



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025 | 10:30am

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

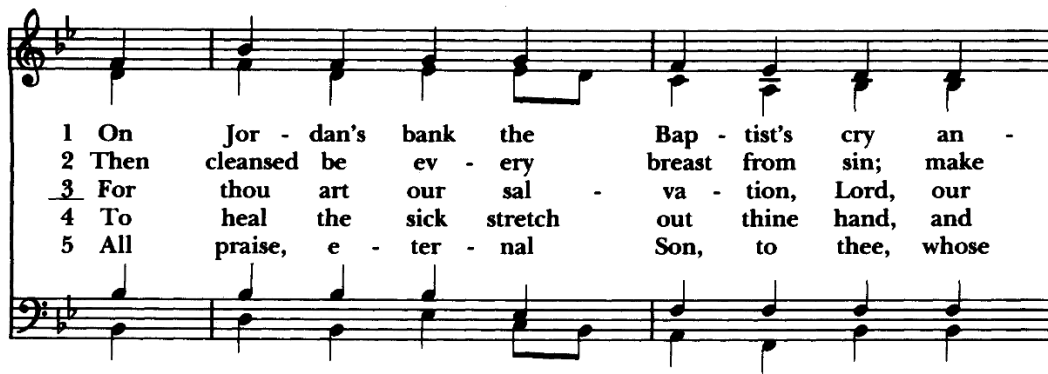
Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion, forgive our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you
in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through ✝ Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

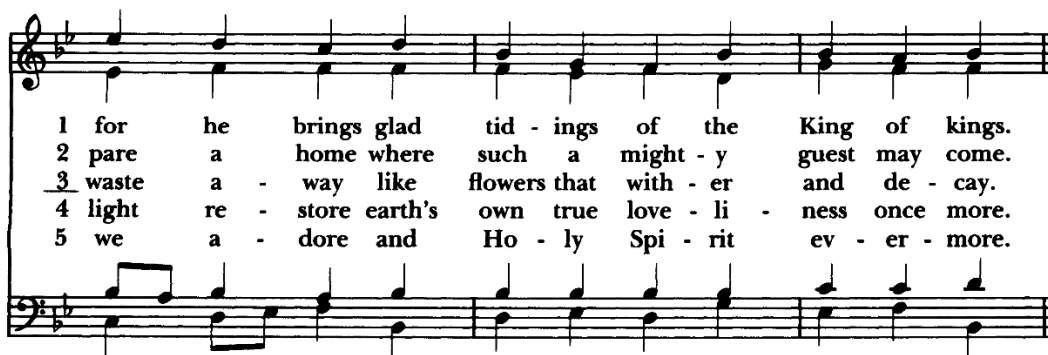
Amen.



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose



1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 ref - uge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther



1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

ADVENT WREATH: THE BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.
You fasten righteousness around your waist
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.
We ask that peace abound,
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.
Amen.



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

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 11:1-10

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A SHOOT shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 15:4-13

A reading from the book of Romans.

FOR whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹²and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

verses 1 & 2



- 1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

IN those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 3.

We sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

PASTOR MARTHA

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

HYMN 246

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.

We kneel or sit.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each intercession:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer

We stand.

PEACE

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

We sit.

GREETINGS

MEAL

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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



OFFERTORY ANTHEM *How beauteous are their feet*

STANFORD

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.
Ho-san-na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

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.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

We sit.

LAMB OF GOD

Cantor: *mp*

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you
3. Key of Da - vid and Day - spring from on high:
4. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

1.2.3. All:

take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us, have

4.

mer - cy on us. world, grant us

All:

peace, grant us peace.

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

E'en so, Lord Jesus

MANZ

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.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Prepare the royal highway

HYMN 249

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!



POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev ^d Martha McCreight
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Peter Coffin
Communion Assistant	Lois Coffin, Susan Ylitalo
Acolyte	
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	J. Geils, Janet Halpin
Little Free Pantry	
Coffee Hour	Greta & Mark Schneider

WEEKLY CALENDAR

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 3

12:00 noon - Midweek Eucharist - Chapel
4:30 pm - Confirmation Class - Sweden Room
6:00 pm - Bells | 7:00 Choir

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 7

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship
9:30 am Sunday School

Wednesday, December 10

12:00 noon - Midweek Eucharist - Chapel
4:30 pm - Confirmation Class - Sweden Room
6:00 pm - Bells | 7:00 pm Choir

Finance Committee Update

We here at St. John's are grateful for the generous giving of our congregation, especially during this Christmas season. As we approach year-end, unfortunately we still have an offering gap to close and current projections show we will fall short of our budget. If you are able to contribute a bit extra this season, we offer our heartfelt thanks---your support sustains our church and its mission.

The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

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.

Candles are shinging bright

Santa Lucia Festival



Experience the joy of light!

Sunday, December 14
5pm

Handbell choir and solo, choir, Advent carols, and St. John's children delighting us with favorite Santa Lucia songs.

St. John's Lutheran Church
884 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905