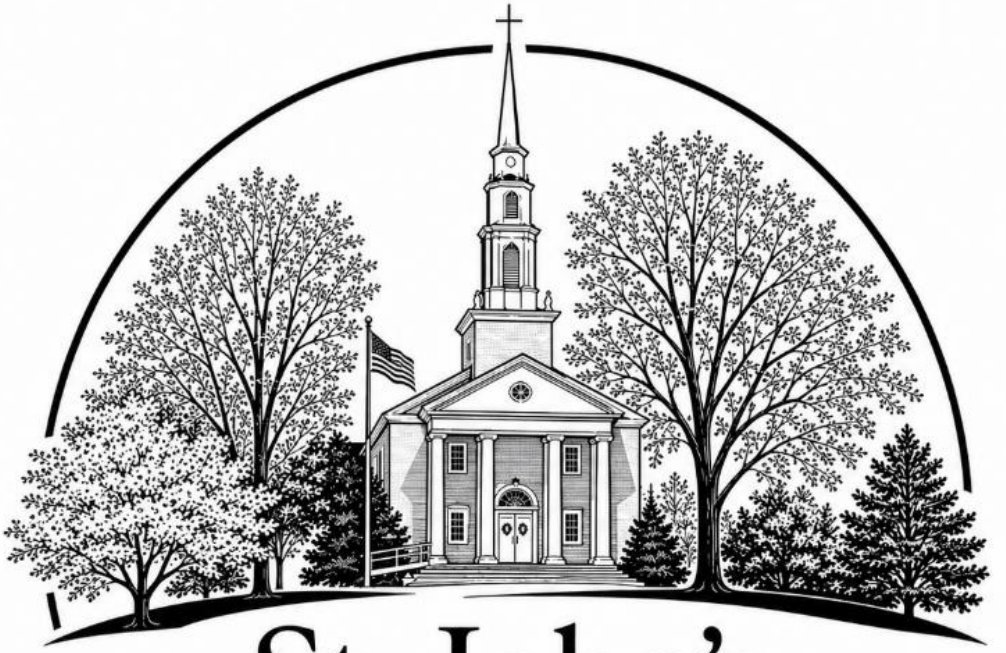


St. John's Lutheran Church

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 | 10:30am

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

PRELUDE

We stand.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending* HYMN 435

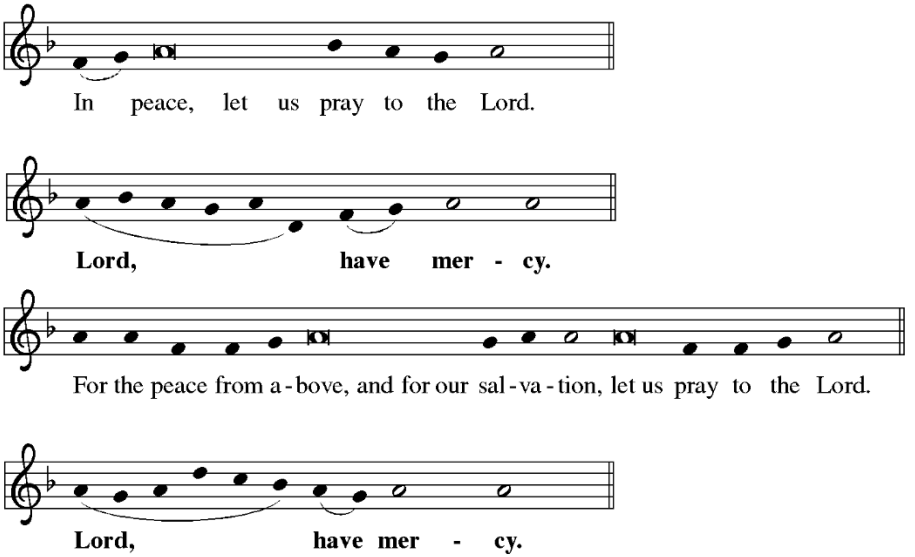
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER

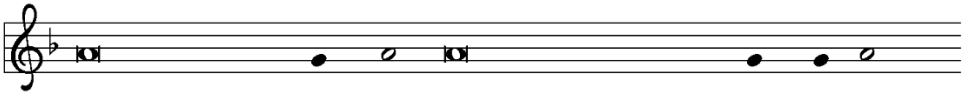
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *O Come O Come Emanuel, verses 1-2* HYMN 257

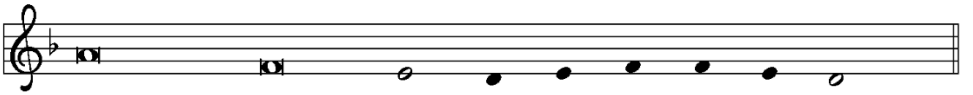
GREETING

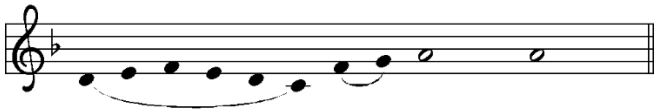
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

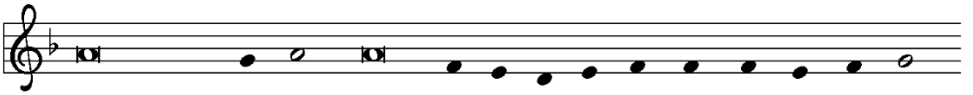
KYRIE

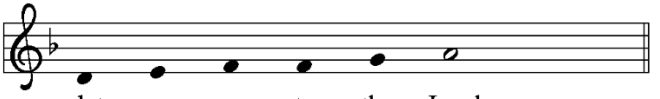


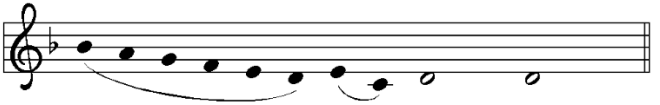

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

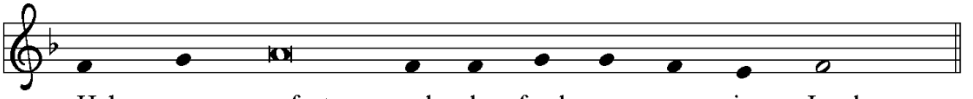

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

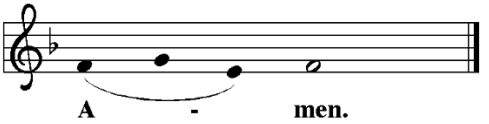

Lord, have mer - cy.


For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,


let us pray to the Lord.


Lord, have mer - cy.


Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.


A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING ISAIAH 64:1-9

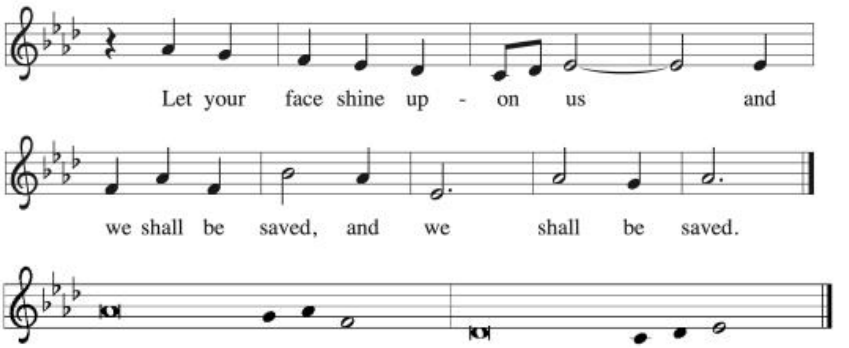
A reading from Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us

and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
[8] Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
[9] Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM . PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 O Lord | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

17 Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R

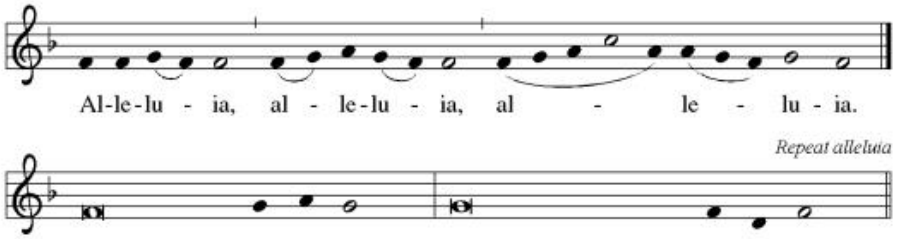
SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
[4] I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5] for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—[6] just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—[7] so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8] He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Alleluia. Show us your steadfast | love, O LORD,* and grant us | your salvation. *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL MARK 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to St Mark, the thirteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:] [24] "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
[25] and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
[26] "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. [27] Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

[28] "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32] "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35] Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, [36] or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON REV. MARTHA MCCREIGHT

We stand.
HYMN OF THE DAY *Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying* HYMN 436

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

We kneel or sit for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.



We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We sit.

GREETINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.

To support the mission and ministry of St. John's, you can give online at www.stjohnelca.org or scan the QR code above.

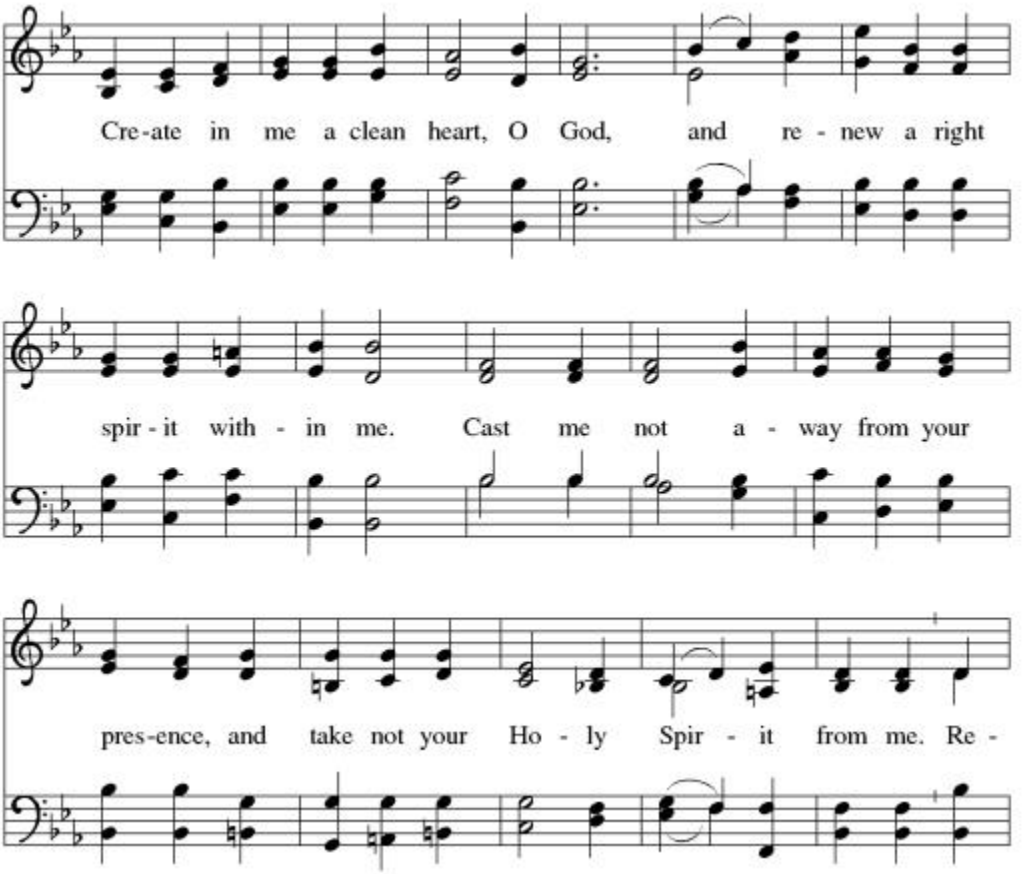
OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

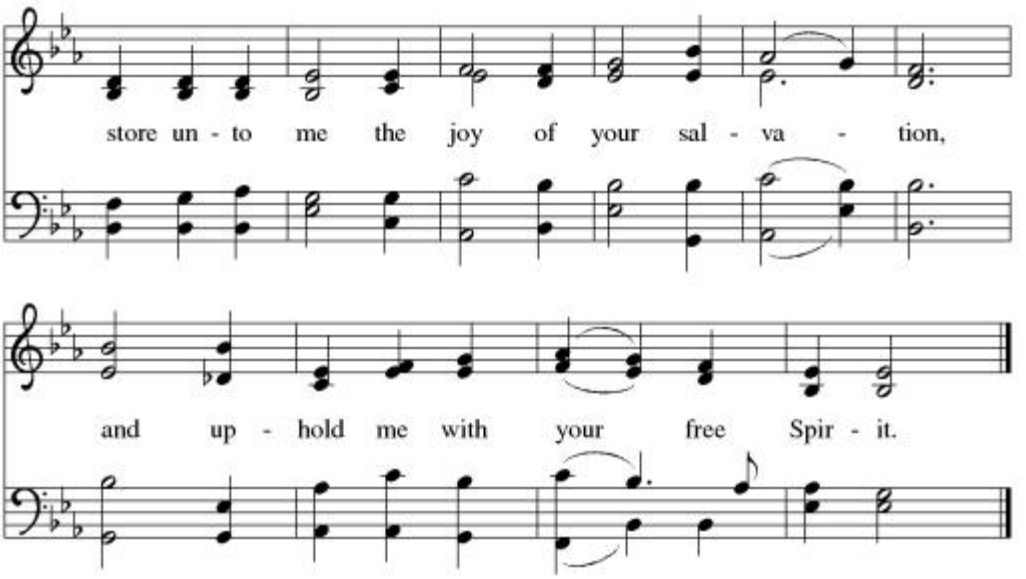
Gustav Holst

We stand.

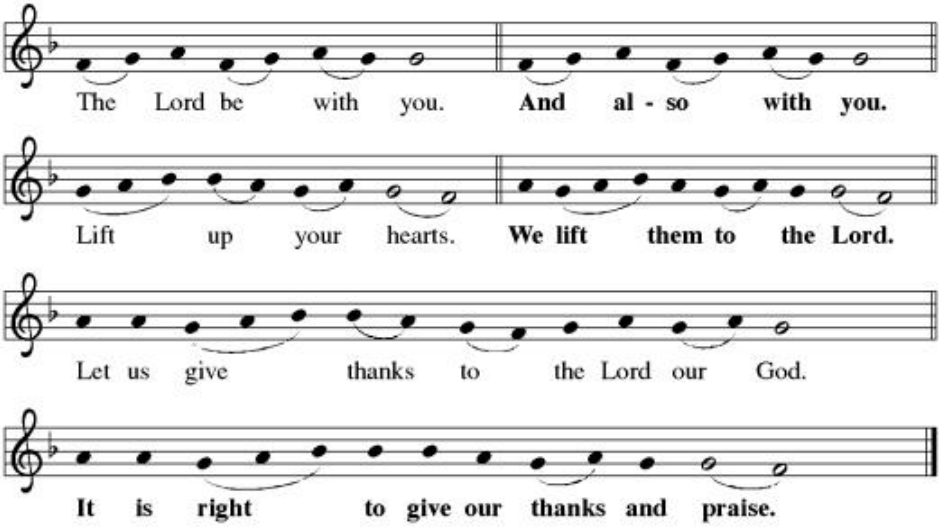
MEAL

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

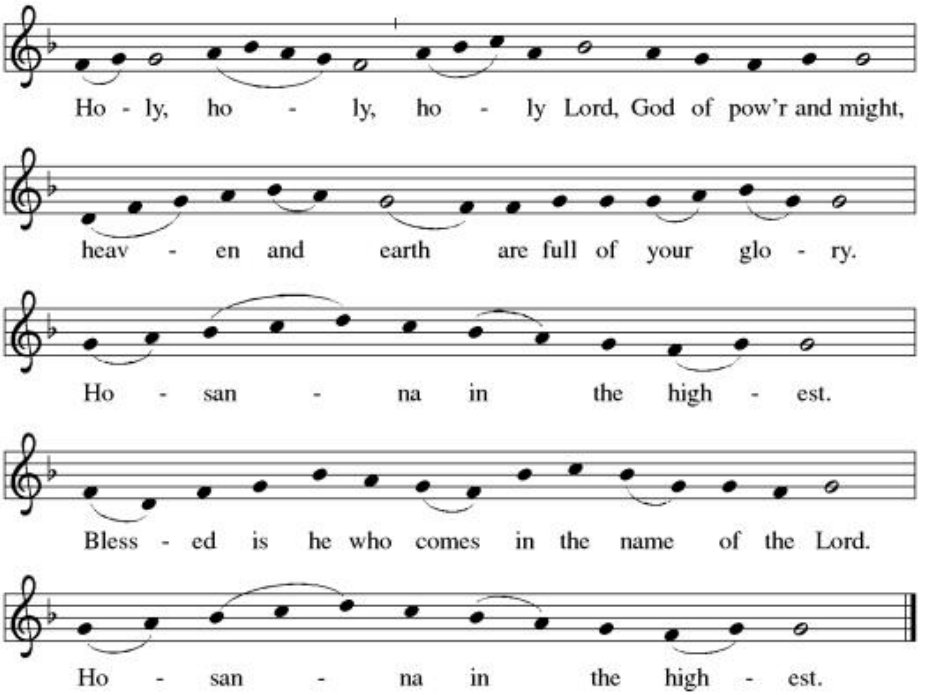




GREAT THANKSGIVING



Here the minister continues with preface for the day, concluding: we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,

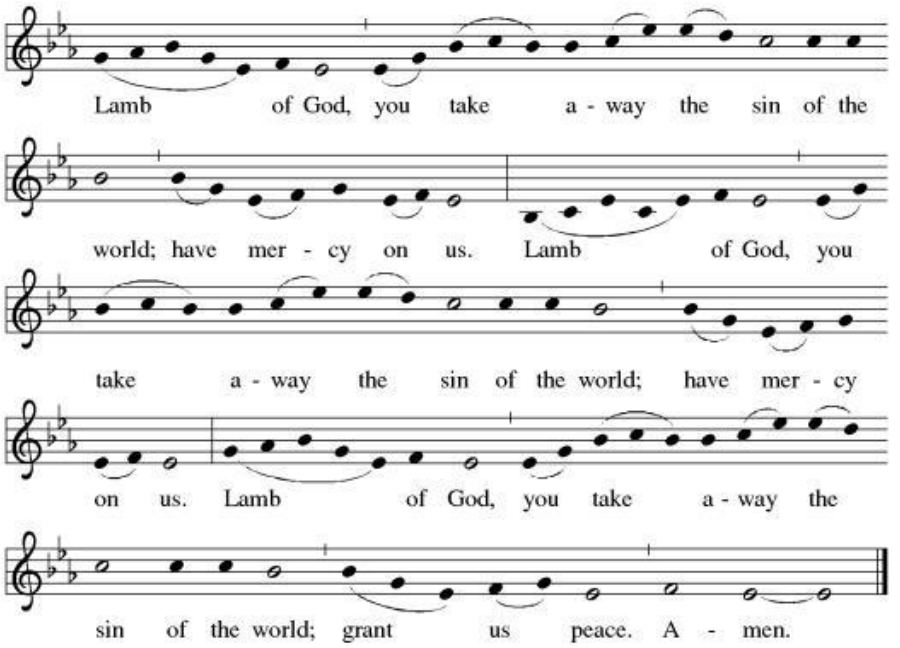
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sins, and promising eternal life, are welcome at the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.
We sit.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* HYMN 260

We stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.
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

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* HYMN 244

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Patrick Walker
Worship Assistant	
Reader	Petr Coffin
Communion Assistant	
Acolyte	
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Pam Bartlett, Cheryl & Joe Milukas
Little Free Pantry	
Coffee Hour	Karen & Sue Brandt

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday November 29
8:30am Worship - Chapel
10:30am Worship - Sanctuary
5:00pm Advent Night - Welcome Room

Wednesday December 2
12:00pm Noonday Eucharist
12:15pm Advent Book Study – Sweden Room
4:00pm Confirmation – Sweden Room
6:00pm Hand bells – Choir Room
7:00pm Choir – Choir Room

Sunday December 6
8:30am Worship - Chapel
9:30am Sunday School - Luther Hall
10:30am Worship - Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 13
6:00 pm Lessons & Carols | Santa Lucia Program with Scandinavian goodies afterwards

WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS, USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP



This week we pray for . . . Aiden**,** Andrew, Barbara, Beryl, Cat, Chrissy, Cody, Debbie, Gary, Gerald, James, Julie, Kelly, Kim, Lily, Marie, Sandra, Shirley, Toby, Valerie, Volter, Barbara, Kim, Debbie, Chrissy, Christian, and Baby Gianna . If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office.

Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs at 406-565-3592.

Parish Office: parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com
Pastor Martha: MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com
Interim Director of Music: musicdirector@sjlcstamford.com
Finance: finance@sjlcstamford.com



We are delighted to have you with us today! To help us keep track of our cherished visitors, we kindly ask that you sign the visitor book located in the Narthex. This small gesture allows us to connect with you and offer any assistance you may need. Additionally, our ushers are more than happy to provide guidance and answer any questions you might have during worship. Whether you're here for the first time or returning, we hope you feel welcomed.



Busy bags are in the Narthex for your little ones to enjoy. These bags are thoughtfully prepared to keep children engaged during the service. Additionally, we invite you to explore and make use of the Pray ground area at the back of the Sanctuary and/or the Nursery, both designed to provide a welcoming and enriching environment for our young attendees. We hope these resources help create a meaningful and enjoyable experience for your family.

Mission Statement

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

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Advent at St John's Lutheran 2026



Sunday Worship in Advent: November 29th | December 6th | December 13th | December 20th

Join us for weekly worship at 8:30am (chapel) and 10:30am (sanctuary) where we will light the Advent wreath with prayer and join in together on the journey throughout the season.

Wednesdays in Advent: December 2nd, December 9th, December 16th

Join us for weekly Advent book study and discussion in the Sweden Room after the noonday service. This year, we will be discussing Rev Tish Harrison Warren's book "Advent: The Season of Hope" – feel free to purchase a copy or let Pastor Martha know and she will order one for you.

Advent Night: Sunday November 29th at 5pm

At 4:30pm we will decorate the tree in the sanctuary. Please join us if you can.

At 5pm, we will be down in the Welcome Room for our annual Advent Night with dinner and various crafts to make as an individual or as a family.

Santa Lucia with Advent Lessons and Carols Service: Sunday December 13th at 6pm

We will hold our annual Santa Lucia program (in the evening this year!) coupled with an Advent Lessons and Carols service. It will be complete with children's and choir groups, guest musicians, and goodies afterwards down in the Welcome Room! Invite your friends and neighbors to join in this blessed St John's tradition!

The 4th Sunday of Advent: Sunday December 20th

After the 10:30am worship, we will decorate the sanctuary and chapel for the Christmas season – any and all help would be greatly appreciated!





Sunday, December 13 - 6:00pm

This service will weave together the beauty and mystery of the Scandinavian Santa Lucia observance and the traditional Advent Service of Lessons and Carols. Come hear both the children and adults of the St. John's Choir singing seasonal Scandinavian songs and join your own voices in favorite Advent carols. A reception will follow featuring Scandinavian goodies.

We are currently seeking children and adults interested in taking part in this service either in the Santa Lucia procession or singing with the choir. Please speak with Patrick Walker if you would like to get involved!

The first rehearsal of the Santa Lucia Choir took place this past Sunday and was a great success! There's still time to join the choir if you would like. Simply come to any of the upcoming rehearsals immediately following coffee hour each Sunday. If you would like to hear the music prior to coming to rehearsal you can listen to recordings and even view the score by clicking HERE.



Our Mitten Tree is up in the narthex in the back of the sanctuary. Donations of mittens (gloves), scarves, and hats will be accepted through the first week of January. All donations go to local charities. Please help make this a warmer winter for those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Effren at 203-515-0843 or meffren0703@gmail.com.



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 Family Christmas Eve Worship - 5:00 pm
Prelude & Candlelight Service - 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

December 25 Christmas Day Worship
10:00 am in the Chapel



Sunday, December 27 Worship

A single service at 10:30 am will feature Congregational Lessons and Carols. For the coffee hour, please bring your leftover Christmas cookies and treats to share with everyone.



2026 Christmas Decorations & Music Contributions Form

Help decorate the church and let the sanctuary walls ring with joyous carols of Christmas by making a financial contribution. Use this form to order poinsettias or to make a gift to the Special Music Fund. Indicate if your gift is in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Quantity _____ 10-inch, red poinsettia(s) @ ($20 each). Total for poinsettia(s) $_____

____ **Please "check" if you will be taking home your poinsettia(s)**
Poinsettias may be taken home following the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service or any time after.

$ _____Contribution to the Worship & Music Fund

All contributions may be designated **in memory** or **in honor** of a loved one.
~ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ~

Circle One: In Memory of: In Honor of:

Name: _____

Name: _____
Given by:

_____

This form, along with your contribution, must be placed in the offering plate or returned to the office no later than Wednesday, December 16. Thank you!

Amount Enclosed: _____ Envelope Number: __