



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024 | 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.

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

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

MICAH 5:2-5

A reading from the book of Micah

BUT you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

MAGNIFICAT

Sung by the choir. Music by George Dyson.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children 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.

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 10:5-10

A reading from the book of Hebrews

CONSEQUENTLY, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

People, look east

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.

GOSPEL

LUKE 1:39-45

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

IN those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?"⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

SERMON

PASTOR GRORUD

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, thou long expected Jesus

HYMN 254 (*Sung to Hyfrydol*)

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 *On this silent night* SARAH QUARTEL (*Contemporary*)

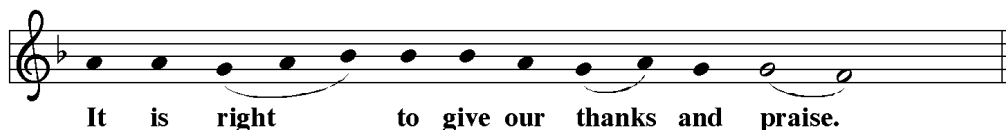
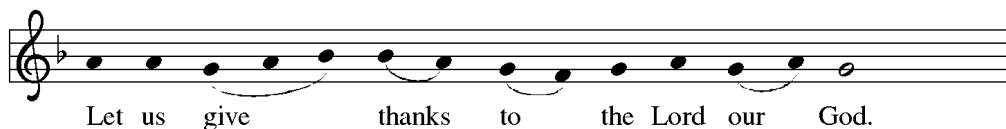
We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

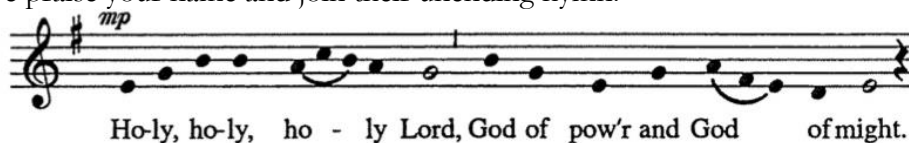
PUER NOBIS

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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
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.

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.


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.

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



MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

Linden Tree Carol

MAXIM (*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.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Joy to the world

HYMN 267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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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 ^d Mark A. Grorud
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Irene Hendricks
Communion Assistant	Irene Hendricks
Acolyte	Liz Ylitalo
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	Charlie Enright, J. Geils, Janet Halpin
Little Free Pantry	Irene Hendricks, Steve Eno
Coffee Hour	Irene Hendricks

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

December 29

9:30 am Congregational Lessons & Carols

January 5

8:30 am & 10:30 am Epiphany Sunday

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.

