



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29th 2024 8:30 & 10:30 Service of the Word

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

-from Sundays and Seasons 2025

Welcome to worship today!

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

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: God-with-us,

**C: we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming we have no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.**

Turn us from our ways to your ways.

Grant us the grace to begin again.

Free us from all that keeps us bound,

and forgive our sin,

through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.

Amen.

P: Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,

holy and beloved,

forgiven in Christ,

and freed to respond in joy.

C: Amen.

Gathering 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

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.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

B: Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home. ²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 148 (*read responsively*)

D: Praise the Lord!
across the heavens,
from the heights,
all you angels, heavenly beings,
sing praise, sing praise!

**C: Sun and moon, glittering stars,
sing praise, sing praise.
highest heavens, rain clouds,
sing praise, sing praise.**

D: Praise God’s name,
whose word called you forth
and fixed you in place for ever
by eternal decree.

**C: Let there be praise:
from the depths of the earth,
from creatures of the deep.
fire and hail, snow and mist,
storms, winds,
mountains, hills,
fruit trees and cedars,
wild beasts and tame,
snakes and birds,**

D: princes, judges,
rulers, subjects,
men, women,
old and young,

praise, praise the holy name,
this name beyond all names.

**C: God's splendor above the earth,
above the heavens,
gives strength to the nation,
glory to the faithful,
a people close to the Lord.
Israel, let there be praise!**

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-17

E: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Colossians 3:15-16)

C: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 2:21-40

The gospel is announced:

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is

stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Message

Hymn of the Day Your Little Ones, Dear Lord
(For music see Hymn 286 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Your little ones, dear Lord,
are come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.**
2. **With song we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.**
3. **Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.**
4. **Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.**

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, a;t. Music: Johann A.P. Schulz, 1747-1800

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.

P: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

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

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

A: 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)*

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

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

Special Music

‡ PRAYER ‡

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God,

**C: in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives
with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask
that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may
continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

“Ramblings” by Rev. John Macholz, retired bishop of the Upstate New York Synod

Vanity,
in what we do and
how we act and
items we possess
or could it be that
they possess our hearts and minds?

How has my wisdom,
our collective knowledge
misplaced that of God?

And how can we discharge
and dispossess ourselves
of this web of entanglement
we’ve woven blindly and
in blind allegiance
to ourselves?

Speak now, O Holy One,
reminding us
we’re yours
and nothing that we know
except the crucifixion
of the Christ
needs to be known.

Spirit, Holy and Delightful,
enter now,
remind us it is so.
Amen.

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

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 give you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn **Go Tell It on the Mountain**
For music turn to Hymn 290 in the Red Hymnal

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***
- 3. Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 5, 2025

Greeters and Ushers Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Altar Care Helen Crown
Communion Assistant Rob Stroup
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist