



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

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January 5, 2020
12th Day of Christmas
Vigil of the Epiphany



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
who shines in glory,
clothes us in compassion,
and bears gifts of mercy for all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

God, wonderful counselor,

We confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

God's loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Joy to the World"

ELW #267

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise

Setting 3

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Visit of the Magi

Ron Olson

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn

"Love Has Come"

ELW #292

Second Reading: Matthew 2:13-15

Escape to Egypt

Elle Anderson

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, 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." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Hymn

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

(v 1-3)ELW # 302

Third Reading: Matthew 2:16-18

Massacre of the Infants

Debbie Arnold

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Hymn

"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"

(v 1-3)ELW # 301

Fourth Reading: Matthew 2:19-23

Return from Egypt

Rev. Shaw

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Children are invited to go to their Sunday lesson and activity. They will return at Holy Communion. Parents are welcome to accompany them.

Sermon

Rev. Louise Shaw

Anthem "We Three Kings" Michael Bade, Louie Ramos, Christian Stevens

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith...

**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.**

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, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Joan Arnet, Frances Franz, Mourette Boehme.

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

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please share with those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")



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*

Offering

Improvisation on "We Three Kings"

Offertory Hymn

**We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love, come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

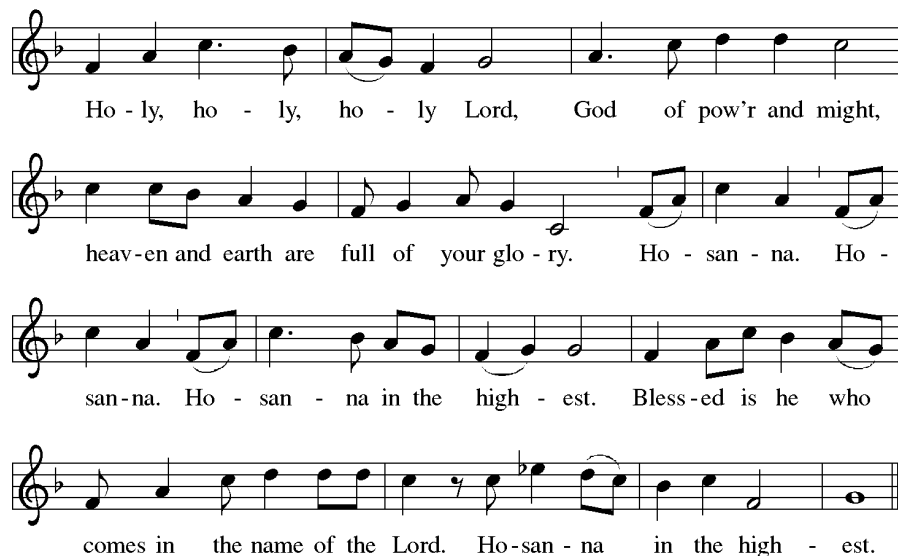
Great Thanksgiving

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 is 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.

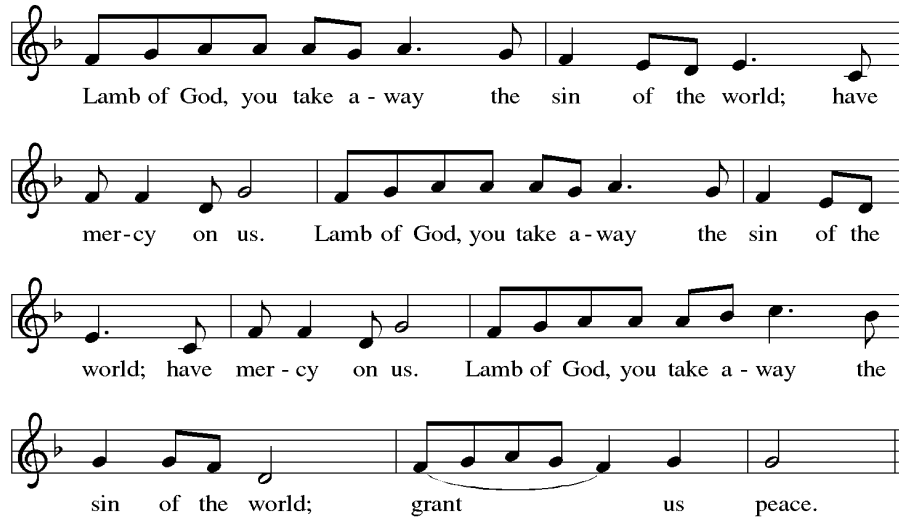
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 welcome.

Agnus Dei



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

*No hymns will be sung during Holy Communion this morning.
Please use this time for silence, reflection, and prayer.*

Communion Blessing

Communion Prayer

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have now come among us, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

Amen.

Sending of Eucharistic Ministers

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick and homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world

Benediction

God the Creator who delights in you,
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,
And the lifegiving Spirit who shines in you,
✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

ELW #310

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister ✠ Rev. Louise Shaw
Assisting Minister ✠ Rosemary Petry
Lectors ✠ Ron Olson, Elle Anderson, Debbie Arnold

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Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

This week at St. John's

Sun 5 • Pastor Jim on vacation
Mon 6 • Executive Committee meets 6:00 PM
Wed 8 • Mid-Week Word and Prayer 12:15 PM
Wed 8 • Choir Practice 7:00 PM
Sun 12 • Installation of Church Council
Sun 12 • Confirmation Instruction Conference Room 11:00 AM

*Please see our online calendar at stjohnssa.org (under the Home tab)
for weekly recurring events and the current month's Tidings.*

**Financial Reports and Council Minutes are available in the Member Section
of the church website, and in the church office by request.**

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest provides a regional gift planner for the members and congregations of the Southwestern Texas Synod. Our congregation has the advantage of a full-time gift planner who can meet with individuals for a custom designed plan. Our synod's senior gift planner, Deacon John Dellis, can help with planning for legacy gifts for family and loved ones and also the ministries of our church and other non-profit organizations. There is no charge or obligation for the service if individual congregation members include any ELCA ministry and other charitable intent in their plan. Whether you need a legacy stewardship plan or already have one, the information he shares is beneficial to everyone.

At 11:00 AM on **Sunday, Jan. 26**, St. John's Lutheran Church will sponsor a Legacy Giving for Family and Ministry Seminar with information on this topic. This information is valuable for you and your family. The concept of legacy generosity is a wonderful way to bless others in future generations, while also providing for your family and protecting their interests.

Liturgical Calendar Commemorations

**Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710
Thursday, January 9, 2020**

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.