

**SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SANKT JOHANNES GEMEINDE  
ÉGLISE LUTHÉRIENNE ST-JEAN**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
December 25, 2023

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**PASTOR: Katherine Gohm**  
**INTERIM ORGANIST: Esther-Ruth Teel**

*We acknowledge that St. John's Lutheran Church is situated on unceded Indigenous land that was never surrendered by treaty or agreement. We recognize that the Kanien'keha:ka (commonly known as the Mohawk), a nation of of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (commonly known as Iroquois), are the custodians of Tiohtia:ke (the Island of Montreal), which is a traditional meeting place between peoples including the Anishinaabe (commonly known as Algonquin), Abenaki and the Huron-Wendat. As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and in agreement with its official policies, our church is committed to participating in an ongoing process of finding truth and reconciliation.*

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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**PRELUDE**

*Esther-Ruth Teel, Harpist*

*Please stand*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 97)**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The service continues with gathering song. As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may be sprinkled with water during the singing.*

## GATHERING SONG

### *Joy to the World ELW 267*



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 158)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
 3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
 au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
 name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
 sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
 liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
 ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.  
 ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
 God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - - - men.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6-12**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>6</sup>Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night

they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,

take no rest,

<sup>7</sup>and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

for which you have labored;

<sup>9</sup>but those who garner it shall eat it

and praise the LORD,

and those who gather it shall drink it

in my holy courts.

<sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates,

prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,

clear it of stones,

lift up an ensign over the peoples.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD has proclaimed

to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

“See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.”

<sup>12</sup>They shall be called, “The Holy People,

The Redeemed of the LORD“;  
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 97**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns; let the | earth rejoice;  
let the multitude of the | isles be glad.

<sup>2</sup>**Clouds and darkness sur- | round the LORD,  
righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God’s throne.**

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes be- | fore the LORD,  
burning up enemies on | every side.

<sup>4</sup>**Lightnings light | up the world;  
the earth | sees and trembles.**

<sup>5</sup>The mountains | melt like wax  
before the Lord of | all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare your righteous- | ness, O LORD,  
and all the peoples | see your glory.**

<sup>7</sup>Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!  
Bow down before the LORD, | all you gods.

<sup>8</sup>**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,  
because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;  
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.

<sup>10</sup>**You who love the | LORD, hate evil!**

**God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand | of the  
wicked.**

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns | for the righteous,  
and joy for the hon- | est of heart.

<sup>12</sup>**Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,  
and give thanks to God’s | holy name.**

**SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7**

A reading from Titus.


<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit

he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,<sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

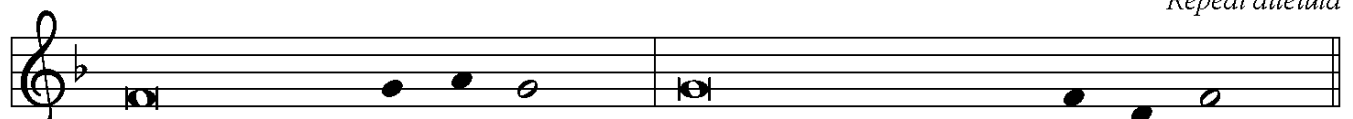
*Please stand.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, p. 160



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter- nal life.

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**            *Katherine Gohm*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Please stand.*

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ELW 288*





1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

*Please remain standing.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

Christ is born and your Spirit is poured out upon us. Renew your church through the gift of baptism. Unite your faithful people across both distance and denomination. Teach us to live by your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You reveal your presence over the heights of the mountains, through the cloud and lightning, and beyond the trembling of the earth. Still the storms that threaten the lands and send relief to all places and peoples experiencing natural disasters, extreme temperatures, or famine. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let all the ends of the earth know the promise of your reconciliation and renewal. Make beautiful the work of peacemakers, community organizers, and advocates who work to ensure that all people flourish in safety and dignity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God, be our comfort and our redemption. Seek out all who feel forsaken or forlorn, especially those who are marginalized because of their race, sexuality, gender expression, or immigration status. Heal all who struggle in any way. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Following the example of Mary and Joseph, let all our families, whatever their shape or size, reflect your holy and life-giving love. Bless adoptive families, foster families, and guardians. Hold in mercy all who are childless, by choice or by life circumstance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As you have guarded the lives of the saints, so shield us from evil and danger. Teach us by their example to serve you with joy and honesty of heart, that we live as heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Share a gesture of peace with one another as you are comfortable.*

*Please be seated.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## OFFERING

*Ways to give an offering are at the end of this worship guide.*

## OFFERTORY

*Esther-Ruth Teel*

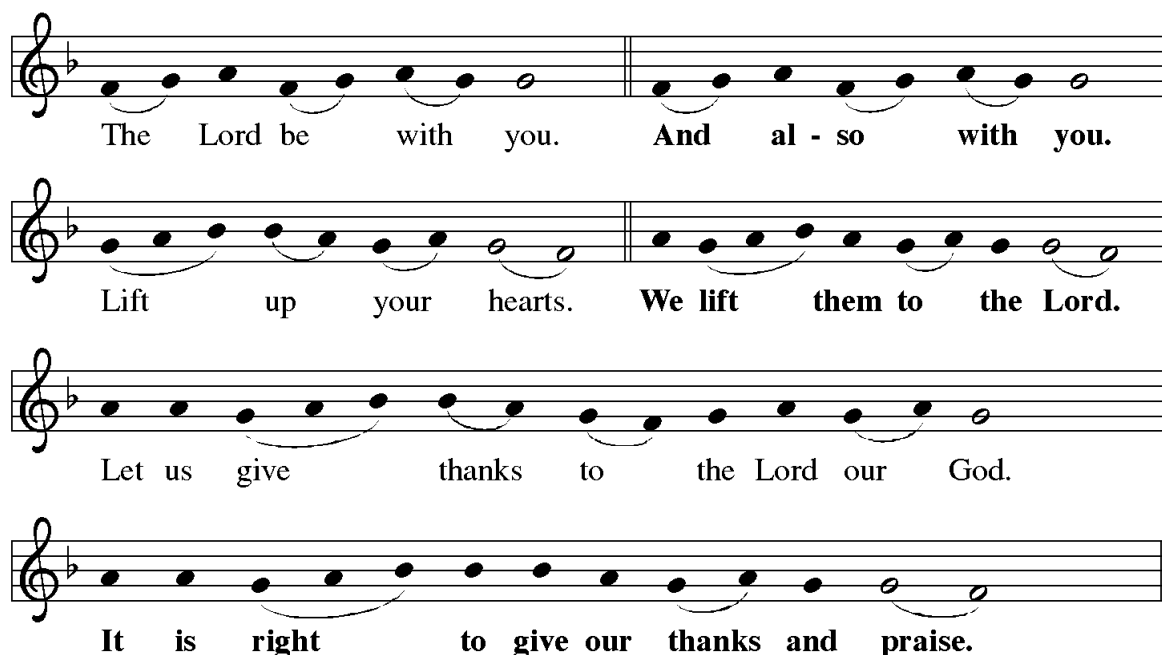
## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

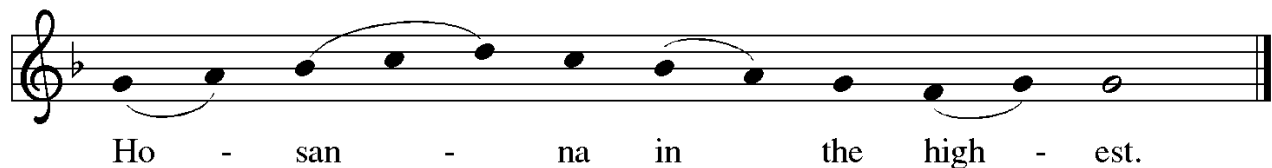
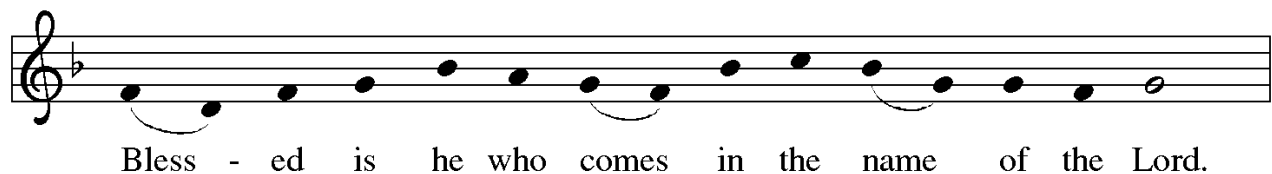
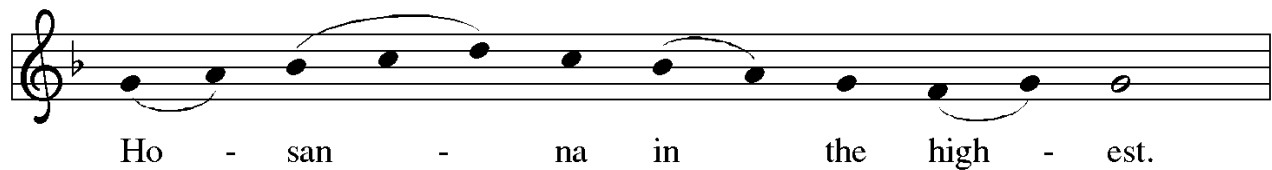
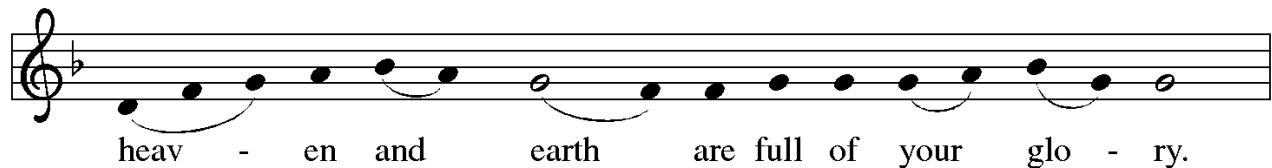
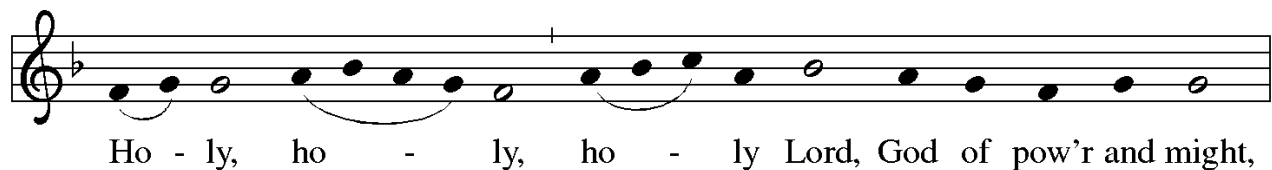
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



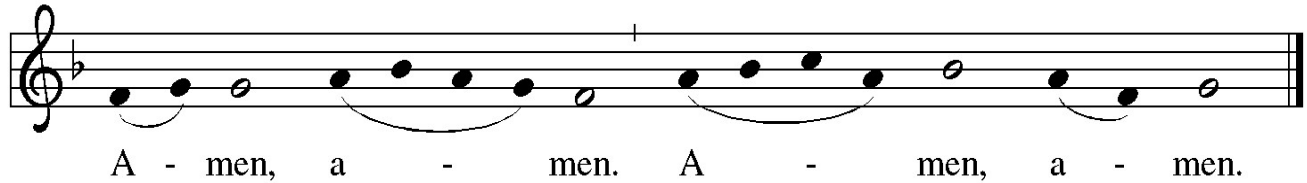
Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.



### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

### COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

### LAMB OF GOD

*Lamb of God, p. 164, will be sung before communion.*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

*Please be seated. To receive the elements, please come up the left hand aisle to the altar and return to your seat on the right. Grape juice is also available in pre-poured glasses.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand.*

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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### BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace † bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

#### *Go Tell it on the Mountain ELW 290*

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual



## DISMISSAL

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Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Esther-Ruth Teel*

**Thank you for worshipping with us!**

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**NEXT WEEK: December 31 First Sunday of Christmas, worship at 11am.**

### **Get to know Pastor Katherine!**

**Pastor Katherine would LOVE to get to know you!** Please be in touch via a phone call to the church or email: [pastor@SaintJohnsLutheranMontreal.org](mailto:pastor@SaintJohnsLutheranMontreal.org)

Pastor Katherine **would be honoured to pray for you and with you.** Please be in touch for all pastoral care via the pastor's email address or by calling the church office (contact info below).

**Regular office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-2pm.**

### **Upcoming Event**

- **December 31: First Sunday of Christmas, 11am**
- **January 7: Baptism of our Lord, 11am**

**We are thankful for your donations!** Donations in person are welcome as well as:

- Cheque, payable to St John's Lutheran
- [CanadaHelps](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119180826RR0001-st-johns-lutheran-church/) [www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119180826RR0001-st-johns-lutheran-church/](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119180826RR0001-st-johns-lutheran-church/)
- Interac transfer: [secretary@saintjohnslutheranmontreal.org](mailto:secretary@saintjohnslutheranmontreal.org)

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