

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2025 4:00 pm



Worship Services: Saturdays at 5:00pm • Sundays at 9:45am

Parish Education: Sunday School - Grades Pre-K to 6th - 8:30am • Adult Forum - 8:30am

Confirmation - Grades 7 & 8 - Wednesdays 6:30pm

Church Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm • Fri 9am-12pm

235 S Green Street | PO Box 245 | Somonauk, IL 60552 | 815-498-3667

office@elcastjohns.org | www.elcastjohns.org

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Please stand as you are able

The Call to Worship

P: Welcome to the celebration!

C: **We come to proclaim what angels proclaimed on the first Christmas. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to everyone!**

P: Welcome to Christmas, and God's table. Welcome to the supper of love, and the celebration of new life in Jesus.

C: **We come to worship the Christ. This baby of God is the Messiah for the world and the Savior of us all.**

P: We begin our worship in the name of God our Creator, Jesus, our Savior, and the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

Christmas Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

A brief silence

P: God of peace,

C: **we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of **+** Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C: **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray the Prayer of the Day together.

C: **Almighty God, you made this holy night in order to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

ELW 240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

While Reader is speaking – light the 4 outer candles of the Advent Wreath

Reader: As we celebrate the birth of Jesus and rejoice in His coming to us, we light the Christ candle. Jesus Christ is our hope. He is our peace. Jesus Christ is our joy. He is love-- pure, holy, undying love. Whoever believes in Him will never perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Light the Christ Candle
The Christ Candle

Reader: Christmas is come!
Reader: Christ has come!
Reader: No more waiting!
Reader: No more darkness! We light the Christ candle because the light banishes the dark.

Narrator: This is the story of The Nativity, the birth of our Savior. How we humans were living in darkness and despair. ... And then... there came a Light from Heaven; A Light of salvation and forgiveness and joy!...we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. A birth into the world and a birth within our hearts...

Reading: John 1:1-14
ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing v.1 & 3

Narrator: However, the story of Jesus does not begin on Christmas morning. No, it winds through eons of time ...

Reading: Mark 1:1-5
ELW 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel v. 1 & 2

Reading: Mark 1:6-8
ELW 282 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear v. 1 & 4

Reading: Luke 1:26-38 The Birth of Jesus Foretold
ELW 271 I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve v. 1 & 2

Reading: Luke 1:46-56 Mary's Song of Praise
ELW 251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness v. 1 & 2

Narrator: Back in Nazareth, Joseph has second thoughts about his engagement to Mary because he doesn't know about God's plan for Mary and her baby. So one night, an angel comes to Joseph in a dream. The Angel says to Joseph, "Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit, name him 'Jesus' because he will save his people from their sins."

Ortega Family Singers

Reading: Luke 2:1-7 The Birth of Jesus
ELW 277 Away In A Manger v. 1 & 2

Reading: Luke 2:8-14 The Shepherds and the Angels
ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard On High v. 1 & 2

Reading: Luke 2:15-20
ELW 300 The First Noel v. 1 & 4

Reading: Matthew 2:1-6
ELW 290 Go Tell It On the Mountain v. 1 & 3

Narrator: In a land far to the East, Wise Men see something strange in the sky.
They travel to Bethlehem. Matthew's Gospel continues...

Reading: Matthew 2:7-12

ELW 296 What Child is This

v. 1 & 3

Please stand as you are able

Reading: Matthew 1:22-23

Please be seated

Christmas Meditation

Apostle's Creed

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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,
he is seated at the right hand of
the Father, and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Reader: ...Hear us, O God

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able

The Peace

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

C: And also with you

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Gathered at and around the Lord's table, we remember with thanksgiving that *"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.'"*

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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

P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

Please be Seated

Holy Communion is served

Please Stand

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C: Amen

Candle Lighting

ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night all verses v. 1-3

As you receive the light, please pass it to your neighbor. When passing the light, please tip only the unlit candle. To avoid burns and spilled wax,

lighted candles should be held vertical at all times.

Reader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the light of Christ has shined. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify our Father in heaven.

The Benediction

P: The triune God, glorious Myster, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
 † bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn ELW 283 O Come All Ye Faithful all verses v. 1-4

Dismissal

A: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

A2: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #28510