

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (MEMBER OF WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD) 36620 COUNTY 4 BLVD. GOODHUE, MN 55027 WORSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 A.M. SATURDAY 4:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve December 24, 2023 5:00 p.m.

Welcome to our visitors! We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please do us the honor of signing our guestbook, providing your full address. Let us know if we can be of any spiritual service to you in the future.

<u>Opening Hymn</u>: CW #354, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

P: Silent night, holy night, C: All the world marvels tonight. P: Behold a child, yet a king, C: A promise fulfilled, the angels sing. *P: Mary watches with tender care,* C: God's own Son, so meek and fair. P: Love beams from His face so dear, C: As the hour of salvation draws near. P: Sing of love, sing of life, C: The Prince of Peace, shall end all strife. *P: Because of our Father's giving grace.* C: Salvation's won - for our sinful race! P: Because of our Savior's dying love C: A home is prepared, in heaven above. *P*: To us a child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n! C: The Wonderful, the Counselor, the Prince of Peace from heav'n! *P: Sleep in heavenly peace.* C: Sleep in heavenly peace.

<u>Hymn:</u> CW #346, "Angels We have Heard on High"

Prayer

P: Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of Jesus, the true Light. Grant that, as we have known on earth the wonder of that Light, we may also behold Him in all His glory in the life to come; through Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

<u>Hymn:</u> CW #350, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Wisemen Choir: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (all men present are encourage to come forward and sing)

<u>Christmas Message</u>

<u>Offering Hymn:</u> CW #347 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Christmas Prayers Lord's Prayer (tune of Away in a Manger)

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name! Your kingdom among us, your will done the same By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone; Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne. The bread that we yearn for provide us each day; As we forgive others, our sins take away; In times of temptation, to lead us be near; From evil deliver your children most dear. For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign. And yours is the power; all things you maintain. To you be the glory, resounding again From all of creation, forever! Amen.

<u>Choir:</u> CW #338

The Candle Lighting Ceremony

(*Candles are lit while the tune silent night is played. Please do not tip over lit candles to light the next candle. Anyone 10 and younger is asked to take a glow stick instead of a candle.*)

P: In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God; the Word was God!

C: In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. P: Jesus is the Light of the World!

C: He is the light; in Him there is no darkness at all. P: As we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another. C: The blood of Jesus – our Emmanuel – has purified us from all sin.

P:Once we were darkness. *C: Now we are light in the Lord!*

<u>Prayer</u>

P: O Holy Spirit, as the light of these candles drives away the darkness, so use the message of Jesus, our Savior, to drive sin and doubt out of our hearts. Lead us – like the shepherds – to share the message that God is again at one with us, because Jesus became one of us. As we have rejoiced at Your first coming, lead us to long for Your second coming. Come, Emmanuel! **C: Amen**

The Blessing of the Newborn Savior

P: The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace! *C: Amen*

Closing Hymn: CW #337 "Silent Night, Holy Night" Please join us tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. for the Christmas Day Service. May the Child born in Bethlehem grant you a joyous celebration of His birth!