



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Name of Jesus*

*January 1, 2017 10:30 Holy Communion*

Happy New Year! What do you have in store for this year? How are you going to serve God? Today we continue our journey through the Gospel of Matthew. We'll meet John the Baptist in the wilderness and Jesus as he begins his public ministry. They have things to say to us as we look at the year before us.

*Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn All Earth Is Hopeful  
(for music, please turn to Hymn 266 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**
2. **People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**
3. **Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**
4. **We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us and ever sets us free.**

Text and music: Alberto Taule, tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, arr. Skinner Chavez-Melo; Text and music copyright 1972 Alberto Taule, admin. Virgil C. Funk; Tr. Copyright 1995 Madeliende Forell Marshall, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Arr. Copyright Estate of Skinner Chavez-Melo

## 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.**

## Call to Worship Based on Psalm 98

A: Hey! Sing to God something brand new!

**C: For God has done wonderful things! Hey!**

A: God has not forgotten to love us all!

**C: Even the ends of the earth have heard!**

A: Make a joyful noise!

**C: Hey! Hey! HEY!**

A: With symphony and band!

**C: All instruments turned up to 11!**

A: With the roaring seas and everything in it!

**C: With all the land and everything in it!**

A: The floods clap their hands!

**C: The hills sing for joy!**

A: Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

**C: Justice for everyone, everything fair!**

A: Sing to God something brand new!

**C: For God has done wonderful things! HEY!**

*Hymn of Praise* Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
*For music turn to Hymn 275 in the Red Hymnal*

1. **Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

*Refrain*

**Come and worship,  
come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

2. **Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night.  
God with us is now residing  
yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain***

3. **Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations,  
you have seen his natal star. *Refrain***

4. **All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One. *Refrain***

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4. Music: Henry T Smart, 1813-1879

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray.

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior in the

world. Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## † WORD †

*First Reading* Deuteronomy 6:10-15

<sup>10</sup>When the LORD your God has brought you into the land that he swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—a land with fine, large cities that you did not build, <sup>11</sup>houses filled with all sorts of goods that you did not fill, hewn cisterns that you did not hew, vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant—and when you have eaten your fill, <sup>12</sup>take care that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>13</sup>The LORD your God you shall fear; him you shall serve, and by his name alone you shall swear. <sup>14</sup>Do not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who are all around you, <sup>15</sup>because the LORD your God, who is present with you, is a jealous God. The anger of the LORD your God would be kindled against you and he would destroy you from the face of the earth.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 91 (read responsively)

A: All you sheltered by the Most High,  
who live in Almighty God's shadow,

**C: say to the Lord, "My refuge, my fortress,  
my God in whom I trust!"**

A: God will free you from hunters' snares,  
will save you from deadly plague,

**C: will cover you like a nesting bird.  
God's wings will shelter you.**

A: No nighttime terror shall you fear,  
no arrows shot by day,

**C: no plague that prowls the dark,  
no wasting scourge at noon.**

A: A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand.

**C: But you shall live unharmed:  
God is sturdy armor.**

A: You have only to open your eyes

to see how the wicked are repaid.

**C: You have the Lord as refuge,  
have made the Most High your stronghold.**

A: No evil shall ever touch you,  
no harm come near your home.

**C: God instructs angels  
to guard you wherever you go.**

A: With their hands they support you,  
so your foot will not strike a stone.

**C: You will tread on lion and viper,  
trample tawny lion and dragon.**

A: “I deliver all who cling to me,  
raise the ones who know my name,  
answer those who call me,  
stand with those in trouble.

**C: These I rescue and honor,  
satisfy with long life,  
and show my power to save.”**

Second Reading Matthew 3-4:17

A1: In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

A2: But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will

baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

A3: Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

A1: Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

A2: Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

A3: Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

A1: Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea,

in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death

light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day      As with Gladness Men of Old  
(For music turn to Hymn 302 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led by thee.**
2. **As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.**
3. **As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ to thee, our heav'nly king.**
4. **Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past,**

**bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.**

**5. In the heav'nly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

### Nicene Creed

A: We confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

**C: 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 virgin Mary and  
became truly 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 with the Father and the  
Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the  
prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

### Prayer of the Church

“I Hold My Life Up to You Now” from *Guerillas of Grace* by Ted Loder

### Peace

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

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us share that peace with one another.

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



† MEAL †

Offering and Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord  
*For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray: God with us:

**C: you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus the Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

*(Isaiah 6:3 - spoken)*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

*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.**

*Communion Distribution*

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. You may receive wine from either the common cup or in an individual glass. If you would like to receive in a glass please pick one up from the tray as you approach the altar rail. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

*Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)*

**287 Let All Together Praise Our God (Red Hymnal)**

**292 Love Has Come (Red Hymnal)**

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have not end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Cold December Flies Away  
(For music turn to Hymn 299 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Cold December flies away at the rose red splendor.**

April's crowning glory breaks  
while the whole world wonders  
at the holy unseen pow'r  
of the tree which bears the flow'r.  
On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flow'r  
on the tree blooms the rose  
here in love's own garden,  
full and strong in glory.

**2. In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.**

All the world lay under death.  
Eyes were closed in sleeping.  
But, when all seemed lost in night,  
came the sun whose golden light  
brings unending joy, brings the endless joy  
of our hope, highest hope,  
of our hope's bright dawning,

**Son beloved of heaven.**

**3. Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens.**

**In the lily's purest flow'r  
dwells a wondrous fragrance.  
and it spreads to all the earth  
from the moment of its birth;  
and its beauty lives. In the flow'r it lives,  
in the flow'r, and it spreads  
in its heav'nly brightness  
sweet perfume delightful.**

Text and music: Catalonian Carol; tr. Howard Hawhee

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers  | Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann |
| Acolyte              | Julia Bullwinkle             |
| Altar Care           | Beth Perdan                  |
| Communion Assistants |                              |
| Nursery Care         |                              |
| Counters             | Don Mansfield and Tim Brown  |
| Coffee Hour          | Burdie Gillern               |

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 8, 2017

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Liz and Tim Brown              |
| Acolyte             | Sebastian Plouffe              |
| Nursery Care        | Katy Stimmel                   |
| Counters            | Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish |
| Coffee Hour         | Connie Stevenson               |

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