



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 2024 | 10:30am

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

### PRELUDE

*We stand.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things we have done  
and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you,  
and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live  
and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

**Walk gently in the way of peace.**

"Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low."

**Walk gently in the way of peace.**

"The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth."

**Walk gently in the way of peace.**

"All flesh shall see the salvation of God."

**Walk gently in the way of peace.**

As we light the second Advent candle, the candle of peace, we remember that the Prince of Peace is coming, and we join in the work of preparing the way.

**We walk gently in the way of peace. 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

The musical score for the Kyrie consists of three staves of music, each with a 'Cantor:' part and an 'All:' part. The music is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are as follows:

**Staff 1:**  
Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. All: Lord, have mer - cy.

**Staff 2:**  
Cantor: Christ, have mer - cy. All: Christ, have mer - cy.

**Staff 3:**  
Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. All: Lord, have mer - cy.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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**

**FIRST READING**

MALACHI 3:1-4

A reading from the book of Malachi

**S**EE, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

LUKE 1:68-79



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,  
2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,  
3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.  
 a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.  
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;  
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,  
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.  
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.  
 oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

**SECOND READING**

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

A reading from the book of Philippians.

**I** THANK my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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.

GOSPEL

LUKE 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**I**N the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan,

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SEQUENCE

*Sing verse 3.*

*We sit.*

SERMON

PASTOR GRORUD

*We stand.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Prepare the royal highway*

HYMN 249

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.*

**MEAL**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Advent Ring*

LUTHERINGS

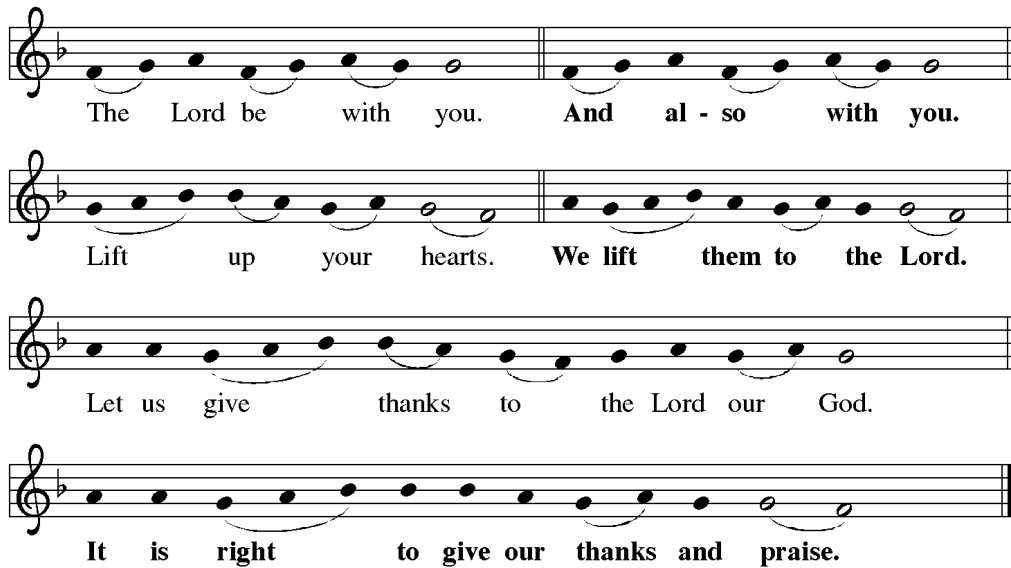
*We stand.*

**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.

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.**

*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.*

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.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

*Lost in the night*

HYMN 243

*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

*Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding*

HYMN 246

### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE

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St. Martin's Mass, David Bednall, Oxford Music Press

Lord's Prayer, Traditional Afrikaan's, arr. Marnus Lively-Greyling

### **Worship Leaders Today**

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev <sup>d</sup> Mark A. Grorud
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Lois Coffin
Communion Assistant	Lois Coffin, Roberta Eichler
Acolyte	Aiden Bartlett, Gino D'Orta
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	Charlie Enright, J. Geils, Janet Halpin
Little Free Pantry	Peter Coffin, Gary Esposito
Coffee Hour	Greta & Mark Schneider

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Tuesday, December 10

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

### Wednesday, December 11

Concert - 1:00 pm Chapel | Confirmation - 4:00 pm Sweden Room

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

### Friday, December 13

Holiday Concert - 5:00 pm Sanctuary

### Looking Ahead . . .

December 15 10:30 am St. Lucia Procession | 3:00 pm Concert Luther Hall

December 19 5:00 pm Concert Sanctuary

Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Worship

8:30 pm Special Music Begins | 9:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day 10:00 am Worship in the Chapel

## 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**

# December Music @ St John's



**8** LESSONS &  
CAROLS 5PM

**15** SANTA LUCIA  
10:30AM

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**11** HOLIDAY  
CONCERT  
1PM- CHAPEL

**24** CHRISTMAS EVE  
5PM - FAMILY  
8:30PM- MUSIC  
9PM - CHOIR

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**13** HOLIDAY  
CONCERT  
7PM

**25** CHRISTMAS DAY  
10AM - CHAPEL

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[www.stjohnelca.org](http://www.stjohnelca.org)





# 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 Tuesday, December 17. Thank you!**

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_