

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: WS #714 "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heav'nly Light"



Thank you! On behalf of the called workers of St. John's, thank you so much for your generosity this Christmas season. We greatly appreciate your love and support and are all grateful to service this congregation.

Holiday Giving Drives – As we prepare for the Christmas season, we invite you to share God's love with others through two holiday giving opportunities. Donations for the Helping Hand Pregnancy Center may be given as coins or cash and placed in the large baby bottle located downstairs on the white table, outside the fellowship hall. Donations for the Heron Lake Food Shelf may be placed in the box that is set out downstairs.

New Years Eve worship will be Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Ushers	12/28	Kendall B, Larry B.
	1/4	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	1/11	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
Cleaning	This Week - Zuehlke, Winters, Appel (wk. 3)	
	Up Next – Kazemba, Thaemlitz	

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1st Sunday after Christmas

December 28th, 2025

Liturgy: WS p. 22; Carol Card

Organist: Lana Strike





ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: WS #710

"Once in Royal David's City"

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession of Our Sins

P Pastor
C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
P Let us pray.
C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

- P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response

TLH #98:5

- C** ♪ *Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost,
to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be, Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory Evermore and evermore.*

The Words of Institution

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."
In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed 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! **C Amen.**

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor.

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

Distribution Hymns

TLH #105; TLH #91

Thanksgiving

To the tune of "Angels from the Realms..."

- C** ♪ *Thank the Lord, His praises voicing
For His promised faithfulness!
All who seek the Lord, rejoicing
Tell His love, His name confess,
For He leads us, with thanksgiving
In the paths of righteousness.*

*At Your Word, Lord, let Your servant
Go in peace, for with my eyes
I have seen Your bright salvation,
Israel's Light, begin to rise
As the Glory of the nations
Leading us to Paradise!*

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

✠ Order of Holy Communion ✠

The Preface *To the tune of "Good Christian Men Rejoice"*

P ♪ Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

C ♪ **And may the Lord be with you too.**

P ♪ Lift your hearts to Him in praise.

C ♪ **To the Lord our hearts we raise.**

P ♪ Let us offer praises true.

C ♪ **It is fitting so to do:**

Gratefully we sing

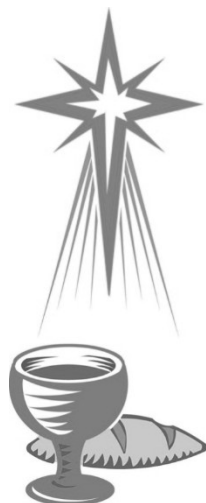
To the Lord, our King!

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should, at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus *To the tune of "As With Gladness Men of Old"*

C ♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord**
God of hosts, by all adored:
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of Your name!
With the heavenly host we sing
Highest praises to our King:

Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame
Be to Him who, in God's name,
Now draws nigh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hail! Hosanna! Praises be
To the Lord eternally!



The Introit

Jer. 31:15-17; Hos. 11:1

P When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

C **Thus says the Lord: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.**

P Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

C **Thus says the Lord: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears,**

P for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

C **There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country."**

Collect Prayer of the Day.

P 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. **C Amen.**



Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.



Matthew 2:13-23

Now when they 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." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and

departed to Egypt ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ "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." ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ 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." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² 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. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

✠ **Reception into Membership – Lydia Moore** ✠

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #99

"Now Are the Days Fulfilled"



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. ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹ 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, ¹² 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, ¹³ who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴ 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.

Let Us Recount God's Steadfast Love

- I. The steadfast love shown to Israel (Matthew 2:13-23)
- II. The steadfast love shown to us today (Galatians 4:4-7)

The Offertory

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☞ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Hymn: TLH #119

"Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand"