

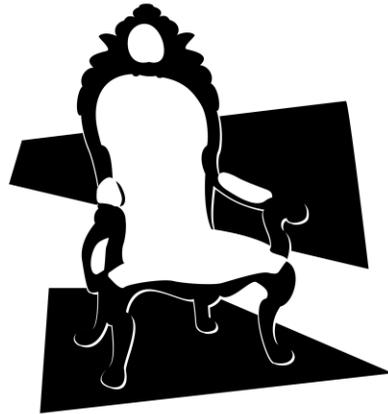
Sunday Worship

Bulletin

**Fourth  
Sunday  
In ADVENT**

10:00 a.m.

December 20, A.D. 2020



## Saint John's Lutheran Church

Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

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**Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM**

### **WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD!**

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Please note: We are pleased that you have joined us for worship in the sanctuary of St. John's. We respectfully ask that you follow the health and safety guidelines issued by the Commonwealth that have allowed us to be open. Please make use of the hand sanitizing stations as you enter the church building. Masks are to be worn at ALL TIMES. You may sit in any pew that is not roped off, but not on the left side of the sanctuary. Maintain proper social distancing while worshipping and receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Thank you for your cooperation.

**AS WE GATHER:** King David is the best known of all of Israel's kings. Under David's reign, the kingdom grew and flourished. Even generations later would look back and view the days of King David as the "Golden Age" of Israel. In today's Old Testament Reading, a promise is made to David: "And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever" (2 Samuel 7:16). But in this greater kingdom, this eternal kingdom, it's not King David who will reign on the everlasting throne—it's King Jesus. Jesus, the descendant of David, is greater than David and will have a never-ending reign. It's the coming of this King of kings that we prepare to celebrate.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
 And open wide our heav'nly home;  
 Make safe the way that leads on high,  
 And close the path to misery. [LSB 357:5]

† HYMN of the DAY NO. **353**: *"Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"*



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
 4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
 worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
 sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
 hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

✠ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.  
Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

✠ LIGHTING of ADVENT CANDLE

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**C: the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

**C: and illumine Your Church.**

*As the wreath is lit, the congregation will sing:*

**Light one candle for hope, One bright candle for hope,  
He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for peace, One bright candle for peace,  
He brings peace to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for joy, One bright candle for joy,  
Every nation will find salvation in Beth'lem's baby boy.**

**Light one candle for love, One bright candle for love,  
He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

† KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**(Be Seated)**

† OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† CHOIR ANTHEM: "Joseph's Song"

† GRADUAL: *(Sung by All)* Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.  
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*  
righteous and having sal- | vation.  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*  
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

† EPISTLE: Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand and Sing)*



† HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26–38 *(The angel appears to Mary.)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

† HYMN of the DAY NO. **357**: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's  
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law  
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,  
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
 And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - jice! Re - jice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

**6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

***(Be Seated)***

† SERMON: *“Stir Up Mystery”* Romans 16:25-27

† DUET: *“O Come Little Children”*

***(Please Stand)***

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Most High, You have favored us in the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary. In everything, let it be to us according to Your Word. Give us faith to believe that nothing is impossible with You, and so to pray boldly in childlike confidence. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Most High, You have revealed in Christ Jesus the mystery kept secret for long ages, now made known to all nations through the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. According to Your eternal command, give us faithful preachers of Your Gospel to bring about the obedience of faith. Bless The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, our Synod president; Rev. Timothy Yeadon, our district president; Rev. Michael Coons, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. Strengthen Your Holy Church in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Most High, hear our prayers on behalf of our nation, its president, all legislators and judges, and those newly elected to serve. Preserve their lives and guide their actions for the good of our people. Give peace among the nations of the earth, and preserve us from pestilence and famine, war and bloodshed, sedition, rebellion and every evil. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Most High, grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Grant healing to the sick, and give peace to the anxious and dying. Comfort all who mourn with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Most High, grant that all who receive Your Son's holy body and precious blood may do so in repentance and faith and in the unity of a true confession. Work in us this Christmas a love and desire for Your blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Most High, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Key of David and the scepter of the house of Israel. By His death, He has opened the kingdom of heaven and closed the gates of hell for all who trust in Him. By His resurrection, He has rescued the prisoners who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

† WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

† PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



☐ A - men.

† AGNUS DEI



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



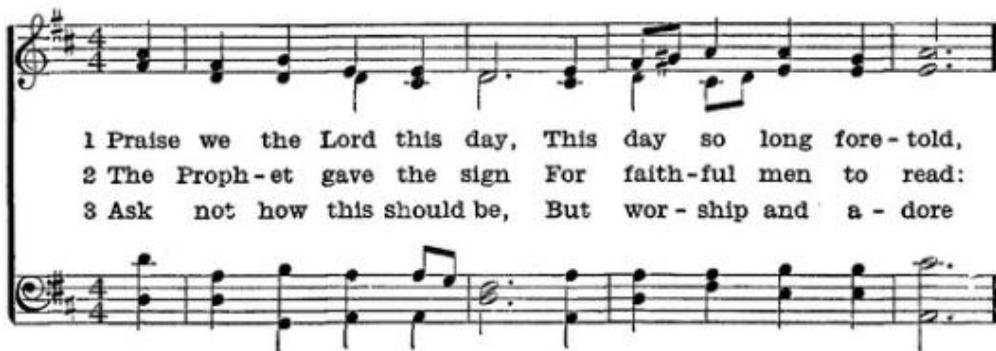
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



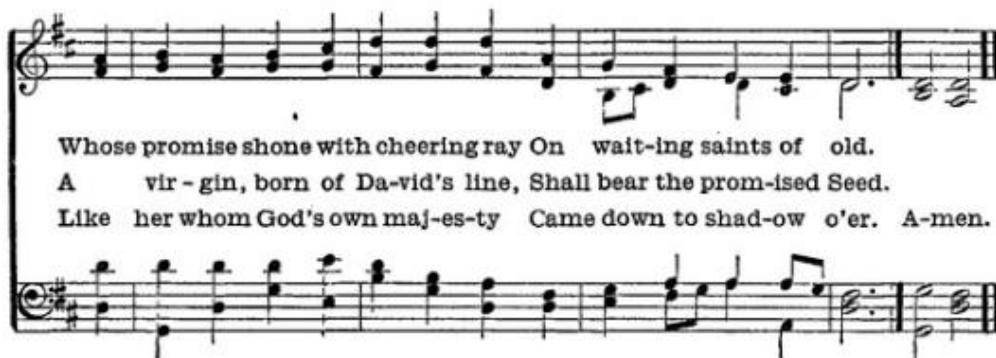
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(Please Sit)

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **274**: "Praise We the Lord This Day"



1 Praise we the Lord this day, This day so long fore-told,  
2 The Proph-et gave the sign For faith-ful men to read:  
3 Ask not how this should be, But wor-ship and a-dore



Whose promise shone with cheering ray On wait-ing saints of old.  
A vir-gin, born of Da-vid's line, Shall bear the prom-ised Seed.  
Like her whom God's own maj-es-ty Came down to shad-ow o'er. A-men.

4 She meekly bowed her head  
To hear the gracious word,  
Mary, the pure and lowly maid,  
The favored of the Lord.

5 Blessèd shall be her name  
In all the Church on earth  
Through whom that wondrous mercy came,  
Th' incarnate Savior's birth.

6 Jesus, the Virgin's Son,  
We praise Thee and adore,  
Who art with God the Father One  
And Spirit evermore.

(Please Stand)

† THE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

† NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

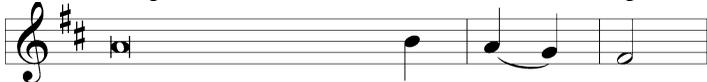


is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

† THANKSGIVING



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



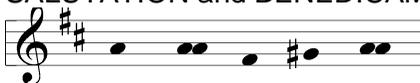
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

† SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

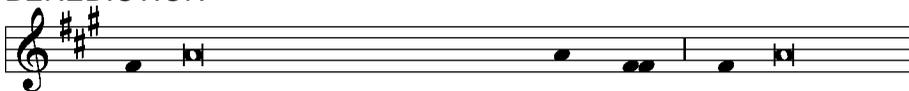


**A** Bless we the Lord.

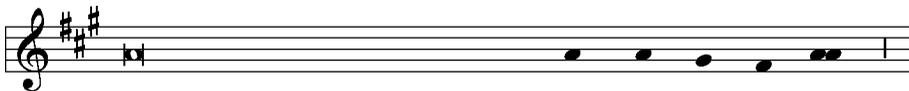


**C** Thanks be to God.

† BENEDICTION



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



**G** A - men, a - men, a - men.

† CLOSING HYMN NO. 332: "Savior of the Nations, Come"



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

- 5        **God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.**
- 6        **For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.**
- 7        **From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.**
- 8        **Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT:** 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16, Romans 16:25–27, Luke 1:26–38

***The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh***

When King David “*lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,*” he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Samuel 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, “conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary” (Apostles’ Creed). That holy child, the incarnate “*Son of the Most High,*” receives “*the throne of His father David*” and begins to reign “*over the house of Jacob forever*” (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is “*the mystery that was kept secret for long ages*” but is now “*made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God*” in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

***JOIN US for Christmas Services***

**Mid-Week Advent Worship at 6:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight at 7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship at 11:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day Communion Worship at 10:00 a.m.**

**New Year's Eve Communion Worship at 7:00 p.m.**