



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

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

November 30, 2025 | 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.

THE GREAT LITANY

HYMN 238

ADVENT WREATH: THE BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

Praise to you, O God, **our salvation who is near.**
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your 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.

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.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

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 CAROL

HYMN 279

FIFTH READING

LUKE 1:26-38

OFFERTORY ADVENT ANTHEM

This is the truth

KRIBY (*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.

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 forth, and the Lord will be with you.

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

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

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

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

Leader: We wait for your loving-kindness, O Lord.

People: In the midst of your temple.

GREETINGS

MEAL

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,

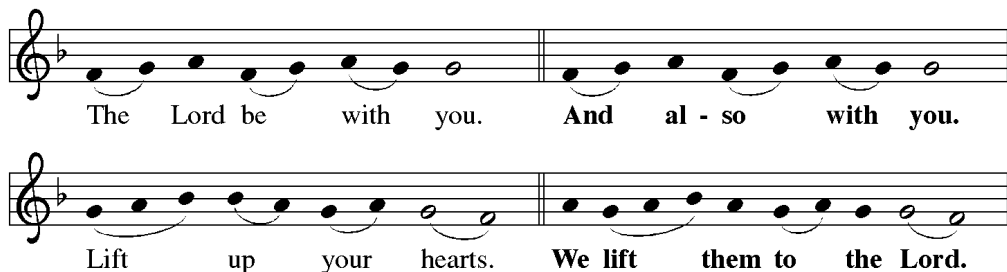
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.

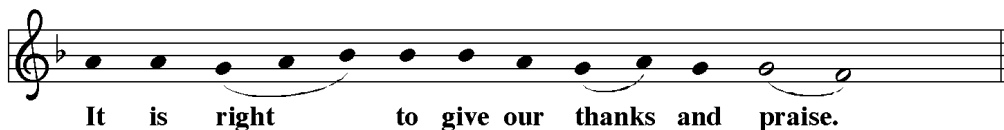
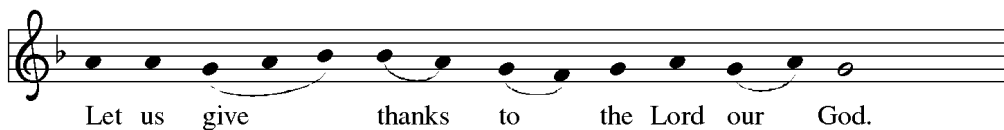
Amen.

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.

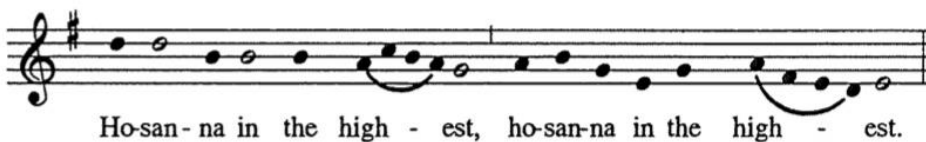
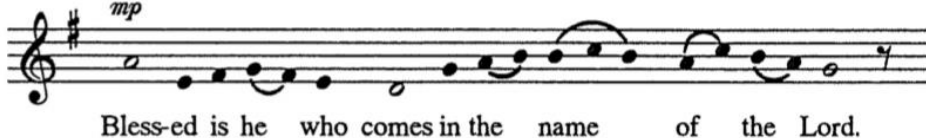
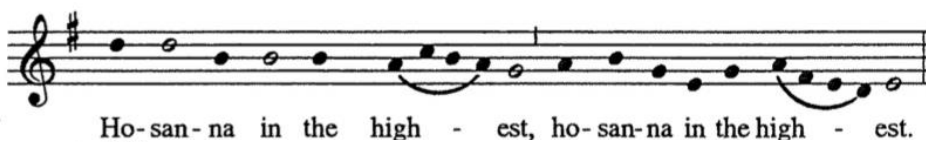
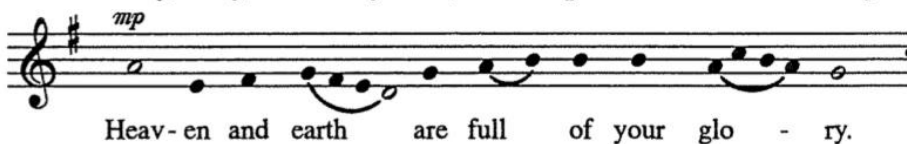
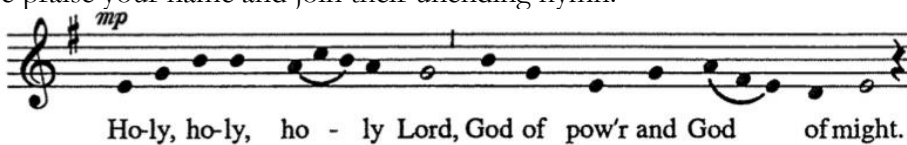
Amen.

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:



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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

We sit.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

Advent Moon

CECILIA MCDOWALL(*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

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



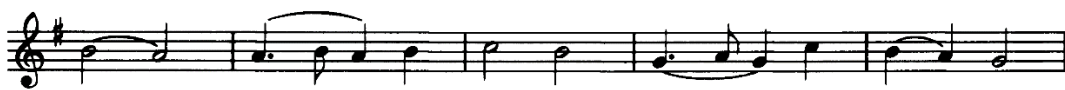
1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



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 Nick Sollom
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Jennifer Leffers
Reader	Jennifer Leffers
Communion Assistant	
Acolyte	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Joe & Cheryl Milukas, Michele Taylor, Shirley Schulz
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Mike Mahler
Coffee Hour	

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

Wednesday, December 10

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

Financial News at St. John's

Please be generous as we close out the fiscal year so that our congregation can finish the year strong!

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.

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.

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