



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

**SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
HATTIESBURG, MS**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 24, 2022 – 10:30AM

WE WELCOME YOU!

We are thankful you are joining in the worship with the people of God this day. We are glad to assist you at any time.

To better your experience while at St. John:

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located on the right in the lobby and down the bell tower hallway to the right towards the fellowship hall.
- Prayer requests may be written on the white cards in the pew rack and given to an usher before worship begins, or as you leave.
- A self-staffed nursery is available to parents as needed, past the wooden double doors on the left.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner as you enter the sanctuary.
- If this is your first visit, please sign our Guest Book located in the lobby near the Sanctuary.

Notice to Worshipers: Today's service is livestreamed and recorded. It is available for public viewing and playback at www.SaintJohnHattiesburg.com by clicking on the 'Watch Live' button.

About the Offering

An offering is gathered at the entrance of the Sanctuary. Here the people of God bring their tithes and sacrificial offerings as an expression of their discipleship, and for the continuation of Jesus' 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

The choir sings stanzas 1&2. The congregation joins for stanzas 3-6.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 <i>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.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>2 <i>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.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
|---|--|

Opening Sentences

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** **And my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P** Make haste O God, deliver me;
- C** **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- 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.**
- Praise to you O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

Thanksgiving for Light

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- P** 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.

Lesson One

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."

¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Lesson Two

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



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"

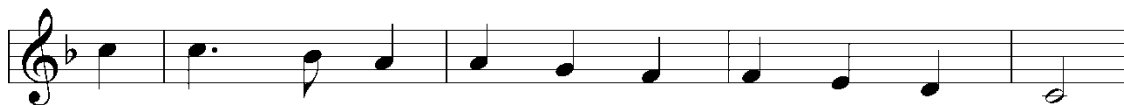
(Which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Away in a Manger

LSB 364



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.

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 Anthem — Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Message – Rev. Gary Weier

*Immanuel, Immanuel! God called his name Immanuel.
God with us; abide with us! We call his name Immanuel*

Collect Prayers — *Please stand.*

P 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

P 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.

P 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.

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.**

Glory to you, O Lord

P 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!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

P 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!**

P 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 and Lamb of God

LSB 180

☐ 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 Hymns

What Child Is This

LSB 370

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas-ant, king, to
 sleep-ing? Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet While
 feed-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; Let
 shep-herds watch are keep-ing? This, this is
 si-lent Word is plead-ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov-ing hearts en-throne Him. Raise, raise the
 Christ the king, Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;





Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Dismissal, Collect for Guidance in Our Calling, Benedicamus, and Benediction

C 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.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C 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 **Choir** 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 **Choir** 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	In Memory of
Jerry & Debbie Frederick	Parents, Stacey Mae Garland, & Lisa Marie Frederick
Sheila Curry	Terry(son) & Janice(sister)
Wayland & Jane Johnson	W.A. Amason, Irene Amason, Katie Johnson, & Wayland Johnson Sr.
Christina Keiper	Wilson A. Keiper (dad)
Aubrey Canfield	Doris Canfield
Lillian & Dennis Smith	John & Mary Traugott; Wayne & Mary Smith
Potesta Family	All Who Have Gone Before Us
Julie Radavich	Richard E. Radavich
Terry & Patrice Lovdahl	William & Marilyn Lovdahl
Terry & Patrice Lovdahl	Robert E. Lee
Sandy Barnett	David Barnett
Nancy Kaul	Laura Deneke
Nancy Kaul	Art Kaul
Patricia Davenport	Richard & Connie Werner (parents)

Sponsor	In Honor of
Terry & Patrice Lovdahl	Yvonne Lee

Immanuel