

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

December 25, 2025





198 Westridge Avenue, Burlington, Wisconsin
262-763-8229 | stjohnsburlington.org
Pastor Kirk Lahmann | Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

Prepare for Worship

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord's Supper, read through the “Christian Questions” on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

Christmas Day Focus for Worship – Christ the Savior Is Born

Jesus has been God from eternity, holy and majestic. When we look tenderly at the holy infant, we are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, “No one may see me and live.” Yet, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived. How? God became human, hiding his glory within flesh, so that he could come to us without instilling fear or dread. A famous theologian once said, “We are to think of the Lord's birth, where the Word became flesh, not as a past event which we recall, but as a present reality on which we gaze.” It's not that Christ the Savior *was* born. It's that Christ the Savior *is* born.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Preacher: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Accompanist: Stephen Radsek

Brass Ensemble: Dan Erikson, Carol A. Neumann, Jeff Neumann, Glen Rubach

Acknowledgments

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The Service

Setting Four



Welcome to Worship

Angelic Hymns of Praise

Angels from the Realms of Glory | 347: 1, 2, & 5

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Angels We Have Heard on High | 346:1, 3

Women: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,

Men: and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Women: Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

Men: come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

All: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

Please stand and sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

Hail, the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Invocation

Matthew 18:20; 28:19-20

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Christmas Responsory

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Psalm 98:1-3

The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears?
If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, LORD, who could stand?

Malachi 3:2

Psalm 130:3

Restore us again, God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.
Show us your unfailing love, LORD, and grant us your salvation.

Psalm 85:4, 7

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

Luke 1:68

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Luke 1:46-47

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman,
born under law, to redeem those under law,
that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Galatians 4:4-5

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 1:14

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the
town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.**

Luke 2:14

Hymn Response

O Come, All Ye Faithful | 354

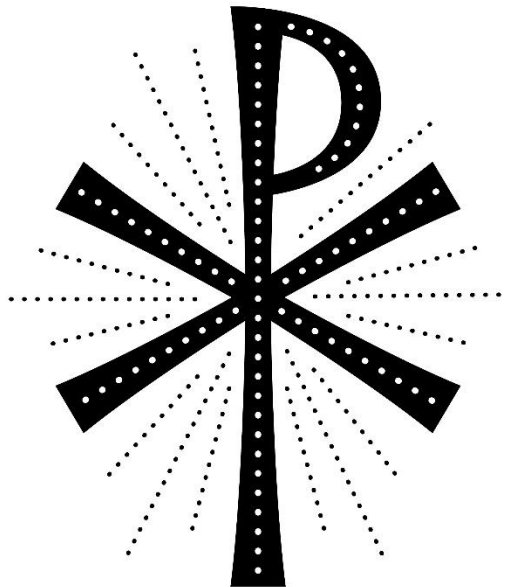
The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.
Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son
in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage
under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated



First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”
⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. ⁹Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 98

Joy to the World | 353

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”?

Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Stand***Gospel**

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated***Hymn of the Day**

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | 363

Sermon

John 1:14

This Much

Stand

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man. He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity.

And though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one: one not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

Give us faith and courage.

Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas, grant to them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom.

Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.

We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

Govern and prosper your people.

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.



The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

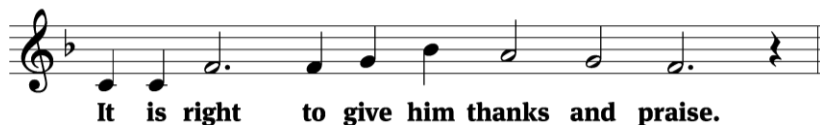
The Lord be with you.



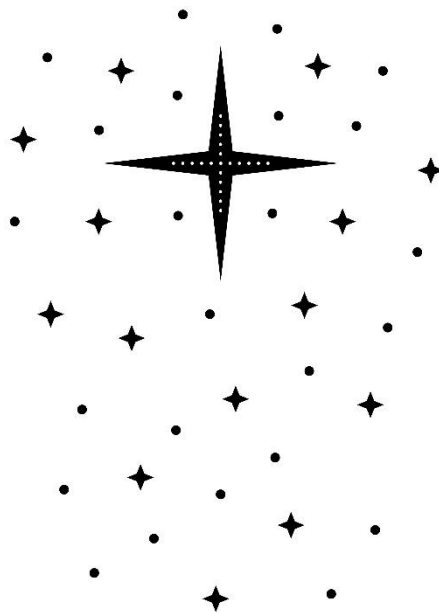
Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



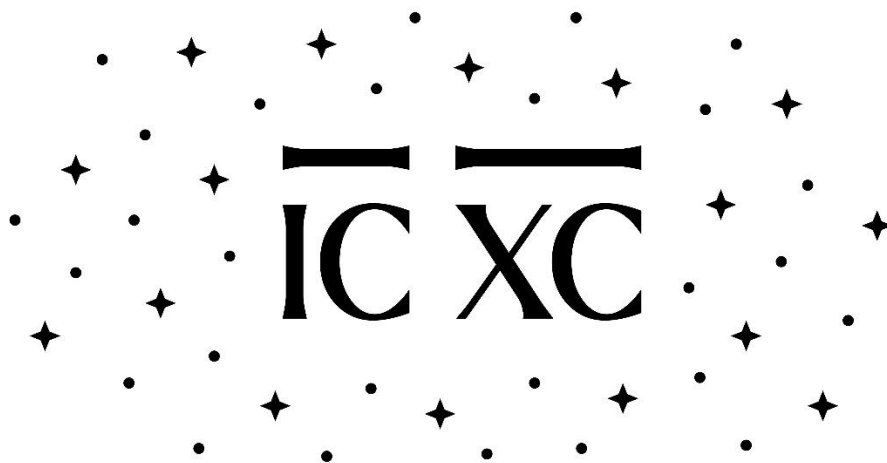
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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, ho-san - na in the high - est!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Matthew 26:26

Holy Father, in the beginning, you spoke and created light. But we loved the darkness of sin and unbelief. When the time had fully come, you sent your Son to be a light for those walking in darkness and in the shadow of death. We praise you and give you thanks:

That Jesus, the eternal Word, became flesh and made his dwelling among us;
That born of a woman, born under law, he lived without sin as our substitute;
That as the Lamb of God, he suffered and died to take away the sin of the world;
That he rose from death and lives forever to proclaim peace to all.

As the shepherds came to the manger, we now approach your altar with reverent joy. Here we find our Savior, Christ the Lord, who gives us his body and blood for forgiveness and peace. Through this meal, bring us life and light.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13

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 *Verba*

Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A - men. A - men.

Be seated

Holy Communion Distribution

St. John's Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of St. John's, or members of a church in fellowship with St. John's, come forward for Communion. Our pastoral staff would be happy to set up a time to discuss this, and any teaching of Scripture, with you.

Distribution Hymns

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is | 342
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come | 331
Let All Together Praise Our God | 355
I Stand Beside Your Manger Here | 334

Stand

Closing Collect

Glorious Father, you have revealed your glory, your grace, and your truth by sending your only Son to become flesh and dwell among us. Enlighten darkened hearts with this true light that shines on everyone, that all might hear, believe, and receive the right to become children of God; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

Re - joice, re - joice this hap - py morn! A Sav - ior
un - to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry.
His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels
from on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry.
My soul, Ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless him ev - er For
sal - va - tion. Give him praise and ad - o - ra - tion.

Text: Birgitte K. Boye, 1742–1824; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937.

Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.



The Holy Innocents

Sunday, December 28, 8:00 am and 10:30 am

No Monday night service, December 29

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31, 4:30 pm

Epiphany

Sunday, January 4, 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Monday, January 5, 6:30 pm