slav	-	'ry,	Sin,	death,	and
3	He	sent	forth	Je	-	sus,	My	dear	Re -
4	Je -	sus,	my	Sav	-	ior,	Him -	self	did
5	Now	I	will	praise		You,	O	Love	E -



va -	tion,	God	loves	me	dear -	ly,	Loves	e -	ven	me.
dark -	ness;	God's	love	was	work -	ing	To	make	me	free.
deem -	er,	He	sent	forth	Je -	sus	And	set	me	free.
of -	fer;	Je -	sus,	my	Sav -	ior,	Paid	all	I	owed.
ter -	nal;	Now	I	will	praise	You	All	my	life	long.

**Refrain: There-fore I'll say a-gain: God loves me dear-ly, God loves me dear-ly,
Loves e-ven me.**

377 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the
 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To
 made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since
 in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then
 sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



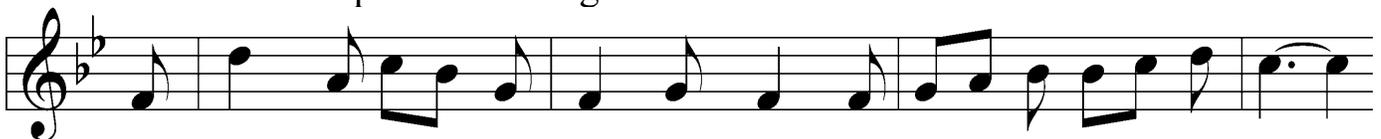
hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?
 sing, All for to see the new - born King.
 men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

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366 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"



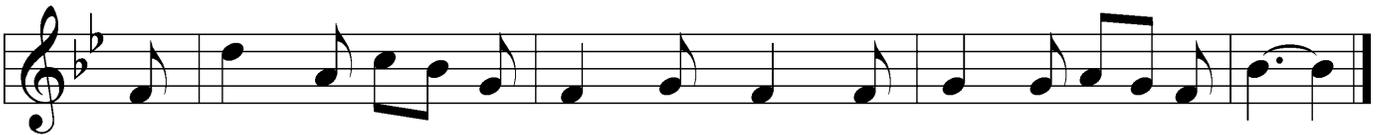
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
 Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:
 When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



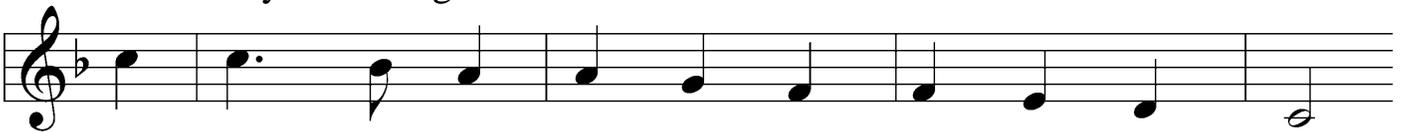
“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
 A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom - ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

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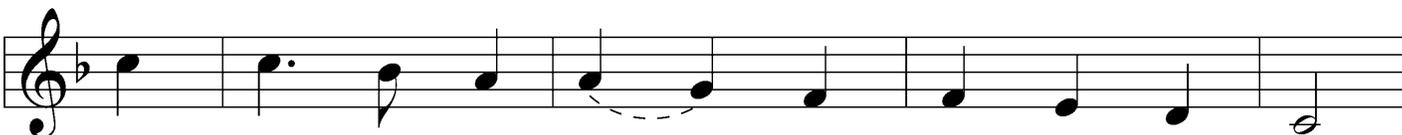
364 “Away in a Manger”



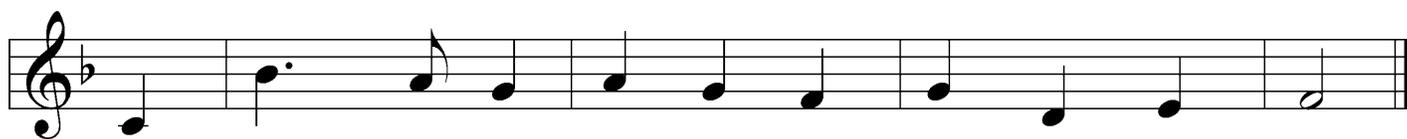
1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

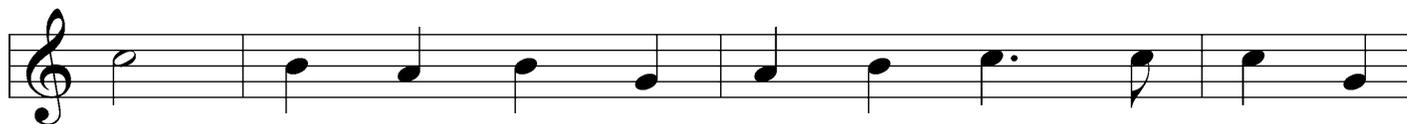


The stars in the sky ——— looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

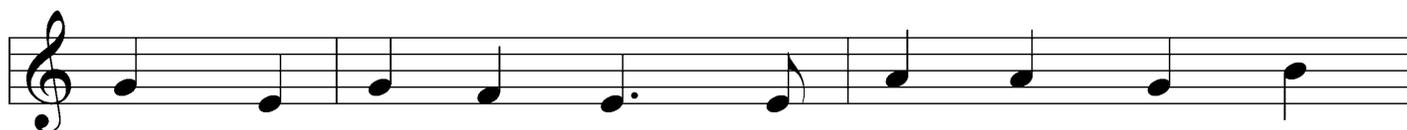


The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

358 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
 To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
 Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
 You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.
- 11 Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.
- 12 And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

THE THANKSGIVING: *(please stand if you are able)*

(tune: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen")

**Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise, What He has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord re-joyce And proud-ly bear His name
Who leads His thank-ful people forth His pro-mis-es to claim
O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy,
O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy.**

**Lord, let Your servant go in peace, Your word has been fulfilled.
My eyes have seen the saving work Which for the world You willed:
The glo-ry of Your chos-en race As Light for all re-vealed.
O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy,
O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy.**

**All praise to God the Fa-ther, And praise to God the Son,
And praise to God the Spir-it, Most bless-ed Three in One,**

As was, is now, and e'er shall be While end-less a-ges run!
 O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy,
 O, tid-ings of com-fort and joy.

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(9 p.m.) SERVICE OF CANDLES

(remain standing as the church darkens)

(Pastor lights his candle from the white Christ candle on the Advent wreath because Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. This light is then passed on to the ushers in the center aisle who then share it with the first worshippers in each pew. Please pass the light on to those next to you. Tip only the unlit candle when sharing the light!)

Pastor: Our God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. Arise, shine for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you! People of all nations of the world shall come to this light. Jesus says, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." If we walk in that light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, purifies us from all our sins.

ALL: Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(After the closing hymn is over please extinguish your candles. Return them to an usher. When the lights come on you may exit in hope and joy.)

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(3, 5, and 9 p.m.) THE BENEDICTION:

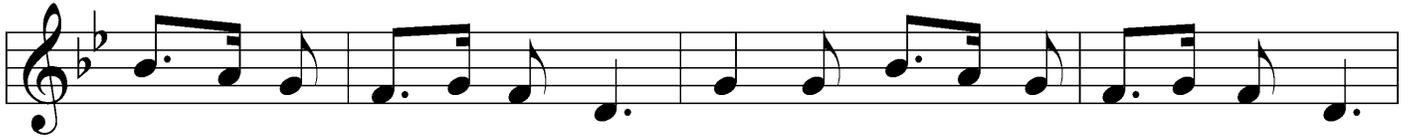
P: May the good Lord bless and keep, cause His face on you to shine,
 Look on you with favor deep, granting you His peace divine.

C: Glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit! The Savior close beside us; God's love from harm to hide us; the Spirit's power to guide us forevermore! Amen!

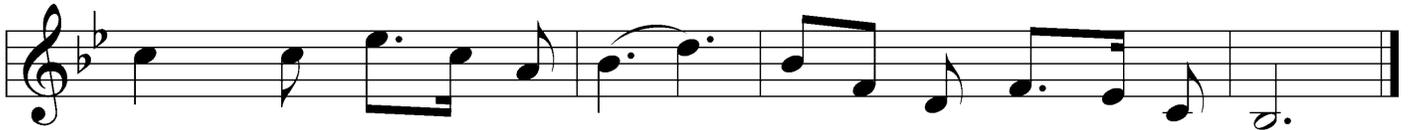
THE CLOSING HYMN: 363 "Silent Night"



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - dant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,
 stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

THE POSTLUDE: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *arranged by Kevin Hildebrand*

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SERVING US IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

(3 p.m.) Preacher: Pastor Mark Nebel Celebrant: Pastor Brian Nowak
 (5 p.m. and 9 p.m.) Preacher/Celebrant: Pastor Mark Nebel
 Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak (9 p.m.) Lector: DCE Bill Becker
 Instrumentalists: (9 p.m.): David Snyder and Brandon Nehrt
 Acolytes (3 p.m.) Carson Moll; (5 p.m.) Addison Breier
 (9 p.m.) Greeters, Ushers and Acolytes: St. John's High School Youth

A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU
 from Pastor Mark, Cindy, and the Nebel family; and
 from Pastor Brian, Heather and the Nowak family

REMAINING SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

Tomorrow, 9 a.m., Christmas Day Holy Communion Worship
 Sunday, Dec. 31, 5 p.m., New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service
 Monday, January 1, 2024, 10 a.m., New Year's Day Matins Service

This Week With Our Lord, December 24, 2023- January 2, 2024

SUNDAY, December 24- *No morning worship, Sunday School or Bible class*

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion; Acolyte: Carson Moll

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion; Acolyte: Addison Breier

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion/Candlelight: Acolytes: Sr. Youth

Monday, December 25- *Christ is Born! Glory to God in the highest!*

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

Monday, December 25- *Christ is Born! Glory to God!*

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

Tuesday, December 26- *Office Closed*

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

1:30 p.m. Holy Communion at Red Bud Garden Place

Wednesday, December 27- 9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 28- 9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

Friday, December 29- 4-8 p.m. Faye Schwartzkopf visitation at church

Saturday, December 30-

10 a.m. Visitation; 11 a.m. Faye Schwartzkopf funeral

5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion; Acolyte: Ella Cowell

SUNDAY, December 31- *No Sunday School or Bible classes today*

10:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion; Acolyte: Austin Stellhorn

5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service: Kade Liefer

Monday, January 1, 2024- *Happy New Year!*

10:00 a.m. New Year's Day Matins Service: Acolyte: Payton Liefer

Tuesday, January 2- *Office Closed*

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meets in the Fellowship Hall

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:

Early Childhood Christmas Service (AM & PM): &

Worship: 337; Communion: 192; Adult/Youth Classes: 48; Sunday School: 44

And let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb. 10:24-25)

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN, WHATE'ER THE GIFT MAY BE:

We join together in the grace of giving. 12/17- General: \$28,567.33; School: \$897.19; Debt: \$23,001.27; Automatic Giving: \$5,515; Christmas Decorations: \$100. *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2nd Corinthians 9:7)*

ST. JOHN'S FINANCIAL FACTS: *Compared to 2022 (through November)*

Worship Offerings: \$37,374.66 lower; Total Income: \$73,283.08 lower

Expenses: \$152,566.77 higher; Remaining Expansion Debt: \$645,085.15

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES:

Sunday School and Bible Classes will not meet this Sunday or next Sunday.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "Community and Conversastion"

Speaker: Dr. Michael Zeigler. This Christmas Eve, God wants to be found in the human community gathered in the name of Jesus and in the conversation connected with Him. Listen

on KFUE AM 850 Sundays at 12:30 & 5 p.m., on Bott Christian Radio Sundays at 8 a.m. on KSIV 1320AM or 91.5FM or on Sirius XM Family Talk 131 Sundays at 9 a.m.

WEEKDAY BIBLE CLASSES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Wednesday Women are on a break until the new year. The Wednesday evening and Thursday morning classes are on break until the first week in January. Men's Bible Breakfast next meets on Saturday, January 6 at 7 a.m. to study "Proverbs: God's Ancient Wisdom for Our Modern Living."

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER:

3-Year-old: Eve Guebert, Lillian Guebert, Nolan Liefer, Clarke Thien, Colby Young, Clay Zeller; 4-Year-old: Demi Grohmann, Nolan Kassing, Benjamin Langrehr; Kindergarten: Kaly Young; First Grade: Jettson Grohmann, Ava Moll; Second Grade: Natalie Bowles, Ellie Stellhorn; Third Grade: Brewer Krick, Liam Langrehr; Fourth Grade: Jackson Carnahan; Fifth Grade: Natalie Kassing, Sydney Krick, Abby Stellhorn, Kade Young; Sixth Grade: Jozlynn Palm; Seventh Grade: Carson Bowles, Clare Carnahan, Carson Moll; Eighth Grade: Sydney Kassing. Thank you for your participation in and your support of our Sunday School ministry!

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024:

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2024 are on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not find one with your names on it or have one that you do not intend to use, please call Leslie in our office (282-2394) so she can adjust the list.

POSITION BECOMING AVAILABLE:

The position of Pastoral Administrative Assistant will be open after the first of the year in our church/school office. Hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with holidays off. Salary and vacation are based on our District Salary Guidelines. For a job description and/or application, call our office at 282-2394.

WARMING TREE:

Your donation of new coats, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, underwear and blankets to our "Warming Tree" in the Fellowship Hall (or lobby at school) will be given to local families in need to help them stay warm this winter.

UPCOMING SERVICES: *No Sunday morning services or classes on the 24th!*

Sun 24 3 and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion
 Sun 24 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion & Candlelight
 Mon 25 9 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Communion
 Sat/Sun 30/31 *1st Sunday of Christmas (5 p.m. & 10 a.m.)
 Sun 31 5 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion
 Mon Jan. 1, 10 a.m. New Year's Day Matins

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS:

Pastor Nebel would like to begin an Adult Instruction Class in January to cover the basics of Christian Doctrine as taught in the Lutheran Church. This would be a good refresher course for those already confirmed or it could lead to communicant membership at St. John's for those who so desire. Contact Pastor if you have or know of one who has an interest in this class. Day and time TBD.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!:

12/24- Camden Moll; 12/25- Wayne Mesnarich, Ken Ruwald, Laura DuFrenne; 12/26- Michael VanDorn, Christina Gidley; 12/27- Richard Liefer, Lynn Langrehr, Louis Stellhorn, Angela Cartee, Andrea Liefer, Bailey Montroy, Archer Mehring; 12/28- Brenda vanBuren, Linda Koester, Addison Dilley, Bentley Valentine; 12/29- Kevin Miller; 12/30- Edward Wagner, Erin Cowell, Traci Proctor, Jordan Buch, Blake Uffelmann, Taylor Stellhorn. *Please call our office with any corrections!*

THE PRAYER CHAIN:

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. To serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact her at dvheller@htc.net or 618/521-7417. Call our office to add someone to our worship prayers. *Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (James 5:16).*

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT:

Three Springs in Chester: Eunice Wiatr; Waterloo Oak Hill: Ken Ruwald, Jody Winkelmann; Waterloo Magnolia Terrace: June Lawrence & Jean Menke; Randolph County Nursing Home: Don Kueker; Bethesda Gardens-Kirkwood: Ruth Hecht.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT GARDEN PLACE:

Kathryn Chunn, Mary Gross, Elaine Guebert, Margaret Hanebutt, Dorothy Heizer, Omer and Neva Liefer, Vernon Muench, Lorine Reinhardt, Paul Schrieber, Arlin and Helen Winkelman, Carl and Flo Zschiegner

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH CONFINED IN-HOME:

Wil Guebert, Don/Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, Barb Korves, Joyce Lopez, Ed Luttmann, Edna Moeller, Viola Muench, Harold Thies

KFUO AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:

KFUO Radio AM 850 & kfuo.org, a media ministry of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you on AM 850 & kfuo.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get podcasts! Find us on social media @KFUO.org, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. This week on KFUO AM850, enjoy the Twelve Days of Christmas with special Christmas music, Scripture, and greetings until January 6. Blessed Christmas! Christ is born!

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL- 618/853-7300

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for supporting the ministry of *Christ Our Savior* in 2023. We are looking forward to a joy-filled and blessed ministry to families with you in 2024.

The COS Trivia Night and Silent Auction to support Post Prom and our mission trip will be Friday, January 19. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the trivia starts at 7:00. Adults \$15, students \$7 with up to eight people per table. Reserve your spot by filling out this form: <https://bit.ly/COSTrivia2024> or calling 618-853-7300.

Registration for Second Semester 2023-2024 is open! If you have a student or know someone who is high school age, encourage them to consider Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School.

Call 853-7300 to schedule a private tour. Registration for 2024-2025 will start in January. Learn more and download a registration form from our website, www.coslhs.org.

St. John's Lutheran Church – LCMS 508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois

Church Office & School: 808 S Main Street 618/282-3873 Fax 618/282-4087

E-mail: office@stjohnsredbud.org Web address: www.stjohnsredbud.org

Faculty and Staff

Preschool – Heather Nowak Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz

First Grade – Rachel Miller Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer

Third Grade – Stephanie Valleroy

Fourth Grade and Before/After School Care – Cindy Nebel

Fifth Grade – Amanda Ruhmann Resource Teacher – Judy Stephens

Sixth Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Doreen Schnepel

Seventh Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Nancy Whelan

Eighth Grade Homeroom: Kristin Sachtleben Athletic Director – Scott Voss

School Custodians – Wil Krick and Bob Schramm

Cooks – Jill Gross and Marilyn Oettle

Day Care

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Lisa Quinn, Amy Williams, Nicole Kadlec, Christy Deterding, Patty Brewer, Kristi Martel, Courtney Schoenbeck, Brittney Eichholz, Madison Shields, Brooke Supancic, Pam Henry, Melissa Schilling, Kaleigh Reith, Kaitlin Schmitz, Haley Ehler, Hailey Guebert, Courtney Schaefer, Brittany Smith, Callen Reitz, Kailyn Moeller, Madison Falkenhain, Leah Johnston, Lori Johnston, Deanna Ward, Kaitlyn Brown, Emma Wuertz, Madison Trask

Church Council

Chairman: Kevin Liefer Vice-Chairman: Michael DeRousse

Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Eric Fritsche Board of Finance: Jill Gross

Elder Chair: Gerald Hanebutt Parish Education Chair: Devon Albert

Trustee Chair: Estate Fund Chair: Brian Guebert

Lutheran High School Board: Rebekah Liefer and Vickie Heller