



St. John's Lutheran Church Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS
December 1, 2024 | 10:30am



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

PRELUDE AND INTROIT *E'EN SO LORD, JESUS, QUICKLY COME*

We stand.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Lift up your heads

TRURO

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the
3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
*4 Re - deem - er come! I o - pen wide my heart to
5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
4 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner
5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.
2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!
3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.
5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Keep awake. Stay alert. The kingdom of God is near.

We are God's partners in hope.

The days are surely coming when God will fulfill the promise.

We are God's partners in hope.

A righteous branch will spring up and will bring forth justice.

We are God's partners in hope.

Stand up. Raise your hands. Your redemption is drawing near.

We are God's partners in hope.

As we light the first Advent candle, the candle of hope, may we be partners in hope, witnesses to the promise that hope is coming in the One born into the world.

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

The musical notation for the Kyrie consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Cantor and All, with the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The second staff is for the Cantor and All, with the lyrics "Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy." The third staff is for the Cantor and All, with the lyrics "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs.

Cantor: All:
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: All:
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Cantor: All:
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go even to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of the God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against Him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and justice on the earth; for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless; the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

GENESIS 3:1-15

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ADVENT CAROL

HYMN 263

SECOND READING

ISAIAH 40: 1-11

ADVENT CAROL

HYMN 256

THIRD READING

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

ADVENT ANTHEM

ZION HEARS THE WATCHMEN SINGING

FOURTH READING

MICAH 5:2-4

ADVENT ANTHEM

BETHLEHEM CAROL

FIFTH READING

LUKE 1:26-38

ADVENT ANTHEM

THE LINDEN TREE CAROL

HOMILY

THE REV^D MARK A. GRORUD

PRAYER

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;

People: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Leader: Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

People: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

People: Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Leader: We wait for thy loving-kindness, O Lord.
People: In the midst of thy temple.

We stand.

CREED

Apostles'

As the whole people of God, let us profess our faith:

**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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

This is the truth

KIRBY (*contemporary*)

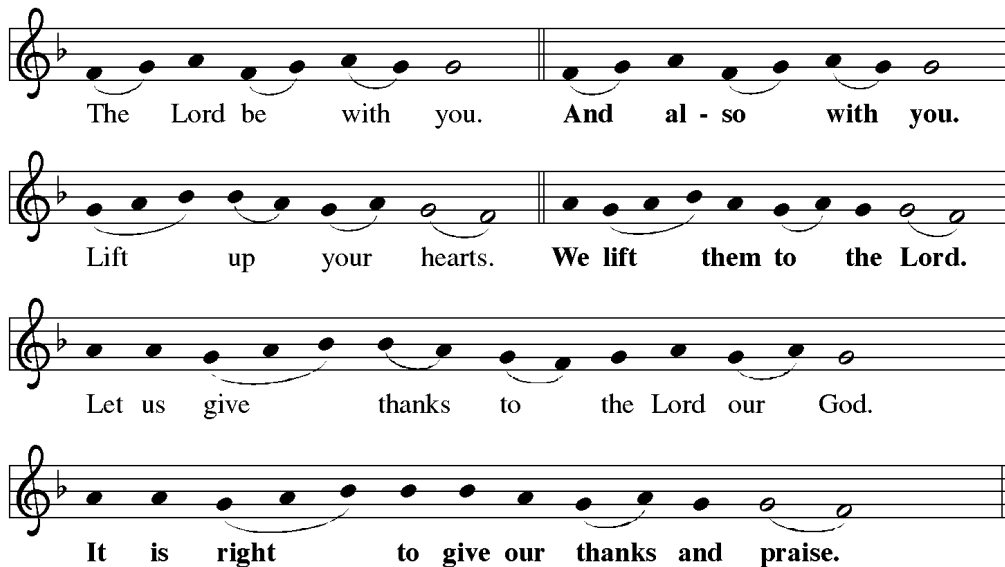
We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

PUER NOBIS

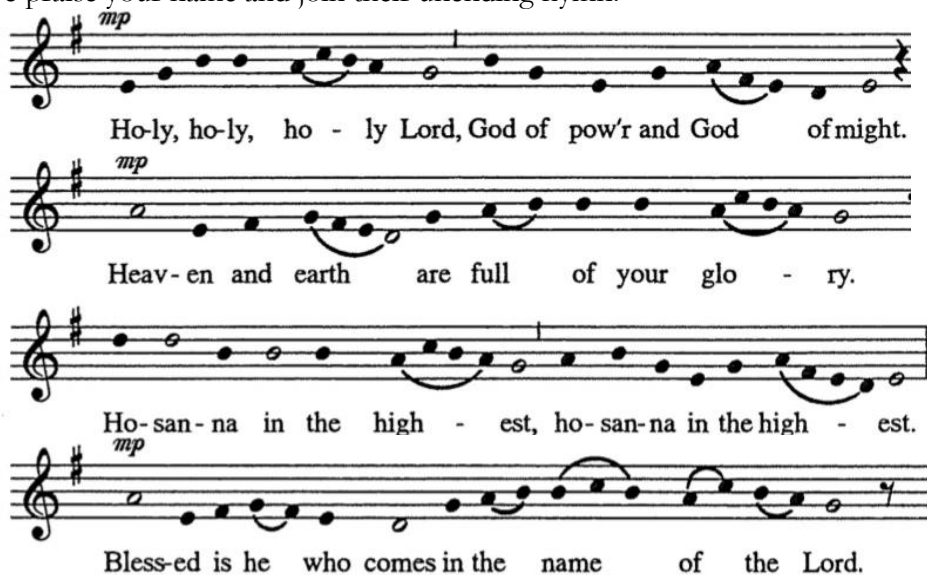
All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



mp
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.
mp
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho-san-na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.
mp
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available if requested.

We sit.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

O Word, that goest forth on high

LEHMAN (*contemporary*)

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

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev ^d Mark A. Grorud
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	
Reader	Teresa Moses
Communion Assistants	Teresa Moses
Acolyte	
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	Charlie Enright, J. Geils, Janet Halpin
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Mike Mahler
Coffee Hour	Janet Segerdell

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 1

Decorate the Sanctuary - 4:00 pm | Advent Night - 5:00 pm Welcome Room

Tuesday, December 3

Choristers - 5:15 pm Choir Room | Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 4

Confirmation Class - 4:30 pm Sweden Room

Handbells - 6:00 pm Reformation Room | Choir Rehearsal - 7:00 pm Choir Room

Friday, December 6

Quilting Christmas Party - 5:30 pm Sweden Room

Looking Ahead . . .

- December 8 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - 5:00 pm
December 13 Holiday concert by Mary McCue and Nathan Lively-Greyling - 5:00 pm
December 15 Santa Lucia Procession
December 24 Family Christmas Eve Worship - 5:00 pm
 Prelude & Candlelight Service - 8:30 pm
December 29 Single Service - 9:30 am

MISSION STATEMENT

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

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church Stamford CT is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

MUSIC AT ST JOHNS

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

a living Christmas



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
5PM**



2024 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 18. Thank you!

Amount Enclosed: _____ Envelope Number: _____