

Those who dwelt in
a land of deep
darkness . . .



. . . on them has
Light shone (Isa 9:2)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**The Eve of Christmas
A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2025**

*Invocation**Bidding Prayer*

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent it is our joy and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember especially the poor and helpless, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us:

**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.**

Service of the Word

Reading: Genesis 3:8-19

Hymn: Creator of the Stars of Night 351

Reading: Genesis 22:15-18

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound 349

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn: Break Forth, O Beauteous Light 378

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 359

Reading: Luke 1:26-33

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 357

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Hymn: What Child Is This 370

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 380

Sermon

Hymn: A Great and Mighty Wonder 383

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn: Once in Royal David's City 376

Candlelight Service

Reading: John 1:1-14

Hymn:

Silent Night 363

¹Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das heilige Elternpaar
Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war
Bei dem himmlischen Kind,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind.

²Silent 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.

³Silent 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!

⁴Silent 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.

The Responses

Pastor: Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

All: **And this is the name by which He will be called, the Lord is our righteousness.**

Pastor: In those days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

All: **And this is the name by which He will be called, the Lord is our righteousness.**

Pastor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: **And this is the name by which He will be called, the Lord is our righteousness.**

Pastor: We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord,

All: **In the midst of your temple.**

The Collect and Blessing

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: **Amen.**

Pastor: Christ, who by His Incarnation gathered into one all things both earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Hymn:

Joy to the World 387