



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *St. John, Apostle and Evangelist*

*December 27, 2020*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

John, the son of Zebedee, was a fisherman and one of the Twelve. John, his brother James, and Peter were the three who witnessed the light of the transfiguration. John and James once made known their desire to hold positions of power in the kingdom of God. Jesus' response showed them that service to others was the sign of God's reign in the world. Tradition has attributed authorship of the gospel of John and the three epistles bearing his name to the apostle John.

*-from Sundays and Seasons 2016*

### *Welcome to worship today!*

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer's microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat.

† OPENING †

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God  
the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the Word made flesh,  
the Lord and giver of life.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: God of peace,

**C: we confess that we are not at peace – with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart:  
discord in our families,  
violence in our world,  
our own conflicted hearts.**

**In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you.  
Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of Peace, our Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

P: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God have given us grace upon grace:

forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,

love that can heal every broken heart.

Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:

in the name of Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins.

Rise, shine, for your light has come.

**C: Amen.**

Opening Hymn Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
For music turn to Hymn 270 in the Red Hymnal

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

*Refrain*

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to new the newborn king!”**

2. **Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!      *Refrain***

3. **Hail the heav’n born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth.      *Refrain***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Gathering Dialog (John 1)

P: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

P: In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**A:** Let us pray...

Merciful God, through John the apostle and evangelist you have revealed the mysteries of your Word made flesh. Let the brightness of your light shine on your church, so that all your people, instructed in the holy gospel, may walk in the light of your truth and attain eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

† WORD †

**First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10**

**B:** <sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins 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.

*After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 98 (read by youth from across the synod)

Second Reading 1 John 1:1-2:2

D: We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (1 John 5:11)

**C: Alleluia. This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Alleluia**

Gospel Reading John 21:20-25

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?” <sup>21</sup>When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, “Lord, what about him?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!” <sup>23</sup>So

the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”<sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true.<sup>25</sup> But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day    Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
*For music turn to Hymn 276 in the Red Hymnal*

1. **Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!**
2. **Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow;  
Christ the child was born for all!  
Christ the child was born for all!**

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M.G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. Music: Polish carol

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

E: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.** *(Jude 20)*

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

E: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;  
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

## ✠ PRAYER ✠

### *Prayers of Intercession*

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:*

**A:** Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth in every land. Inspire leaders to serve with compassion and integrity, caring for the common good. Bring peace within and between the nations. Accompany the United Kingdom as it finds its new way forward. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**B:** Like St. John the evangelist, guide us to witness to your love with all those whom we meet, whether they be in our neighborhoods or far away. Be with missionaries we support as they share your love: the Rev. Karen Anderson and the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**E:** As 2020 comes to its end, we ask you to help us overcome its heartaches and to welcome 2021 with hope. Keep revelers safe from contagion. In the New Year, give all peoples an increase of health and harmony. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### Peace

**A:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**A:** We share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with messages of Christ's peace.*

### Special Music



Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing (Bishop John Macholz, synod staff, and conference deans)

Sending Hymn Angels We Have Heard on High

Presented by: Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

*For music turn to Hymn 289 in the Red Hymnal*

**1. Angles we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

*Refrain*

**Glo-ria in excelsis Deo;**

**Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.**

**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain***

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain***

If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners. But upon his return on that Day, when he will oppose the high and the mighty, it will be different. Now he comes to the poor, who need a Savior, but then he will come as a Judge against those who are persecuting him now.

-excerpt from a sermon by Martin Luther in 1530.

# *Announcements*

## **Office Hours**

Pastor Jon anticipates being in the office:

Monday – morning and afternoon

Tuesday – morning and afternoon

He can be available other times by appointment. Please call the church: (585) 924-5192 or pastor's cell: (585) 281-3595

## **Snow Clearing Volunteers/Helpers**

We are looking for people to help with snow removal at church this winter season. We work in teams; if you're not comfortable driving an easy-to-operate small plow truck, we also need snowblower operators, shovelers, and salters. If you can assist, please contact Tom Urbanic at [turbanic@rochester.rr.com](mailto:turbanic@rochester.rr.com) or 585-489-5965.

## **Mitten Tree**

Thank you to everyone who donated hats and mittens to the mitten tree. The tree was completely filled! A special thank you to the anonymous person who donated the numerous homemade items.

## **Returning Candles**

If you borrowed candles from church for Christmas Eve please return them to the bin where you got them.

## **Church Playground – Girl Scout Gold Project Can & Bottle Collection**

Kelsey Sackett is working to replace the church playground for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Please consider donating your deposit bottles and cans to help pay for it. A collection bin is in the old entrance room.

## **Annual Reports**

All committee reports for the Annual Report are due to the church office by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Email or electronic versions are preferred. You can email your report to: [sjlcvector@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcvector@gmail.com)

## **2021 Annual Meeting**

The 2021 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup> after the 10:30 worship service. It will take place via Zoom; being a continuation of the same link we used for worship. There will be the usual items on the agenda: review of reports, elections for church council, and the church budget. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Jon before the meeting.

## **Church Council Positions**

We will have three open Council positions to elect at our upcoming annual meeting. Council meets once a month (except no meeting in July) from 7:00-9:00 PM traditionally on the third Monday of the month, but that date can be changed to suit the schedules of the council members. If you are interested in serving on this team, please see Gary Wood or Pastor Jon.

## **Annual Meeting Agenda**

All items of business or theology for the annual meeting must be turned in to the church office by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Adult Sunday School**

Adult Sunday school resumes next week at 9:30. The same video link we use for worship is used for the class.

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2016* copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress.

## **St. John's Lutheran Church**

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
Nathan Cheung, Pianist

*-and-*

## **St. John's Lutheran Church**

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Transitional Pastor  
Lawrence Dapolito, Organist