

Divine Service
for the
**First
Sunday
After Christmas**

10:00 a.m.

December 28, A.D. 2025



Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- *Missouri Synod* ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
(413)568-1417

Website: www.stjohnswestfield.org YouTube: www.youtube.com/@stjohnswestfield

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

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WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD and SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST!

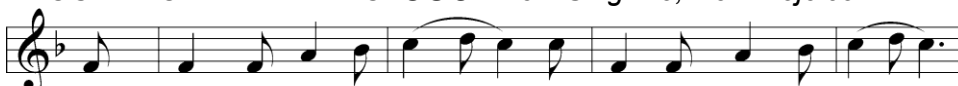
If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He had spoken by the prophet, Out of Egypt I called my son. With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses. Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them. All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we receive adoption as sons in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus, redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: Abba! Father!

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. **386**: *"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"*



| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Now sing we, now re - joice, | Now raise to heav'n our voice; |
| 2 Come from on high to me; | I can - not rise to Thee. |
| 3 Now through His Son doth shine | The Fa - ther's grace di - vine. |
| 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? | Where but on heav'n - ly ground? |



| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| He from whom joy stream - eth | Poor in a man - ger lies; |
| Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, | O pure and ho - ly Child; |
| Death was reign - ing o'er us | Through sin and van - i - ty |
| Where the an - gels sing - ing | With all His saints u - nite, |



| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Not so bright - ly beam - eth | The sun in yon - der skies. |
| Through Thy grace and mer - it, | Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild, |
| Till He o - pened for us | A bright e - ter - ni - ty. |
| Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing | In heav'n - ly joy and light. |



| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Thou my Sav - ior art! | Thou my Sav - ior art! |
| Draw me un - to Thee! | Draw me un - to Thee! |
| May we praise Him there! | May we praise Him there! |
| Oh, that we were there! | Oh, that we were there! |

✠ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

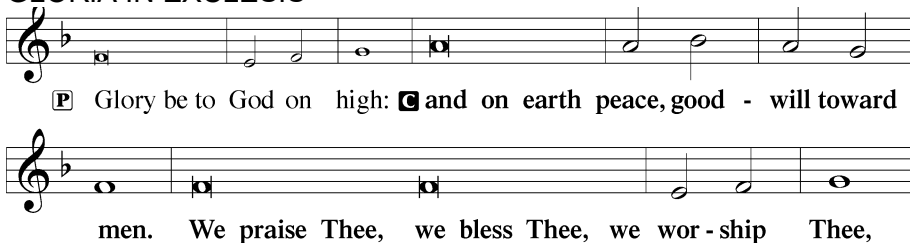
C: Amen.

✠ KYRIE



☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

✠ GLORIA IN EXCLESIS



☐ Glory be to God on high: **☐** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

And with thy spir - it.

P: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



(Be Seated)

† OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 63:7-14

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely."

And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

† GRADUAL:

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.
Sing to the Lord a | new song,*
for he has done | marvelous things!

† EPISTLE: Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

✠ GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

✠ GOSPEL RECESSIONAL

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from

heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Be Seated)

† CHILDREN'S SERMON

† HYMN of the DAY: *"The Little Babe So Few Days Old"*



2 With tears He fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows look of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns cold and need,
And feeble flesh His warrior's steed.

3 His camp is pitched in a stall,
 His bulwark but a broken wall,
 The crib His trench, haystacks His stakes,
 Of shepherds He His army makes;
 And thus, as sure His foe to wound,
 The angels' trumps the charge now sound.

4 My soul with Christ join thou in fight;
 Stick to His tents, the place of might.
 Within His crib is surest ward;
 This little Babe will be thy Guard.
 If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
 Then flit not from this heav'nly Boy!

† SERMON

(Please Stand)

† OFFERTORY



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Lord, we are the people of Your promise, to whom You have revealed Your Son as Savior and Redeemer. Bless Your Church, that we may enjoy the gift of good and faithful ministers. Prosper Your Word and bring to fruition its proclamation in every place and time. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, You give us the gift of each other. Renew our fellowship as the Body of Christ. Grant all things beneficial for husbands and wives, the single, those who desire marriage, and the lonely who yearn to know the comfort of friends and family. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have perfected Your praise. Silence the enemy and the avenger. Turn the hearts of all who, like Herod, would despise children or destroy the unborn for selfish gain. Show Your forgiveness to those who are penitent. Give Your comfort to all women who mourn the loss of infants, and fix our eyes on Christ, who for a time was spared but has shed His blood for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, You appoint leaders and give the responsibility of authority. Protect our nation and its leaders. Grant them wisdom in their pursuit of justice. Bring Your gift of peace in the world, and give relief to those who suffer oppression. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty Lord, You are the Great Physician. Grant healing in accordance with Your will for the sick and those who suffer. Give strength to those who give aid and care for the sick. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, in Holy Communion You unite us in the body and blood of Your Son. Enable us to receive this Sacrament with faith and be strengthened by it. Bring soon, O Lord, unity of faith and doctrine so that all divisions may cease and we may be fully one at the altar. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, all that we have comes from You. Give us grateful hearts, that we may receive Your gifts with joy and use them wisely for Your glory. May our worship this day be pleasing in Your sight. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord God, You are the bringer of true joy. Grant Your Holy Spirit to increase and sustain us in this joy and thanksgiving throughout the days of this Christmas season, until that day when at last Christ returns in His glory as Lord and judge of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Hear us, O Lord, for we are the people of Your promise and the children whom You have redeemed through the salvation accomplished through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



☐ It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

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.**

† WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

† PAX DOMINI

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



☐ A - men.

† AGNUS DEI



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



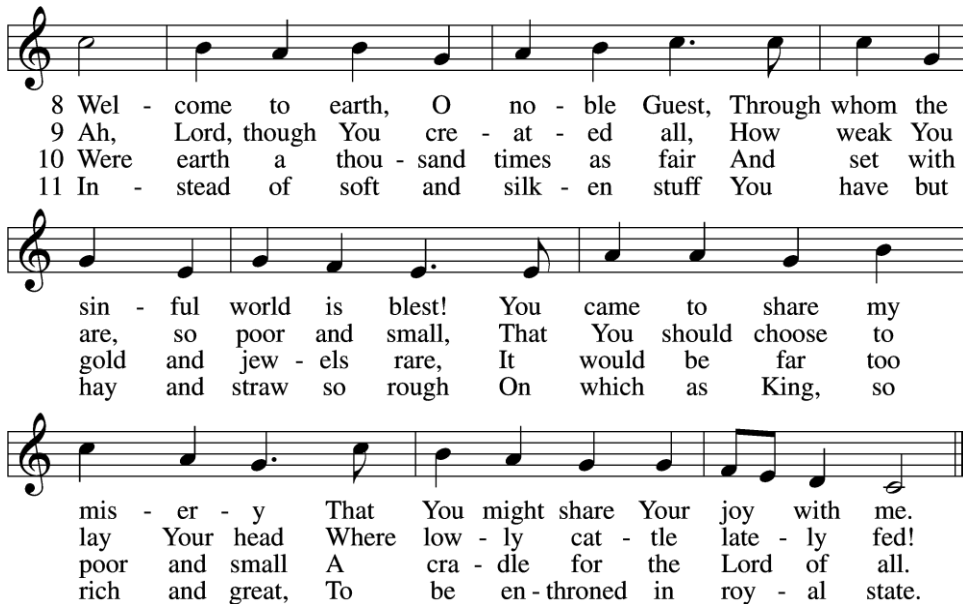
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(Be Seated)

Regarding the Reception of the Lord's Supper

At Saint John's we believe, teach, and confess according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that in the Lord's Supper we receive not merely bread and wine, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This Holy Supper is not only a gift of Christ, but also a confession of the faith and doctrine confessed at this altar. Because Holy Scripture warns that those who eat and drink unworthily do so to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and because communing together is also an expression of unity in doctrine and confession, we joyfully invite to the Lord's Table all confirmed members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who are in good standing with their home congregation, who have been instructed and who publicly confess this faith. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation, we are thankful for your presence today and warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor approaches. Following the service and in the coming week, our pastors would be glad to speak with you about the Lord's Supper and to share more about what we believe, teach, and confess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

✠ DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **358**: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"



8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the
9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You
10 Were earth a thou - sand times as fair And set with
11 In - stead of soft and silk - en stuff You have but
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my
are, so poor and small, That You should choose to
gold and jew - els rare, It would be far too
hay and straw so rough On which as King, so
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.
lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!
poor and small A cra - dle for the Lord of all.
rich and great, To be en - throned in roy - al state.

**12 And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.**

**13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,**

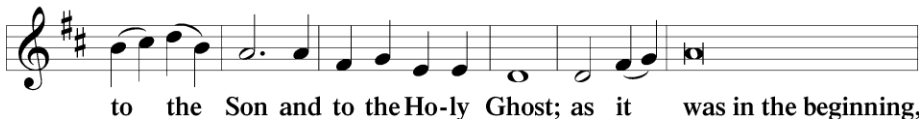
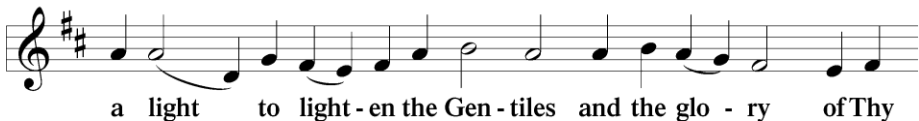
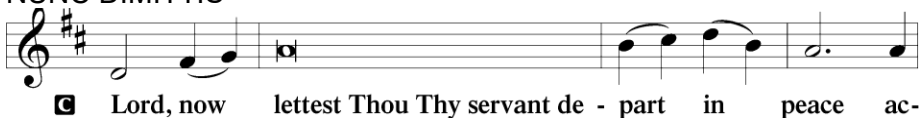
**A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.**

**14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

**15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.**

(Please Stand)

† **NUNC DIMITTIS**





✠ THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

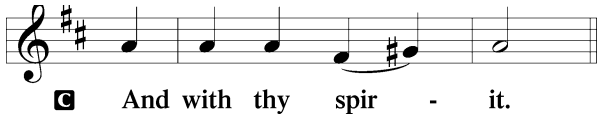


P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

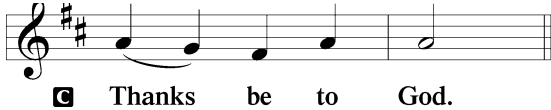


✠ SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Bless we the Lord.



✠ BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



† RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. **383**: "A Great and Mighty Wonder"



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
 And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

THIS WEEK:

WEDNESDAY

Choir Practice
 Mid-Week Advent Service

4:45 p.m.
 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Pastor Riley's Bible Study
 Hand Chimes Practice

10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
 4:45 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

Bible Study
 Divine Service

8:30 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.
 10:00 a.m.

