

**St. John Lutheran Church and School
Children's Christmas Service**



December 14, 2025

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

By Kermit Moldenhauer

Processional - Congregation -

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



Refrain
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Welcome by Principal Retzlaff

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you made the holy night of your Son's birth to shine with the brightness of his divine Light. We ask that, as we have come to know that Light here on earth, we may also come to the fullness of its joys in heaven, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Part 1: Room and Welcome

Narrator: Sawyer Kolch

Recitation: Grades 3-4

Hymn: Congregation

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th’ in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th’ an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.



Refrain
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

Narrator: Audrey Massey

Recitation: Grades 5-6

Song: Grades 1-2

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Narrator: Maggie Hoover

Song: Preschool - Grade 8

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.

Part 2: An Unlikely Place

Narrator: Abby Jorgensen

Recitation: Grades 1-2

Song: Preschool and Kindergarten

“Away in a Manger”

Narrator: Eli Haak

Song: Preschool - Grade 8

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

Part 3: Prophecies Fulfilled

Narrator: Rosie Larson

Recitation: Preschool

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

Narrator: Sawyer Kolch

Recitation: Grades 7-8

Recitation: Preschool and Kindergarten

Recitation: Grades 7-8

Hymn - Congregation

“The People Who in Darkness Walked”



1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious
2 To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Ev - er - last - ing
4 His right - eous gov - ern - ment and pow'r shall o - ver all ex -
5 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and make us yours a -



light; the heav'n - ly dawn broke forth on those who
giv'n, and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all
Lord, the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the
tend; on judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his
lone, for you are with the Fa - ther and the



dwelt in death and night, who dwelt in death and night.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, the God by all a - dored.
reign shall have no end, his reign shall have no end.
Spir - it ev - er one, the Spir - it ev - er one.

Narrator: Lia Zahnen

Recitation: Grades 7-8

Song: Grades 3-8
“What Child Is This”

Narrator: Pepper Rathmann

Song: Preschool - Grade 8
“Where Shepherds Lately Kneled”

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Part 4: Not Alone for Me

Narrator: Ruby Hucker

Recitation: Grades 1-2

Narrator: Audrey Massey

Recitation: Preschool - Grade 8

Narrator: Maggie Hoover

Recitation: Grades 7-8

Recitation: Preschool and Kindergarten

Narrator: Abby Jorgensen

Recitation: Grades 3-4

Hymn: Congregation

"Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing and in
3 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor beams with
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, from sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; loud - ly sing his
love our race be - friend - ing, in our need his
com - fort sweet and ten - der, forc - ing Sa - tan
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, from the grief that



love a - maz - ing, wor - thy folk of Christ - en - dom.
help ex - tend - ing, saved us from the wi - ly foe.
to sur - ren - der, break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
sore dis - tressed us, we, the cap - tives, now are free.

6. Gracious Child, in mercy hear us,
from your lowly manger cheer us,
gently lead us and be near us
till we join th' angelic choir.

Narrator: Eli Haak

Song: Preschool - Grade 8

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?

Responsive Prayer

P: Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to join with family and friends in hearing the good news that you sent your Son to be our Savior.

C: We love to hear the story of how Jesus was born. Work in us, today and always, a love for the whole message of Jesus.

P: We confess we have not always appreciated or lived by your Word, which you have given to us.

C: For these sins, we ask forgiveness.

P: By your Spirit, help us appreciate how you fully and freely forgive us in Jesus!

C: Together with the saints and angels, we praise you.

P: Dear Father, we thank you for your Christmas gift to us.

C: Help us share it with others so that they, along with us, may join you in heaven. Amen.

Hymn: Children and Congregation

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

(Children will sing verse 1 alone.

Congregation will join on verses 2 and 3.)

Silent 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.

**Silent 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!**

**Silent 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.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn - Congregation -

"Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows 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 right - eous -



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.

*As the children exit the church during the singing of "Joy to the World", they will return to their classrooms.
Parents should pick them up in the school before heading home.*

On behalf of the staff at St. John, we pray you have a blessed Christmas!