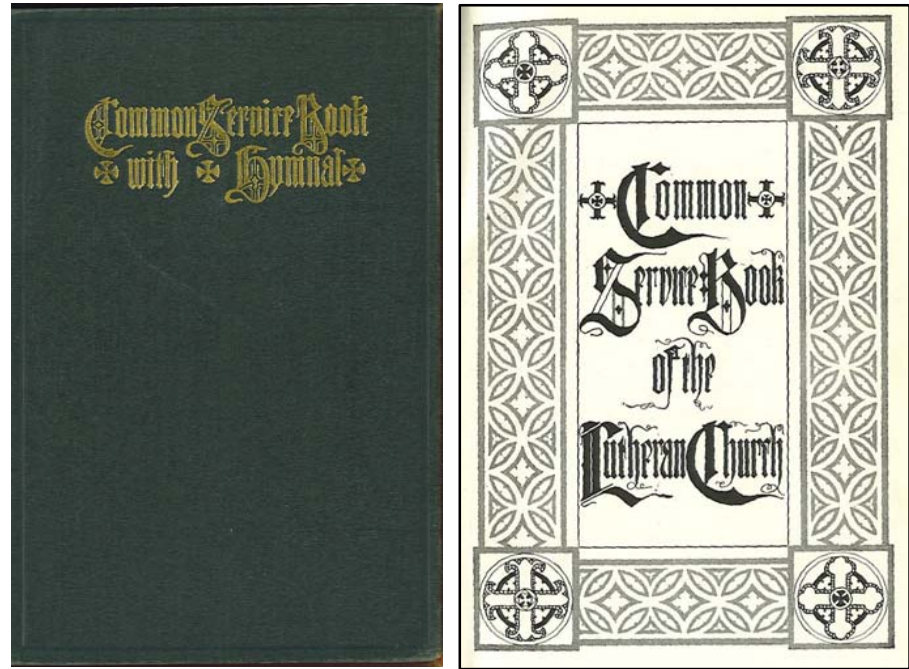


*December 8, 2004 - The Second Wednesday in Advent
7:00 pm Vespers Service*



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Judith A. Moller, Pastor

Gayle Spahr, Parish Co-ordinator

Welcome to Advent Vespers at St. John's! The complete service for this evening's worship is printed in this booklet and is based on the Vespers service from the Common Service of the Lutheran Church (1917).

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Psalm-Prelude in D minor Op. 32 No. 1 by Herbert Howells

*Performed by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Steven Cleobury, Director of Music
From the CD "Choral Evensong live from King's College Cambridge", EMI Records, 1992*

VERSICLES

Please Stand

- P) O Lord, open thou my lips.
C) **And my mouth shall show forth the praise.**
- P) Make haste, O God, to deliver me.
C) **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- P) Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
C) **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Alleluia.**

Please be Seated

THE PSALM

Psalm 122 by Richard Woodward

*Performed by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, David Willcocks, Conductor
From the CD "The Psalms of David", EMI Records, 1998*

Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said unto me:
 We will go into the house of the Lord.
- 2 Our feet shall stand:
 in Thy gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city
 that is at unity in itself;
- 4 For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord:
 to testify unto Israel, and to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.
- 5 For there is the seat of judgement:
 even the seat of the house of David.
- 6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

they shall prosper that love Thee.
7 Peace be within Thy walls:
and plenteousness within Thy palaces.
8 For my brethren and companions' sakes:
I will wish thee prosperity.
9 Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God:
I will seek to do thee good.

Gloria Patri

**C) Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-10

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. 6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. 8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! 10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

P) O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C) **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 2:12-16

12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; 13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. 14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) 16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

P) O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C) **Thanks be to God.**

THE HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Hymn #31 in Common Service Book)

Performed by the Choir of the London Oratory, Andrew Carwood, Director of Music

From the CD "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols", EMI Records, 1996

THE CANTICLES

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis from Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis n F by Charles Wood

Performed by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral London, John Scott, Conductor

From the CD "My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord", Hyperion Records, 1987

P) Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense

C) **And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

"The Magnificat" (Song of Mary - Luke 1:46-55)

My soul doth magnify the Lord,

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded

the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me,

and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy has holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.
GLORY be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

“Nunc Dimittis” (Song of Simeon - Luke 2:29-32)

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
GLORY be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

THE PRAYER

Please Stand

P) Lord, have mercy upon us.
C) **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

- 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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

The Collect for the Day

- P) The Lord be with you.
C) **And with thy spirit.**

- P) Let us pray ...
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Thine Only-begotten Son, so that by His coming we may be enabled to serve Thee with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end.
C) **Amen.**

Other collects may now be said. Each collect concludes:

- P) Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C) **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace

- P) The Lord will give strength unto his people.
C) **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

- P) O God, from Whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto Thy servants that peace, which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end.
- C) **Amen.**

Benedicamus

- P) Bless we the Lord.
- C) **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

- P) The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all
- C) **Amen**

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RETROSPECTIVE

St. John's ELC 1918-58

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Announcements

We welcome all of our visitors this evening, and invite you to worship with us again! Also, please see our website, www.saintjohnlutheran.org, for more information. Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org) and its Delaware-Maryland Synod (<http://www.demdsynod.org>).

Please join us each Weekend!

Sunday

Traditional Liturgy 9:15 am

Sunday School 10:30 am

Contemporary Liturgy 11:45 am

“Common Service Book” and “Service Book and Hymnal”

Beginning in the 18th century, Lutheran synods of the USA issued a sequence of both German and English hymnals which included selections of hymns of Anglican and Wesleyan origin. These culminated in the Common Service Book (music edition, Philadelphia 1917).

Its successor, the Service Book and Hymnal (Minneapolis 1958), was adopted by some two-thirds of North American Lutherans. The decidedly ecumenical repertoire of this book included 14 plainsong melodies, 37 Scandinavian chorales, and British tunes that outnumbered German chorales two to one. The three settings of the service were 'Anglican Chant,' chorale plainsong, and Gregorian chant. Matins and Vespers were in 'Anglican Chant'.

“Vespers”

The early evening office of prayer in the church. The practice of Christian evening prayer dates from the third century and continued the Jewish custom of prayer at the time of day when light was fading and lamps were being lit. The verse Psalm 141:2, "Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice," has been traditionally associated with vespers. The term Vespers is from the Latin word for "evening."

“Magnificat”

This song of praise, also known as "The Song of Mary," is from the account in Luke 1:46-55 of Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth when Mary was pregnant with Jesus and Elizabeth was pregnant with John the Baptist. The term is from the opening words of the passage in the Latin Vulgate, Magnificat anima mea Dominum ("My soul magnifies the Lord"). The Magnificat is the traditional canticle of vespers and emphasizes God's holiness and power, God's option for the poor and judgment on the rich, the fulfillment of God's promises, and the redemption of God's people.

“Nunc dimittis”

This canticle, also known as “The Song of Simeon”, is from the account in Luke 2:29-32 of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple by Mary and Joseph. It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. When Simeon saw the child Jesus he took him up in his arms, blessed God, and said, "Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised." The term Nunc dimittis is from the initial words of the Song of Simeon in Latin, which mean "now let depart."

“Book of Common Prayer”

The texts of the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis sung in today's service are from the 1549 version of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Like the King James Bible published in 1611, the 1549 BCP was so successful that many parts of it were left unchanged for the next 400 years. As a result, composers of Anglican choral versions of the Psalms and the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis frequently used these texts.