

## Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2025

Liturgy: Children's Christmas Eve

Organist: Kathy Lueck



# ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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# “Little Children, Can You Tell...”

**Song:** *O Come, Little Children*

**Pastor:**

*O Come, little children, O come one and all,  
To visit the manger in Bethlehem's stall,  
And see what the Father in heaven so true  
Has done to prepare a bright Christmas for you.*

**Children:**

*O see in a manger—this strange little bed,  
A Child, sweet and gentle; is resting His head,  
In swaddling clothes lying so humble and mild,  
Yet purer than angels, the heavenly Child.*

**Congregation:**

***Dear Christ-Child, our hearts we now offer to Thee,  
O keep them from sin and from wickedness free;  
Yea, let them be holy and blessed like Thine,  
Thou Son of the Highest, Thou Infant divine.***

**P** We begin this worship service in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us pray.

*A Christmas Prayer*

**Responsive Psalm:**

*Psalm 24:7-10*

**P** Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!

**C And the King of glory shall come in.**

**P** Who is this King of glory?

**C The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.**

**P** Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!

**C And the King of glory shall come in.**

**P** Who is this King of glory?

**All: The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.**

**Song:** *Little Children, Can You Tell?*

**Congregation:**

***Little Children, can you tell?***

***Do you know the story well,***

***Ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy,***

***Why the angels sing for joy***

***On the Christmas morning?***

**Children:**

*Yes, we know the story well;*

*Listen now, and hear us tell,*

*Ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy,*

*Why the angels sing for joy*

*On the Christmas morning.*

**P** Yes, these children do know the account of Christmas well.

You, their parents, grandparents, and friends have seen to it that they were brought to church and taught the truth about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Now, we hope you will be blessed once again by their telling of the wondrous story of Jesus' birth. But, before we can get to the Christmas Gospel, we have to begin at the beginning, the very beginning.

## **LITTLE CHILDREN, CAN YOU TELL...**

### **I. About God's Creation**

**Daniel:** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

**Lylyan:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2)

**Matthew:** By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

**Aaron:** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. (Genesis 1:31a)

**Song:** *See, Amid the Winter's Snow*

**Congregation:**

*See, amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See the tender Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.*

*(Refrain) Hail, thou ever blessed morn!  
Hail redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

*Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim. (Refrain)*

*Sacred Infant, All Divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this! (Refrain)*

*Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
By thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee,  
In Thy sweet humility. (Refrain)*



**Amy:** It would be wonderful if the story could end with God's perfect creation. However, the Devil and his followers led a rebellion against God that soon spread to mankind. Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan and rebel against God and all of mankind has been under the condemnation of the Law ever since.

## **LITTLE CHILDREN, CAN YOU TELL...**

### **II. About God's Judgment**

**Song:** *All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall*

#### **Children:**

*All mankind fell in Adam's fall,  
One common sin infects us all;  
From sire to son the bane descends,  
And over all the curse impends.*

*From hearts depraved, to evil prone,  
Flow tho'ts and deeds of sin alone;  
God's image lost, the darkened soul  
Nor seeks nor finds its heav'nly goal.*

*But Christ, the second Adam, came  
To bear our sin and woe and shame,  
To be our Life, our Light, our Way,  
Our only Hope, our only Stay.*

**Isaac:** Thankfully, God did not leave mankind in his sin. God had a wonderful plan of salvation already in place. However, God did not permit Adam and Eve to remain in the garden. This too was a blessing, so they would not eat of the tree of life and live forever in a world of sin. God wanted them to look forward to His promise of a Savior.

## LITTLE CHILDREN, CAN YOU TELL...

### III. About God's Promise

**Levi:** God said to Satan, "I will put enmity between you (the devil) and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15)

**Ella:** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19)

**Song:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel  
(TLH #62)

#### Congregation:

*O, come, Oh come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Verse 4 →

***Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**Grant:** God's people waited many years for the promise of the Savior to come true. But God was waiting for just the right time for Jesus to come into the world.

### **LITTLE CHILDREN, CAN YOU TELL...**

#### **IV. About God's Gift**

**Isaac:** "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

**Amy:** To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:1-7)





**Song:** Away in a Manger

**Children:**

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head  
The stars in the sky look down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.*

**Grant:** "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**Nick:** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

**Aubrey:** And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

**Katherine:** And this *shall* be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.'

**Ella:** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

**PreK:** 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'" (Lk. 2:8-14)

**Song:** Glory to God the Angels Sang

**Choir:**

*Low in a humble manger, Little Lord Jesus lay,  
Watched by the virgin mother, There on a bed of hay;  
Keeping her loving vigil, Far from the worldly throngs,  
When thru the night came ringing,  
Glorious angel songs.*

**(Refrain)** *Glory to God, the angels sing,  
Praises to Christ, the newborn King,  
Peace be on earth, goodwill to men,  
Hear we the angels sing again,  
Glory to God, the angels sing,  
Praises to Christ, the newborn King,  
Peace be on earth, goodwill to men,  
Goodwill to men.*

*Little the loving mother, Dreamed of its meaning then,  
How He should die on Calv'ry, Die for the sins of men;  
Down thru the weary ages, Out from that manger bed,  
Streams all the light of heaven,  
Soon o'er the world to spread. **(Refrain)***

**Matthew:** So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

**Kysa:** And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

**Bentley:** And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

**Clara Jo:** But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

**Levi:** Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

**Song:** *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*  
(WS #715)

**Congregation:**

*Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
But there is room and welcome there for me.  
But there is room and welcome there for me.*

*In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:  
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! And in a manger bed,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.*

*How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.*

*Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me?*

**Song:** *Little Children, Can You Tell?*

**Children:**

*'Joy and peace!' the angels sang;  
Far the pleasant echoes rang;  
'Peace on earth, to men good will,'  
Hark! The angels sing it still  
On the Christmas morning.*

**Aubrey:** We must remember, however, that God's Promise and Gift wasn't complete at the manger in Bethlehem. Jesus was sent to be our *Savior*, so He had much work to do in order to redeem us from our sins.

**Lylyan:** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

**Grant:** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:17)

**Katherine:** He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)

**Clara Jo:** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 6:23)

**Hymn:** *Silent Night*

(TLH #646)

**Congregation:**

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

## **Song:** *Little Children, Can You Tell?*

### **Children:**

*For a little Babe that day  
Cradled in a manger lay,  
Born on earth our Lord to be;  
This the wondering angels see  
On the Christmas morning.*

*Joy our Christian hearts shall fill,  
Peace and love, and all goodwill;  
This fair Babe of Bethlehem  
Children loves, and blesses them  
On the Christmas morning.*

- P** What else can we tell you? We have told you of God's perfect creation, man's disobedience, and God's judgment. We have told you about God's promise of a Savior and Jesus' coming to fulfill that promise to be our Savior. So what's left?

## **LITTLE CHILDREN, CAN YOU TELL...**

### **V. About God's Home**

**Bentley:** Jesus said, In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (John 14:2)

**Nick:** And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:3)

- P** Now we too look forward to that heavenly home Jesus has prepared for us. And while we wait for His return, Jesus would have us tell others about His love and salvation. We have told you once again of our Savior's wondrous birth. Now... who can YOU tell?

**Children:** Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!  
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

✠ **Lord's Prayer & Benediction** ✠

**Children:** The Christmas Gospel we have told you  
Once sung by angels long ago,  
Is full of comfort and of gladness  
To all who feel their sin and woe.  
It is the gospel of salvation  
How God the Father freely gave  
His only Son to every nation  
That He might come to seek and save.  
No other child, no other Savior,  
Can ever help this sinful earth  
Then take the Gift the Father gave us  
And spread the message of His birth!

**Hymn:** *Joy to the World*

(TLH #87)

**Congregation:**

***Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing.***

***Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.***

***No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love.***



**Welcome!** We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book in the back of the church. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe and teach.

**Christmas Day Worship** – Tomorrow's Christmas Day worship service will begin at 9:30 am. All are invited to attend, as we continue the celebration of our Savior's birth!

**Cover Art** – The cover art was painted by Amy Ruthenbeck, an 8<sup>th</sup> Grader at St. John's Lutheran School. Thank you to Amy for sharing her God-given talents with us!

A blessed Christmas to you all!

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