

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

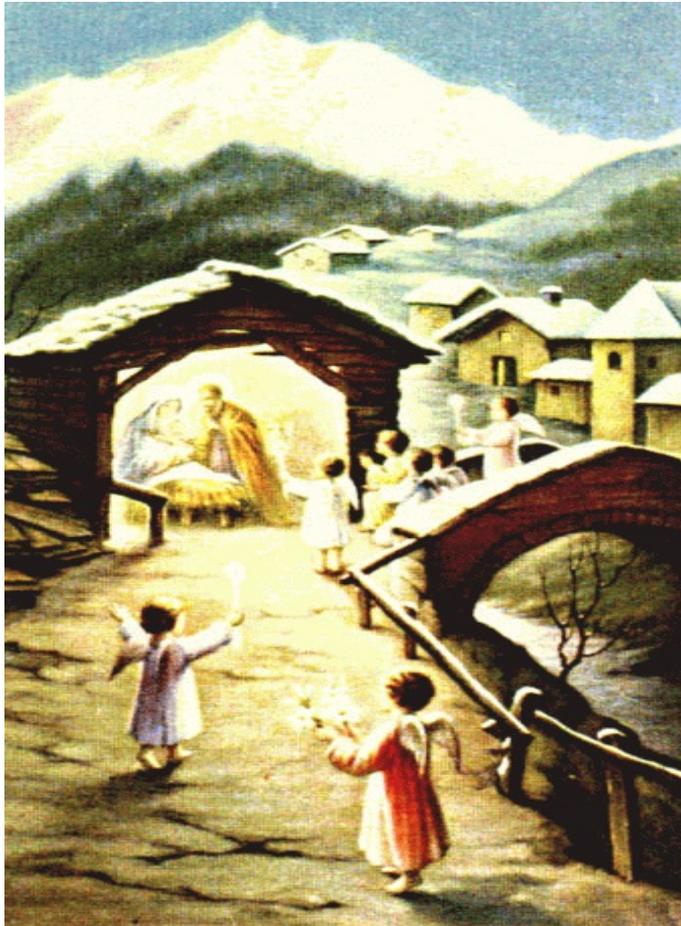
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## EGLISE LUTHÉRIENNE ST-JEAN



**CHRISTMAS EVE  
SOLEMN VIGIL EUCHARIST 2018**

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL EUCHARIST

**P: Pastor A: Assistants C: Congregation**

*silence*

### SIT

#### PRELUDE

*Nun wandre Maria (Wolf)*

#### TOLLING OF BELL

#### ENTRANCE PSALM (INTROITUS)

*Cantor/Soloist: Tim Wilfong*

*Dominus dixit ad me*

The Lord said to me: You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.

Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? (Psalm 2)

Glory to the Father . . .

### STAND

#### ENTRANCE HYMN

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel"

1. O come, o come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

save  
And give them vict'ry o'er the  
grave. *Refrain*

#### *Refrain:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*Emmanuel*

*Shall come to you, O Israel.*

4. O come, O key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly  
home;  
Make safe the way that leads on  
high,

2. O come, o come, great Lord of  
might,  
Who to your tribes on Sinai's  
height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud, and majesty and awe.  
*Refrain*

And close the path to misery.  
*Refrain*

3. O come, strong Branch of  
Jesse, free  
Your own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people

5. O come, O King of nations,  
come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for  
you;  
restore the broken, make us new.  
*Refrain*

*Verses 2 & 4 © Augsburg-Fortress*

#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The Grace of the child born for us and the joy of the Son given to us  
be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

#### KYRIE

A: As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love,  
let us gather together in recognition of our humanness,  
asking the Lord for pardon and strength and rejoicing that on this  
night we celebrate God-with-us: Emmanuel.

A: Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to God,  
the parent of all humanity.  
Lord have mercy.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy) sung by cantor*

A: Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division and show us  
a way of pardon and peace.  
Lord, show us your mercy and love.

**C: And grant us your salvation.**

*Christi eleison (Christ, have mercy) sung by cantor*

A: Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness and intercede for  
us as both Son of Man and Son of God.  
Lord, have mercy.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy) sung by cantor*

**HYMN OF PRAISE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain:**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee,  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly  
song? *Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn  
King. *Refrain*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.  
*...opening prayer...*

**C: Amen.**

**SIT**

**FIRST LESSON:**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**RESPONSE TO THE LESSON**

*"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

1. Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have  
been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!

2. This is he whom seers in old  
time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word;  
Now he shines, the long expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore!

3. Let the heights of heav'n adore him;  
Angel hosts, his praises sing;  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him  
And extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore! A-men.

*[Text: Prudentius, 4<sup>th</sup> Century]*

**SECOND LESSON:**

Titus 2:11-14

**STAND  
GRADUAL HYMN**

*During the singing of the carol, the processional candles will be taken  
down the aisles to allow the person nearest to the aisle in each pew to  
light their hand candle.*

**Please note: DO NOT DIP LIGHTED CANDLES.**

**Dip only your UNLIGHTED candle when lighting your  
candle from your neighbour's.**

**Children under 10 are advised not to have their own candle.**

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless  
sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the  
years  
Are met in thee tonight.

The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But, in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive  
him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

3. How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human  
hearts

4. O holy child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

**STAND**

## ALLELUIA

-Welcoming the Gospel

Cantor:

Translation: Alleluia! Alleluia! The Lord said to me: You are my Son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps 2) Alleluia! Alleluia!

## HOLY GOSPEL

After the Gospel is announced, the congregation says:

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

(reading of the Gospel)

**Luke 2:1-20**

At the conclusion of the Gospel reading, the congregation says:

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The candles are extinguished at the conclusion of the reading.**

## SIT

### SERMON

Pastor Eric E. Dyck

## STAND

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

*"From Heav'n Above to Earth I come"*

*Text: M. Luther; English trans. © Augsburg-Fortress, used with permission*

1. From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bring good news to ev'ryone!  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To all the world, and gladly sing:

3. This is the Christ, God's son  
most high,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will himself your Saviour be  
And from all sin will set you free.

2. To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This newborn child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

4. O dearest Jesus, holy child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A holy shrine, within my heart,  
That you and I need never part.

### BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

*The Nativity Scene reflects the humanness of Jesus and the humbleness of God. The crib is a sign of the incarnation: God joining with humankind and dwelling with us. In recognising this place of encounter with Christ, we refocus on God dwelling with us.*

*[Note that the magi ("wisemen") are currently at a distance from the nativity scene. They will "journey" closer over the next few weeks. On Epiphany, Sunday, Jan. 6, they will have arrived at the crib.]*

### **The congregation comes forward and gathers around the Creche.**

P: This Creche is to serve our congregation as a sign of God's incarnation and act as a point of meditation.

A: It is written: "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us and we beheld His Glory." [John 1: 14a]

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who heaven place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation.

**C: Glory in heaven and peace on earth,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Carol

*During the singing of the carol, the candles at the Creche are lighted.*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for from the sky  
his bed, and stay by my cradle 'til morning is  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his nigh.  
head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked 3. Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask  
down where he lay; you to stay  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. close by me forever and love me, I  
pray.
2. The cattle are lowing; the poor Bless all the dear children in your  
baby wakes, tender care  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he and fit us for heaven, to live with  
makes. you there.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down

P: God and Father of Jesus, on this Holy Night you give us your Son, the Lord of the universe and the saviour of all peoples, As an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Let this scene of the birth of Jesus remind us of the blessings we encounter through the presence of Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**-All return to their places.**

## STAND

### PRAYERS

A: As we celebrate the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us place our needs before the Creator of heaven and earth.  
*Silence to focus our thoughts on prayer.*

For the Christian community and its continued proclamation on this night of God's breaking in to history and participation in Jesus with the story of humankind.  
God of grace and peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: For all who are gathered here, rejoicing in the Christmas festival, able to tell the good news to the whole waiting world.

God of grace and peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: For all governments and for our government, for those with power to tax, arrest, and rule,  
God of grace and peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: For peace in Bethlehem and throughout the biblical lands,  
For those with courage to witness for peace.  
God of grace and peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: For those who will keep Christmas in hospitals, nursing homes, shelters and jails.  
God of grace and peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: For those who mourn the loss of a loved one,  
for those who weep, and for those who know no rest.  
God of grace and peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: For visitors and travellers who have joined our community tonight,  
may they experience welcome and return safely to their homes.  
God of grace and peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We give thanks for Mary, the mother of our Lord, and for all the saints; with them and the choirs of angels, we sing in exultation!

**C: Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth!**

A: We pray for all who have died in the Christmas season, (especially ...names are added... ) and those whom we will miss at our celebrations this year ...*silent prayer*...  
God of grace and peace,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers, gracious God, and fill us with hope as we behold your presence among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**PEACE**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, said to his apostles, "I leave you peace, my peace I give you."

On this night when Christ was born to make us one and heal all divisions, we pray for the peace and unity of Gods Reign.  
The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share a gesture of peace and the words: "Peace be with you."*

**SIT**

**OFFERING**      **Your generous gifts maintain our many ministries.**

*The organist introduces the "Offertory Hymn".*

*The congregation joins in singing the hymn.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

*"'Twas in the Moon" English trans. ©, used with permission*

***During the collection of the offering and the presentation of the gifts of food, money, and bread and wine, the following carol is sung:***

*This hymn was written by French missionary, Jean de Brebeuf for use with the Huron Indians. Music is a 16<sup>th</sup> century French folk tune.*

**STAND**

1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime      enwrapped His beauty round.  
When all the birds had fled.      And as the hunter braves drew  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou      nigh,  
Sent angel choirs instead.      the angel song rang loud and high:  
Before their light the stars grew      *Refrain*  
dim,

And wond'ring hunters heard the      3. O children of the forest free,  
hymn:      O sons of Manitou,  
*Refrain:* Jesus your king is born!      The holy child of earth and heav'n  
Jesus is born!      Is born today for you.  
*In excelsis gloria!*      Come kneel before the radiant boy  
Who brings you beauty, peace, and

2. Within a lodge of broken bark,      joy.  
the tender Babe was found;      *Refrain*      ©Frederick Harris Music Co.  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin

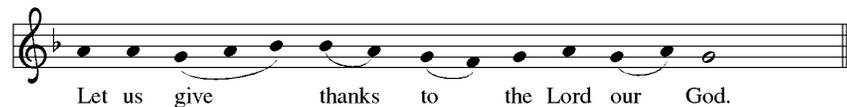
*After the hymn,  
when the gifts are presented at the altar,  
the congregation joins in the following prayer:*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

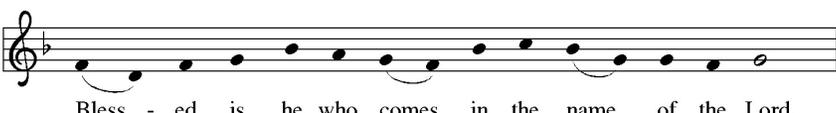
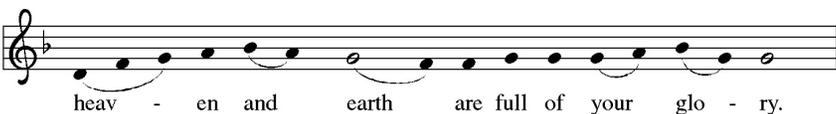
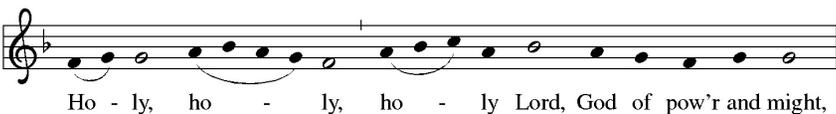
A: Let us pray. God of wonder,

**C: In the mystery of your presence with us,  
you have blessed us with these gifts  
and called us to offer ourselves to your service  
and dedicate our lives  
to the care and redemption of all that you have made.  
May we who share in Jesus' birth  
grow daily in love  
and allow your presence to transform our lives;  
for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER



P: *sung* It is indeed right and salutary . . . *preface proper for Christmas Eve...*  
 ...We praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God,  
 Creator of all and Source of life,  
 at the birth of time your word brought  
 light into the world.  
 In the fullness of time,

you sent your Word, born of Mary,  
 to shine in our darkness  
 and to make us your daughters and  
 sons.  
 As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee

to Bethlehem and there found no room,  
 so Jesus went from Galilee to Je-  
 rusalem and was despised and re-  
 jected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was  
 born,  
 so by the baptism of his suffering,  
 death, and resurrection  
 you gave birth to your Church,  
 delivered us from slavery to sin and  
 death,  
 and made with us a new covenant  
 by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of  
 woman, on that night long ago,  
 so, on the night in which he gave  
 himself up for us,  
 Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,  
 broke the bread, gave it to his disci-  
 ples and said:

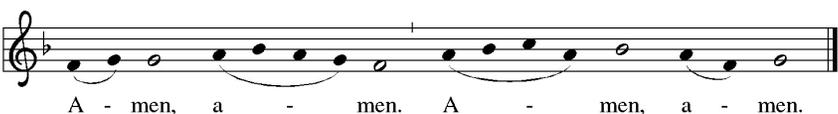
“Take, eat; this is my body which is  
 given for you.  
 Do this in remembrance of me.”  
 When the supper was over, he took the  
 cup,  
 gave thanks to you, gave it to his  
 disciples, and said:  
 “Drink from this, all of you;  
 this is my blood of the new covenant,  
 poured out for you and for many  
 for the forgiveness of sins.  
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in  
 remembrance of me.”

Remembering, therefore,  
 his birth and life among us,  
 his death and resurrection,  
 we await his coming again  
 when all things will be restored in  
 him.



By your Spirit bless us and this bread  
 and cup,  
 that, held and nourished by you,  
 we may live as your children,  
 shining with the light of your Son.  
 Renew our presence with you as we  
 gather at your table,  
 Let your Spirit bless us  
 so that these gifts of bread and wine  
 become for us the body and blood of

Christ  
 and so that we may become for the  
 world the body of Christ.  
 By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
 one with each other,  
 and one in ministry to all the world,  
 until Christ comes in final victory,  
 and we feast at his heavenly banquet.



## C: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

P: In this holy sacrament God makes a home with us.  
 Let us approach in wonder at all that God has done.

**C: Reveal yourself to us, o Lord,  
 as once you were revealed to shepherds  
 who came and worshipped You.**

SIT

**COMMUNION**

Please note: *come forward as indicated by the ushers.*  
*Each table at communion will be dismissed with a blessing.*

Music during communion: *Cantique de Noël (O Holy Night)*

**After all have communed, the hand candles are lighted.**

STAND

**POST-COMMUNION CAROL**

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

**Dip only the UNLIGHTED candles when lighting you candle.**

*During the lighting, the lights are gradually turned off.*

**AFTER all candles have been lighted, the singing of the carol begins.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Silent, night, holy night!<br>All is calm, all is bright<br>Round yon virgin mother and<br>child<br>Holy Infant, so tender and<br>mild,<br>Sleep in heavenly peace,<br>Sleep in heavenly peace. | afar,<br>Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!<br>Christ, the Saviour, is born!<br>Christ, the Saviour, is born!  |
| 2. Silent night, holy night!<br>Shepherds quake at the<br>sight;<br>Glories stream from heaven   | 3. Silent night, holy night!<br>Son of God, love's pure light<br>Radiant beams from your<br>holy face,<br>With the dawn of redeeming<br>grace,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth,<br>Jesus, Lord, at your birth. |

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Let us pray.  
In this meal, O God, . . . We ask this through Christ our Lord,

**C: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

A: When God came to us in human form,  
The Son of God scattered the darkness of this world,  
and filled this holy night with God's Glory.

P: May you glory in the birth of the Son of God,  
And may he remain with you.

**C: Amen.**

P: God sent his angels to shepherds . . .

May God fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel.

**C: Amen.**

P: When the Word became flesh, earth was joined to heaven.

May God give you . . . and fellowship with all the heavenly host.

**C: Amen.**

P: May almighty God bless you, . . .

**C: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace, serve Him who is Son of God and Son of Mary.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Extinguish hand candles!**

*The lights are turned on during the introduction to the hymn.*

**RECESSIONAL CAROL**

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
*(Refrain)*

*Refrain:*

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of  
Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
Born to gave us second birth.

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!

*(Refrain)*

**POSTLUDE**

*Wiegenlied (Reger)*

**SERVICES IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**December 25 FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS**

11am German-English Eucharist

**Dec. 30 First Sunday after Christmas**

11am German-English Eucharist, *with Carol singing*

**Jan. 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord (transferred from Jan. 6)**

11 am English Eucharist

*-an Epiphany Party follows the service*

**Jan. 13 The Baptism of Our Lord**

11a.m. English Eucharist

11 Sunday School

**Regular Schedule resumes Jan. 13:**

**9:30 a.m. German Service and 11 am. English service**

*Note: in Jan. and Feb., German services on every second Sunday  
Jan. 20 and Feb. 3 and 17 –always at 9:30 a.m.*

Acknowledgements

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