



**LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

CHRISTMAS EVE

**SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
HATTIESBURG, MS**

MONDAY, DECEMBER, 24, 2018 – 1:15PM AND 6PM

WE WELCOME YOU!

We are thankful that you are joining in worship with the people of God. Ushers at the door are glad to assist you at any time.

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located down either hallway to the right.
- A nursery is available to parents as needed, down the bell tower hallway to the left.
- Please tell us a bit about yourself on the Welcome card and place it in the offering plate as you leave today. Thank you!

About the Offering

An offering is gathered at the entrance table in the foyer. Here the people of God bring their tithes and sacrificial offerings as an expression of their discipleship and for the continuation of Christ's mission work, both in this community and to the ends of the earth. Guests are not expected to bring financial gifts, but are welcome to join the congregation in offering their prayers and praises.

About Holy Communion

On Christmas Eve the Church on earth celebrates Holy Communion. This is most appropriate as the Nativity of Our Lord is the primary festival of God's incarnation – his taking on human flesh – as recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John. In Holy Communion, we remember that the divine is united with the created as one.

This altar is the Lord's table. Here all are welcome who acknowledge their need for a Savior, and look to Jesus. We believe what he simply says about the bread – "This is my body, given for you." – and about the wine – "This is my blood, shed for you." In this we discover the divine mystery in the midst of his ordinary creation. From the many seeds of wheat come one loaf. From the many grapes are pressed one cup.

Young children are welcome to this altar to receive a blessing, as are those who have not been instructed in the Christian faith. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest or by simply asking for a blessing.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray have white grape juice for those who desire it. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

May God fill you with his presence this Holy Night!

Gathering Hymn – Once in Royal David’s City

At 1:15pm, the congregation sings the whole hymn. At 6pm, the choir sings stanzas 1&2 with the congregation joining in during stanzas 3-6.

- 1 *Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*
- 2 *He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.*
- 3 We, like Mary, rest confounded
that a stable should display
heaven’s Word, the world’s creator,
cradled there on Christmas Day,
yet this child, our Lord and brother,
brought us love for one another.
- 4 For he is our life-long pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.
- 5 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
- Stand.** 6 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
set at God’s right hand on high.

Opening Sentences

- L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the World,
- C** **The light no darkness can overcome.**
- L** Stay with us Lord, for it is evening,
- C** **And the day is almost over.**
- L** Let your light scatter the darkness
- C** **And illumine your Church.**

Thanksgiving for Light

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- L** Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Please be seated.

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!

Lesson Three

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 393

At 1:15pm, hymn will be sung by soloist. At 6pm, hymn sung by congregation.



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Lesson Four

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir — *Still, Still, Still*

Lesson Five

Luke 2:8-14

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be

a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



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!”

Lesson Six

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her

heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Message – *Where God Wears Camo*

Collect Prayers — *Please stand.*

L Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our cares on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

L 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

L 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.

Gloria Tibi, Domine

L Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, light eternal, king of glory, sun of justice, born of the Virgin Mary:

C **Glory to you, O Lord!**

L Jesus, wonderful counselor, strong Lord, eternal God, prince of peace:

C **Glory to you, O Lord!**

L Jesus, most powerful, patient, obedient, gentle and humble of heart, loving all who are pure in heart:

C **Glory to you, O Lord!**

L Jesus, God of peace, source of life, pattern of holiness, friend of all, our God and our refuge:

C **Glory to you, O Lord!**

L Jesus, brother of the poor, treasure of the faithful, good shepherd, true light, inexhaustible wisdom, boundless love, our way and our life:

C **Glory to you, O Lord!**

L Jesus, joy of the angels, king of the patriarchs, master of the apostles, teacher of the evangelists, strength of the martyrs, light of every witness to the truth, crown of all the saints:

C **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Words of Institution

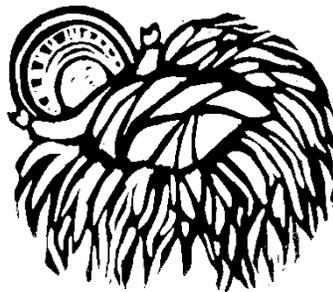
Agnus Dei

LSB 180

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

Distribution



Collect for Guidance in Our Calling, Benedicamus, Benediction

G Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

L Let us bless the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

G Amen.

*Our worship concludes with the singing of Silent Night, Holy Night.
Please tip the unlit candle to match the flame of the lit candle.*

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace. | 2 | Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh. |
| 3 | Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born! | 4 | Noche de paz, noche de amor!
Todo duerme en derredor.
Entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella anunciando al niño Jesús
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz. |
| 5 | Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. | | |

When extinguishing your candle, please take care to hold it upright until the cooling wax is set. Thanks!

In 1818 the carol "*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!*" was heard for the first time in a village church in Oberndorf, Austria. The congregation at that Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church listened as the voices of the assistant pastor, Father Joseph Mohr, and the choir director, Franz Xaver Gruber, rang through the church to the accompaniment of Father Mohr's guitar. On each of the six verses, the choir repeated the last two lines in four-part harmony.

On Christmas Eve, a song was born that would wing its way into the hearts of people throughout the world. Now translated into hundreds of languages, it is sung by untold millions every December from small chapels in the Andes to great cathedrals in Antwerp and Rome.



Sponsor

Damian, Pat, and Ethan Potesta
Shelia Curry

In Honor of

The Glory of God
Armed forces.

Sponsor

Wayland and Jane Johnson
Donna Blair

In Honor of

Katie Johnson
The Glory of God.

Sponsor

Nancy Kaul
Aubrey Canfield
Lori Coleman
Joceyln Cupps
Kathy Mount
Mark Keyl
Kathy Mount
Pat Davenport
The Karle Family
Fred & June Songy
The Lovdahl Family
Alicia Liverett

In Memory of

Art Kaul
Doris Canfield
Dewayne Powe
Doris Canfield
Jill Kingery
Jack & Audrey Keyl
Philip Mount
Richard & Connie Werner
Sean Graham
Their Parents
William & Marilyn Lovdahl
Thomas C. LeFan IV

Sponsor

Teresa and Shawn
Jerry & Debbie Frederick
Nancy Kaul
Wayland & Jane Johnson
Jerry & Debbie Frederick
Scott & Helen Hollingsworth
Wayland & Jane Johnson
Jerry & Debbie Frederick
Warner & Darlene Boortz
Dennis & Lillian Smith
Jerry & Debbie Frederick
Wayland & Jane Johnson

In Memory of

Carl
Debbie's Parents
Eddie McMillan
Irene Amason
Jerry's Parents
Sammie Jo
W.A. Amason
Lisa Marie Frederick
Their Parents
Their Parents
Stacy Mae Garland
Wayland Johnson Sr.



Christmas Worship Schedule



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services , 1:15pm and 6pm	Monday, December 24
The Christ Mass , Christmas Day Worship, 10:30am	Tuesday, December 25

Surprise the World!
Love. Like. Jesus. + Hope for the City.



Saint John Lutheran Church

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