



# St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

*"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"*

502 East Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78205  
www.StJohnsSA.org ♦ info@StJohnsSA.org  
Phone 210-223-2611

**December 24, 2019**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight**

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

**Prelude**                    **Selection of Christmas Carols**  
   **(5:30pm)      Organ and Brass Quartet**  
   **(10:00pm)      Organ**

**Bells**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Hymn**                    **"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**                    **ELW#283**

**Litany**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary and born a child;  
You come to share our humanity.

**Heaven and earth proclaim your praise.**

Blessed are you, Son of David and born to rule;  
You come as our awaited King.

**Heaven and earth proclaim your praise.**

Blessed are you, Son of Man and born of Spirit;  
You come that we may have life.

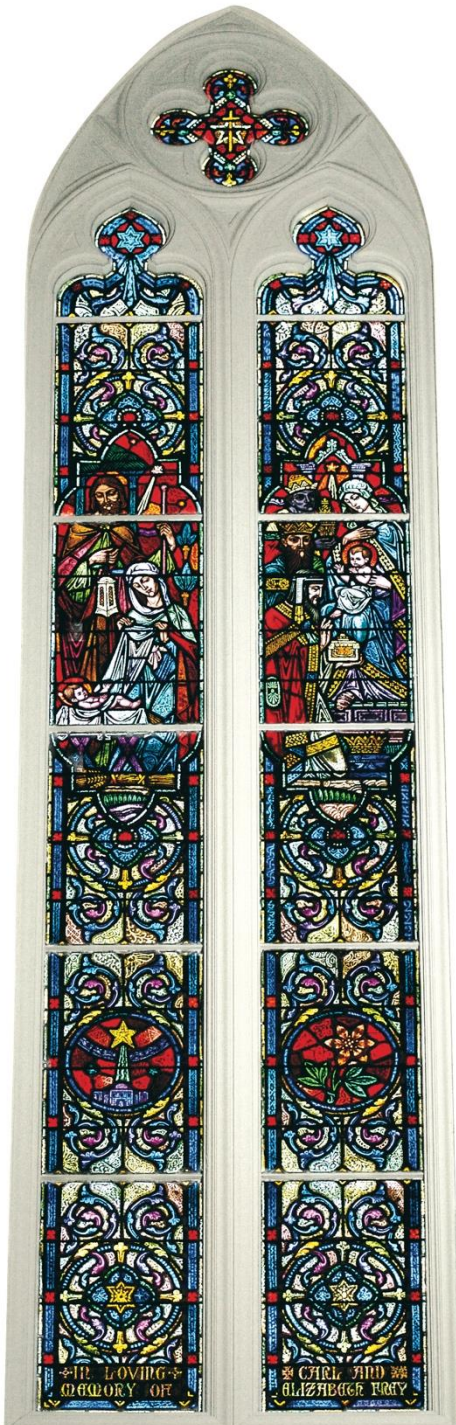
**Heaven and earth proclaim your praise.**

Blessed are you, our promised One;  
he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God! Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy Jesus, sent of God,  
you humbled yourself to be born among us,  
to deliver us from the power of darkness.  
May the light of your love shine through us,  
and bring us at last to see the fullness of your Kingdom;  
where with the Father and the Holy Spirit  
you live and reign, now and forever.

**Amen.**



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## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture and preaching; we respond in profession of faith and prayer*

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### **First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn**

***"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"***

**ELW#272 (vs 1,3)**

### **Second Reading: Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn**

***"O Little Town of Bethlehem"***

**ELW#279 (vs 1,2)**

### **Third Reading: Luke 2:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn**

***"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"***

**ELW#270 (vs 1,3)**

## Fourth Reading: Luke 2:15-20

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

***"The Yearning"***

**Craig Courtney**

**Sermon**

**Pastor James Dew**

**Hymn of the Day**

***"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"***

**ELW #276**

**Nicene Creed**

With the whole Church in heaven and earth, we profess our faith:

**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 Holy Spirit and 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.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

*Each petition concludes: "Hear us, O God." The congregation responds: **"Your mercy is great."***

*We hold in prayer: Bob Cauble, Frances Bara, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Jet Smith, Ralph Detwiler, Elisa Hueda Feliciano, Jane Campa Alvarez, Joan Arnet, Frances Franz.*

*For prayer requests and updates, please contact the church office  
(210) 223-2611 or [info@StJohnsSA.org](mailto:info@StJohnsSA.org)*

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

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## MEAL

*We bring our "first fruit" offerings to the Table of the Lord  
where we are strengthened and nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ*

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**Offering**

**"Of the Father's Love"**

**Barry Talley**

**Offertory Hymn**

**"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

**ELW #885**

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be-  
5 low; al-le lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. Praise God, a-bove ye heavn' ly host; Praise  
10 Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
14 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Offertory Prayer

Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

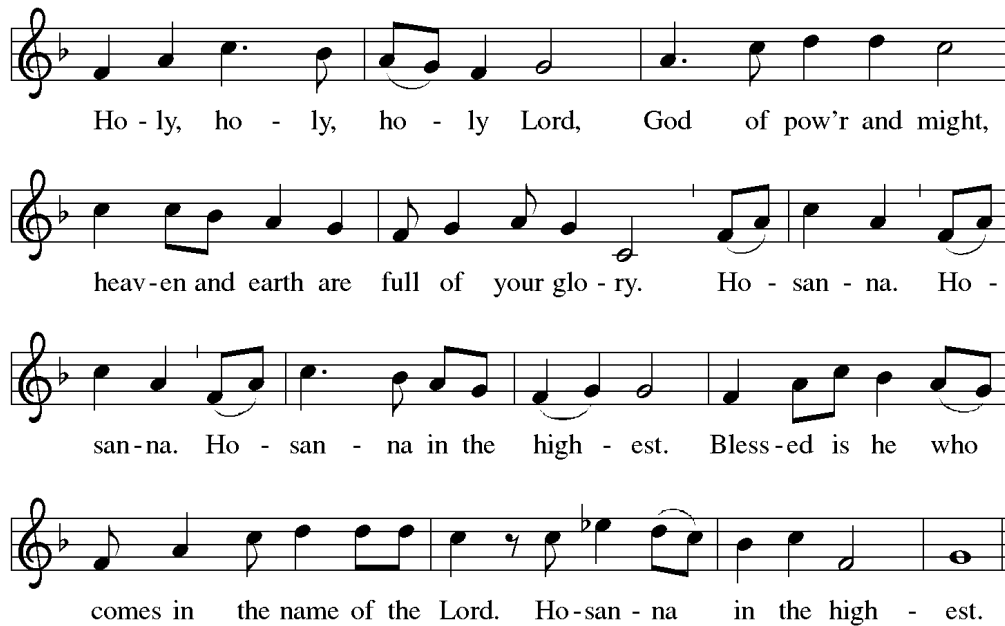
### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy, Mighty, and Merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love for us and for all your creation, you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who took upon himself our own flesh and blood, who showed us your face, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

For on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

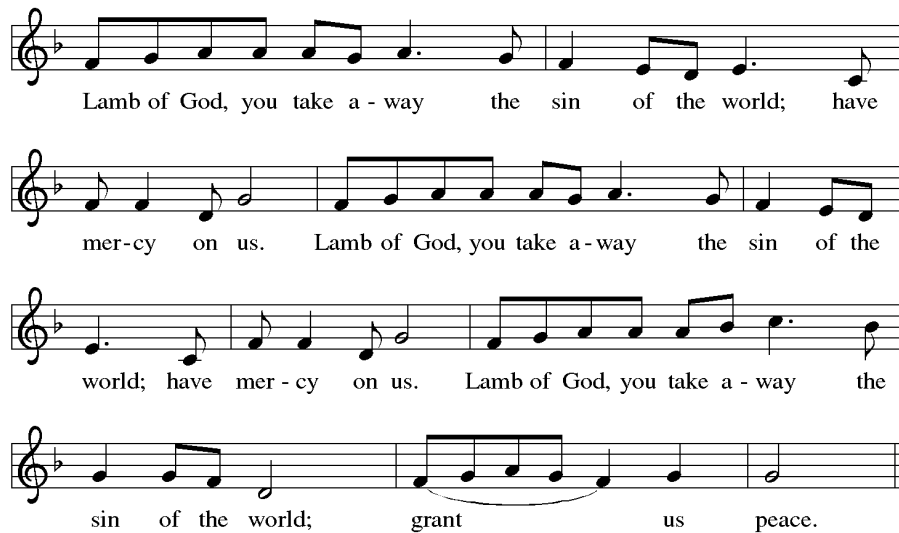
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**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.**

Come to the table where Christ himself meets you, and where all are welcomed.

### Lamb of God



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.

### Holy Communion

*We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. Please follow the direction of the ushers. A gluten free host is available upon request.*

### Communion Hymns

ELW # 294 *In the Bleak Midwinter*  
*O Holy Night (Duet by Michael and Alisha Bade)*

ELW #269 *Once in Royal David's City*  
ELW #282 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

### Communion Blessing

### Communion Prayer

Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all. **Amen.**

## Celebration of Christ's Light Given to the World

*(Please light your candles by tipping your unlit candle over the flame of your neighbor's lit candle.)*

### Reading: John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### Hymn

### *"Silent Night, Holy Night!"*

**ELW #281**

#### Verse 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

#### Verse 2

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born

#### Verse 3

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from your holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at your birth  
Jesus Lord, at your birth

#### Verse 4

*Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht!  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.  
Holder Knab' im lockigen Haar,  
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!*

### Benediction

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness shall not overcome it.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**and we have beheld Christ's glory.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
**In the Word was life, and the life was the light to all people.**

The blessing of Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit rest upon you, and be at work through you. **Amen.**

*(Please extinguish your candles and hold them upright until the wax has cooled.)*

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Brass Quartet and Organ (5:30)**  
**Organ (10:00)**

***The altar flowers were given by the Executive Committee  
for the greater glory of God  
and in honor of this congregation's 162<sup>nd</sup>  
celebration of the birth of Christ.***

**Worship Leaders**

Presiding Minister + Pastor James Dew  
Assisting Minister + Julie Shadrock (5:30) Kent Rooen (10:00)  
Lector + Lucienne Traeger (5:30) Roger Steckly (10:00)  
Organist: Robert Jenkins

Brass Players:  
Anthony Alfred, Trumpet  
Emiliano Lopez, Trumpet  
Ron Schmidt, Trombone  
Wesley Arnold, Tuba

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.