



*“...Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”*

~Matthew 1:20

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
4th Sunday of Advent – December 21, 2025**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.

Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

You are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms as desired. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

***GATHERING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257)**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

***GREETING**

Peace to you and welcome,
from God the Creator who has always known you,
God the Savior who is already born,
God the Spirit who already knows what you'll ask.

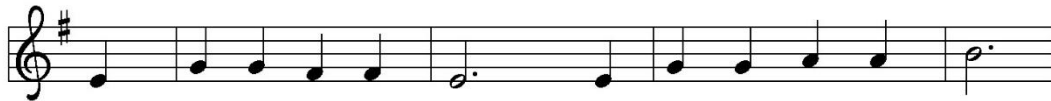
***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God is here, and God sees through every defense that fools the world.
Since we cannot hide from God, there is nothing left to do
but to be honest with each other and humble before God.
So, in humility, we confess our sins.

**God, we have acted helpless,
even when you called us to action.
We have resisted your truth,
even when our lies were exhausting.
We have behaved as though we were alone,
even when you were beside us.
God, we have believed we were dying,
even when you helped us grow.**

God knows we can never undo the sins of this world.
The stories of a painful past still echo here today.

***KYRIE**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Before our first mistakes, God perfected the plan for salvation.
God forgives your sins, all of them.
Even when signs of our old lives remain, God's forgiveness is still at work.
God sets us free to chart a new path.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Each of our Advent candles represents God's generous goodness, the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy. As we light each candle, we recognize the ways God is moving in our midst, the ways God's kingdom has drawn near to us in our Savior Jesus Christ, even as we wait for the fullness of God's kingdom to come.



Light all four candles during the singing of the hymn.

ADVENT SONG *We Light a Candle*

Music notation for the hymn "We Light a Candle" in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are as follows:

We light a can-dle for hope___ and our world that's long-ing for hope
We light a can-dle for peace___ and our world that's long-ing for peace
We light a can-dle for joy___ and our world that's long-ing for joy
We light a can-dle for love___ and our world that's long-ing for love

We light a can-dle for hope___ and our world that's long-ing for hope Ho - ly One,
We light a can-dle for peace___ and our world that's long-ing for peace Ho - ly One,
We light a can-dle for joy___ and our world that's long-ing for joy Ho - ly One,
We light a can-dle for love___ and our world that's long-ing for love Ho - ly One,

___ shine___ with the fire of our lives oh We light a can-dle for
___ shine___ with the fire of our lives oh We light a can-dle for
___ shine___ with the fire of our lives oh We light a can-dle for
___ shine___ with the fire of our lives oh We light a can-dle for

hope___ and our world that's long-ing for hope
peace___ and our world that's long-ing for peace
joy___ and our world that's long-ing for joy
love___ and our world that's long-ing for love

God's goodness has always grown quietly in our midst, like the infant who has grown just out of sight, just beyond our touch. This final candle represents the moment we see and hold God's promise for ourselves.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PRAYER FOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

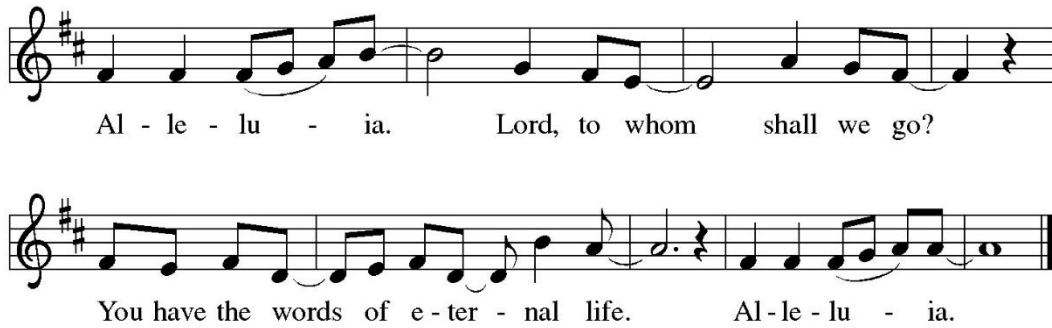
⁷ To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: *No Wind at the Window* (ACS 906)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;
2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come:
4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;



no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;
Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.
sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.



no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
The time for re - deem - ing, the world has be - gun,
both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;
Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,



just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son."
both . . . vic - tor and . . . vic - tim, both . . . yours and di - vine.
re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . . God I say yes."

***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

***Or, “who proceeds from the Father.” The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. And send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.



When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, when physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, all who know the challenges of depression, and all who are ill, especially Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, and all those on our prayer list. We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service, especially Mike. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your in love. Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant and pregnancy loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. Hear us, O God.

Sung Refrain:

**O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside we yearn for you.**

God of life, you always hear our cry. Draw near o us, O God, and receive the prayer gathered before you now with the prayers on the hearts of this congregation today (*blue prayer cards are read*). Into your precious keeping we entrust our prayer. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *People, Look East* (ELW 248)



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Please pray with me.

**God, we cherished what we thought belonged only to us:
our money, our time, our families, and our freedom.**

Yet in this moment, we recognize that every truly good thing
is a gift given from your open hand.

**You bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that
promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and
unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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

Holy God, as soon as you made humankind, you loved them.
From the first human mistake, you planned the path to salvation.
Yet even when you set clear signs of promise in sky or stars,
in the mouths of prophets, or the faces of newborns,
people still felt astonished to receive your goodness.

Jesus, at your birth your parents greeted you with wonder.
On the cross, your enemies crushed you, then marveled as you exuded grace.
And on the night in which you were betrayed, Jesus, you took bread and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to your disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, you 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.

And so we gather around this bread and cup, your body and blood
As disciples gathering to be in your community,
to be fed and nourished, filled with your grace.

Holy Spirit, pour yourself out upon this bread and this cup.
And fill those gathered here with your holiness so we may be
crumbs of your mercy and drops of your goodness.

Make us your people, who can never separate from you again.
Gather us into one 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**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Listen to the promise prepared for you in this moment:

Even when you feel dead, you are alive;
even when you have done wrong, God forgives you.
And even when you feel unwelcome or unworthy,
Jesus brings you to the table where you can find new community.

Come and take your place at the feast that never ends.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (ELW 265)



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Glo - ri - a!

COMMUNION HYMN *That Boy-Child of Mary* (ELW 293)

Refrain



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?

2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,

3 How can he save us, how can he help us,

4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



Refrain

What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?

God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.

born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?

makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father,
he is our Savior,
heaven-sent helper
in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him,
love and adore him,
give ourselves to him
in Bethlehem.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

May God who comes among us, the blessed and holy Trinity, God the Sovereign, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (ELW 257)

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, O 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. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 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*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

*DISMISSAL

“Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent me, I also send you.”

John 20:21

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The flowers on the altar today were supplied by Erin and Jamie Weaver in celebration of Lainey Hager's birthday and Jim Hager's birthday.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Denise H

Acolyte: Abby C

Young Reader: Abby C

Offering: Josie W and Cate S

Greeters:

Attendance from last week: 58 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

The sequence in chapter 2 of Matthew will show how this New Testament Joseph, who receives revelation in dreams and goes to Egypt to save the infant, is reliving the great epic of the Old Testament figure named Joseph. The name Jesus fits into this parallelism between the

Matthew story of Joseph and the Old Testament story of Joseph and Moses, for Moses' successor who completed his work by bringing Israel back to the Promised Land was also named Jesus (Joshua). Matthew has now told us that Mary has conceived this child through the Holy Spirit. The New Testament indicates clearly that the awesome, creative, life-giving power of the Spirit was associated with the resurrection of Jesus, but in the infancy narratives it is related to the very beginning of Jesus' life.

—Raymond E. Brown, SS

[Raymond E. Brown, SS, "The Annunciation to Joseph," *Worship* 61 (1987), 488-89.]

Today's Music

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite, Music: French processional, 15th cent. Augsburg Fortress. / Public Domain.

We Light a Candle. Text and Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, Arr. Sherri Hansen. © 2016 Worldmaking.net (ASCAP) Used by permission. Licensed via CCLA, OneLicense.net and Worldmaking.net.

No Wind at the Window. Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, Music: Irish melody; arr. John L. Bell. GIA Publications, Inc.

People, Look East. Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965, Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934. David Higham Associates / Public Domain / G. Schirmer, Inc.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came. Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, Music: Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham. Glenwood Music Corp. / Public Domain.

That Boy-Child of Mary. Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, Music: Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP). Liturgy words and music taken from SundaysandSeasons.com Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission. Reprinted under One License: A-724822 and CCLI.

Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 63:7-9 *Israel saved by God's own presence*

Psalms 148 *The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

Hebrews 2:10-18 *Christ shares flesh and blood to free humankind*

Matthew 2:13-23 *The slaughter of innocent children*