

Closing Hymn: LSB 897
"Oh, Rejoice, All Christians Loudly"
(Alleluias to introduce and conclude the hymn are sung by Choir)

Postlude: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (David Willcocks)

Participants

Preacher: Pr. Matthew P. Johnson
Liturgist: Pr. Matthew V. Moss
Kantor: Dr. Crystal Rossow
Choir: St. John's Adult Choir
Brass Ensemble: Wyatt Thurber & Johanna Rossow (trumpets)
Gretchen Kliche (horn)
Tom Eversman (trombone)
Processional: Hannah Thurber (crucifer)
Noelle Dolan & Luke Walton (torchbearers)
Acolytes: Leah Gordon & Matthew Koosman
Worship Assistant: Jack Wold

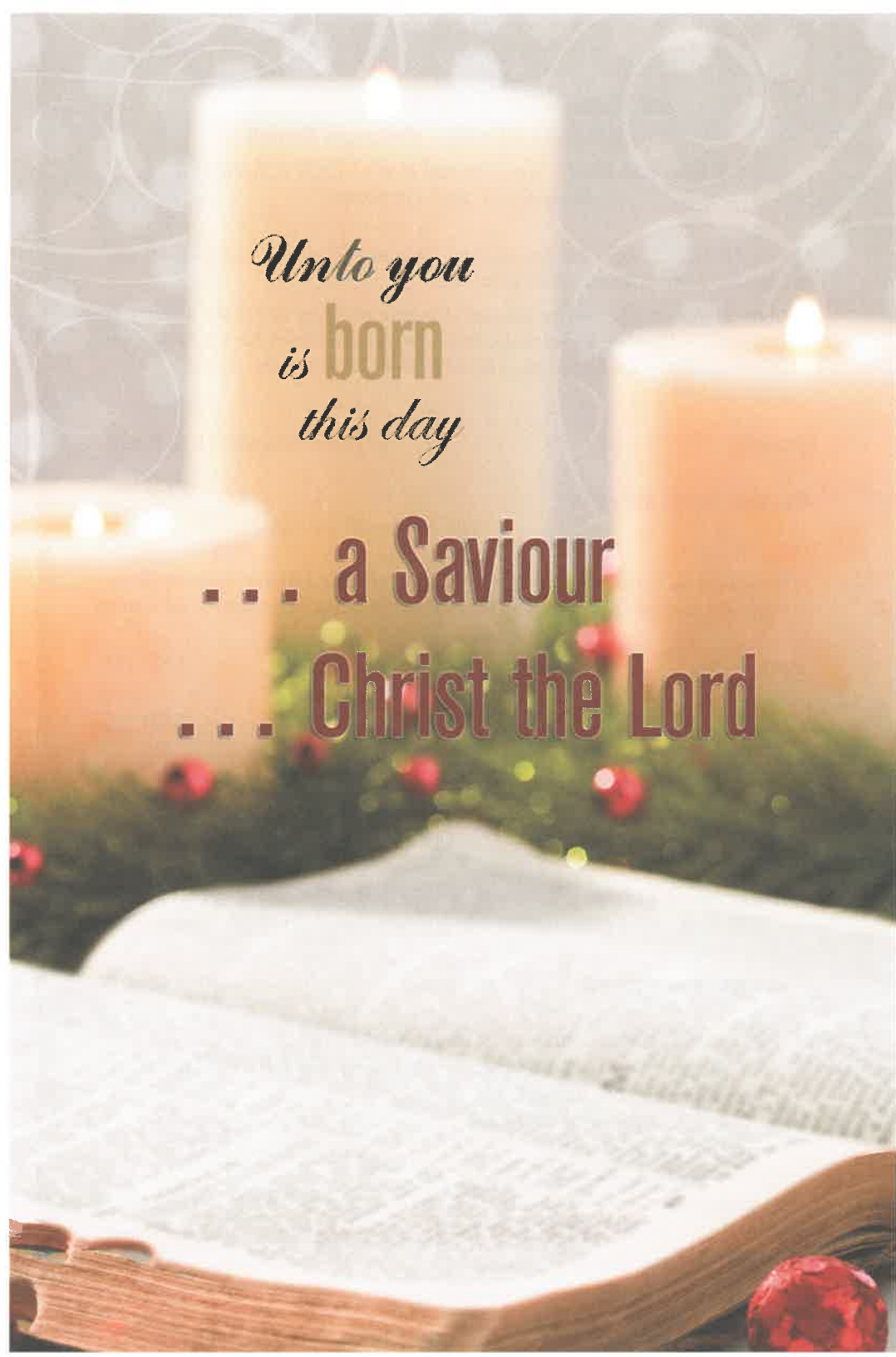
Announcements:

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK –

Tuesday, December 26: **The Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr**
Wednesday, December 27: **The Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**
Thursday, December 28: **The Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**
Sunday, December 31: **The Eve of the Name of Jesus**
Monday, January 1: **The Circumcision of Our Lord**

PUBLIC SCHOOL CATECHESIS will resume on Wednesday evening, January 3, at 6:00 PM

*Your pastors and staff wish each of you a most blessed
Christmas and a happy New Year!
Sing and Rejoice! Christ is born! Alleluia!*



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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
† Christmas Day - The Festival of Our Lord's Nativity †
December 25, 2017 (10:00 am)

Verse: Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, all you nations, and worship the Lord. Alleluia. (Liturgical Text)

Prayer: O Holy Triune God, in the glad tidings of great joy and in the washing of rebirth with the Word we acknowledge that even we poor sinners have seen the light of the knowledge of Your great glory in the face of Christ. Amen.

† † †

Prelude: Three Chorales (J. S. Bach)

Entrance Hymn (all rise): LSB 379
"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" (v. 3 Choir)

(The processional cross reminds us that God's Son came into our world to die for our sins; the burning "Christ candle" reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world)

Kyrie: LSB 186

Gloria: LSB 187

Collect for Christmas Day

Anthem: The Timeless Gift (Kevin Hildebrand)

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38
(The Tabernacle is erected and God's glory descends)

The Christmas Gradual:

Blessed is he who comes in the name | of the Lord!*

The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.

This is the Lord's | doing;*

it is marvelous | in our eyes.

Psalm 118:26a, 27a, 23

Epistle Lesson: Titus 3:4-7
(The new birth is given through water and the Word)

Hymn: LSB 358, vss 1-3, 13
"From Heaven Above"

The Christmas Day Gospel: John 1:1-18
(The eternal Word of God became flesh)

Hymn of the Day: LSB 382
"We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth"

Sermon: "Upon the Bosom: The Word Made Flesh is God With Us"
(John 1:1-4, 14, 18)

Creed (Nicene Creed; see inside back cover of hymnal)

Prayers

Offerings: "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"
from Christmas Oratorio Op. 12 (Camille Saint Saëns)

† The Service of the Holy Communion †

NOTE: Our celebration of the Lord's Supper is reserved for members in good standing of congregations affiliated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Guests from sister LCMS congregations who agree with our faith and practice of it should announce your desire to commune to one of our pastors before joining us at the Lord's Table.

Offertory Hymn: LSB 378 "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

Service of the Sacrament: LSB pg 194

Sanctus Hymn: LSB 384 "Of the Father's Love"
(Vs. 2, choir; Vs. 3, women; Vs. 4, men)

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Agnus Dei: LSB 198

Distribution Hymns: LSB 380 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
LSB 386 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

Closing Collect & Benediction

† ⊗ Tannenbaum/⊗ Christmas Tree †

Martin Luther originated the idea of bringing an "evergreen tree" into homes at Christmastide to represent the gift of eternal life which God's incarnation brought us.

He suggested two trees. The first was to be decorated with 33 red apples symbolizing not only the fruit which Adam and Eve ate bringing down on our world the curse of sin but also the number of years our Lord lived on this world assuming our curse and bearing our sins as the Lamb of God. The absence of lights on this tree was to remind us of the darkness our sin has caused us and the darkness our Lord suffered for us on the tree of the cross.

We associate man's fall into sin with a tree. But a tree also became the symbol of life and salvation as we are reminded in the proper preface for Passion Sunday, "He [i.e. the devil] who by a tree once overcame likewise by a tree has been overcome [namely, by Christ in His crucifixion]." A scarlet cloth was to be draped around the base of the tree reminding us of Isaiah's words, "Though your sins be as scarlet..." (Isaiah 1:18).

The second tree substituted 33 white roses for the apples to symbolize God's promise that the Savior would sprout from the stump of Jesse (Is. 11:1) as the Christmas hymn says, "Lo, how a rose is growing, a bloom of finest grace... The rose of which I'm singing, Isaiah had foretold. He came to us through Mary, who sheltered him from cold" (LSB 359). The five-pointed star at the top of the tree represented the head, shoulders, and feet of Jesus. From the star were to flow three gold streamers representing not only the blessings which God, through His incarnate Son, gives to the earth below but also symbolizing our Lord's three-fold office of prophet, priest, and king. The lights on the tree were to remind us that Jesus is the "light of the world" who brings us out of darkness into God's marvelous light. Luther suggested that a white cloth be draped around the base of this second tree reminding us that Isaiah not only wrote, "Your sins are as scarlet" but added the great promise, "They will be white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18).



† Chrismons †

"Chrismons" speak of our Lord Jesus Christ. The word "Chrismon" combines two words--Christ and monogram (a sign formed by the combined initials of a name).

Take a moment to observe the garland-wrapped cross as you exit the sanctuary into the narthex, and note the Chrismons hung on the greenery.

All Chrismons are made of either white or gold or a combination of the two colors. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, suggests the innocence, purity, and perfection of our Savior. In our culture, it is also a color of joy. Scripture often uses white to portray purity and equates it with light to denote completeness (see Isaiah 1:18, Mark 9:3, Revelation 20:11).

Gold symbolizes the glory and majesty of God (see Exodus 25:11 ff., Revelation 1:13-16, Revelation 21:18-21).

Our Chrismons include some twenty-one different designs symbolizing various aspects of our Lord's person and work. The crosses of different types always remind us of our Lord's sacrifice; stars having either six points (the six days of creation) or five points (representing the human nature of Christ) or even eight points (representing baptism); the triangles and entwined circles represent the Trinity; crowns represent the Lordship of Christ; the fish was an ancient symbol for Christ (each letter in the Greek word for "fish", "ichthus", represented a word: "I"--Jesus, "Ch"--Christ, "TH"--God's, "U"--Son, "S"--Savior). Various Greek letters decorate some of the Chrismons including the letters "IHS" which are the first three letters of the Greek word "IHOU" (or, Jesus), "XP" which are the first two Greek letters in the word "XPISTOS" (or, Christ ["X" is a "ch" sound in greek and "P" is our English "r"]), "A" and "O" or "alpha" and "omega" (the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet).





WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR ALL THOSE WHO MADE OUR CHURCH SO FESTIVE FOR THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.

Thank you to Joe & Brenna Koehler for the gift of the Christmas trees and to Joe Koehler and Phil Koehler for setting up the trees.

AND TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THE POINSETTIAS:

*Gerald & Julie Anderson Family in praise & thanksgiving for our family
 Ace & Lisa Carroll in memory of Sandra "B"
 John & Lora Cleaveland in memory of loved ones
 The Cummins Family in memory of Larry Cummins
 Larry & Marcy Dalchow in memory of Leonard Dalchow
 The First Grade Class in celebration of our loving teacher Mrs. Volberding
 Rick & Lois Foggia in loving memory of Nathan Foggia and Ray & Ellen Hidde
 The Glock Family in memory of Judy Glock
 Darlean Goskey and Family in memory of Lyle Goskey
 Leslie McLeod Jackson in loving memory of parents Matthew & Evelyn McLeod
 The Larry Jobes Family in memory of loved ones
 The Johnson Family in celebration of our Lord's birth
 The Kalk Family in memory of Carl Kalk
 Ray & Lori Kaiser in celebration of fathers Raymon Kinzler & John Kaiser
 Don & Linda Kalk in memory of Walt & Gert Whitson
 Ed & Sally Kemna in memory of grandsons Billy Harper and Nathan Schilling
 The Kruse Family in memory of Paula Kruse
 Bradley, Jackson, Robert, Faith, Kaylee, & Della in memory of Grandma Kruse
 Scott & Ruth Kulberg Family in celebration of our Savior's birth
 The MacMillan Family in thanksgiving for faithful parents and grandparents
 Mary & Mark Pruhs in memory of Helen Wenzl and Doris & Bud Pruhs
 John & Peggy Purdes in celebration of Christmas
 John L. Radintz in memory of Ardis E. Radintz
 Paul & Diane Radintz in celebration of the birth of our Savior
 Jack & Marcia Schalo in memory of parents Emery & Marcella Faue and Bill & Charlotte Schalo
 DJ, Nichole, Danny, Naomi, & Diana Schilling in memory of Nathanael Schilling
 Paul & Gayle Schlueter in memory of Dan
 Al & Judy Stromback in memory of Wayne Stromback & Clifford Koch
 Marian Tillmann in memory of Louis Tillmann and Kay Oliver
 Gary & Deb Volberding in memory and in celebration of family*



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD FOR DECORATING THE CHURCH



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