



*The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory*

*- John 1:14*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Second Sunday of Christmas – January 5, 2014**

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

[www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)

Phone: 724-625-1830      email: [office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)

Pastor's cell: 724-766-6686      Pastor's email: [pastormarkbringman@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarkbringman@gmail.com)

Rev. Mark Bringman, Pastor

John Thickey, Organist

We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas – January 5, 2014**

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

**PRELUDE:** 'Of the Father's Love Begotten' – arr. Wilbur Held  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our life, our mercy, our might. **Amen.**

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.

**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.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #267: Joy to the World**

**\*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.**

**\*GLORY TO GOD**



All glo - ry be to God on high and peace to all on earth;  
Lord Christ, you are the Lamb of God, who takes our sin a - way;  
You are the Ho - ly One, Most High, Lord Je - sus Christ, a - lone,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, King, we praise you for your worth.  
now scat - ed at the Fa - ther's side, have mer - cy when we pray.  
you and the Ho - ly Spir - it with the Fa - ther on his throne.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup>For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.\

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;  
praise your | God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates**

**and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace | on your borders  
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command | to the earth,  
a word that runs | very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup>God gives | snow like wool,  
scattering | frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup>**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

<sup>19</sup>**God declares the | word to Jacob,  
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3 - 14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

## **\*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

The gospel according to John.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #487: *What Feast of Love***

### PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

***Sally and Sam:*** I present Nora Ruth Lewis for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your daughter baptized into Christ?

***Michael and Elizabeth:*** I do.

As you bring your daughter to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the Word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your daughter may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your daughter grow in the Christian faith and life?

***Michael and Elizabeth:*** I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this daughter in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

***Sally and Sam:*** I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Nora Ruth and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

***All:*** We do.

**BAPTISMAL SONG #732: *Borning Cry (verses 1 and 2)***

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to  
see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell."

2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun."

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, his is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**BAPTISM**

Nora Ruth Lewis, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

You belong to Christ,  
in whom you have been baptized.

**Alleluia.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse

them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Nora Ruth with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Nora Ruth, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

Assisting Minister: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

**BAPTISMAL SONG # 732: *Borning Cry*** (verses 3 & 4)

3 "In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been,  
with just one more surprise."

4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold."

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In joy and wonder, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Dwell among your people, and fill the church with your wisdom. Guide us in ways of righteousness, that we may show others the witness of your goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

May every season work for your good purpose. Send sun and rain, warmth and chill, in due measure to draw forth your bounty from the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Journey with all refugees and displaced peoples. Lead them in safety to a place where they will find security, that they rejoice in the care you have provided them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Be a sure defense to all whose lives are threatened by pain, personal crisis, or persistent fear especially Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Give them shelter from hardship and rest when they are weary Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shine your light through this faith community into the wider community. Make us a beacon for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness and who are in need of mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Giving thanks that the saints now dwell with you in the fullness of your kingdom, we ask you to keep us faithful to your truth revealed in Christ until you make all things new. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY – 'What Child is This' – arr. Timothy Albrecht**

**\*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.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

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.

**\*PREFACE**

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:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, Lord most holy, God of pow'r and God of might:  
heav'n and earth reveal your glory. Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!  
Blessed be the coming Savior. Hail, hosanna, Lord of Light!**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

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.

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. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**\*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

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal. Come, behold and receive your God.

**COMMUNION**

*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The inner ring of individual cups has grape juice.*

**AGNUS DEI: Lamb of God**

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, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN #646 WOV: We Three Kings of Orient Are**

1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

**Refrain**

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again;  
king forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. Refrain

3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worshipping God Most High. Refrain

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain

5 Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heav'n sings alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies. Refrain

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,  
that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life,  
you give us food for our journey.  
As you led the magi by a star,  
as you brought the holy family home again,  
guide us on the way unfolding before us.  
Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim  
good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

May the Word that Mary brought to birth  
carry you into new and abundant life.

**Amen.**

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms  
enfold you with love and strength.

**Amen.**

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song  
bring harmony to our world.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #270: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE 'Angel's from the Realms of Glory' – arr. Michael Burkhardt**

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Dave Knauff

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Usher:**

**Attendance Christmas Eve:** 158

**Attendance Christmas Day:** 23

**Attendance Last Week:** 37

**Weekly Budgeted Need:** \$ 2,669.62

**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** Not Yet Available

**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ Not Yet Available

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Sally Foster

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:**

**Attendance Christmas Eve Last Year:** 146

**Attendance Christmas Day Last Year:** 22

**Attendance last year:** 29

**Last Week's Giving:** \$ 3,061.00

**Year to Date Receipts:** \$155,977.26

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2012 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.