

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**HOLY EUCHARIST**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026**

# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church in America

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**



## Parish Office:

parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com

## Pastor Martha:

MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com

## Cantor Nathan:

NLivelyGreyling@sjlcstamford.com

## Finance:

finance@sjlcstamford.com

📞 203.322.0066

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

📍 884 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT

We are delighted to have you with us today! To help us keep track of our cherished visitors, we kindly ask that you sign the visitor book located in the Narthex. This small gesture allows us to connect with you and offer any assistance you may need. Additionally, our ushers are more than happy to provide guidance and answer any questions you might have during worship. Whether you're here for the first time or returning, we hope you feel welcomed.



Busy bags are in the Narthex for your little ones to enjoy. These bags are thoughtfully prepared to keep children engaged during the service. Additionally, we invite you to explore and make use of the Godly Play area at the back of the Nave, designed to provide a welcoming and enriching environment for our young attendees. We hope these resources help create a meaningful and enjoyable experience for your family.

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## PRELUDE

*We stand.*

## 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**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*We kneel or stand.*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are in bondage 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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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**

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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.**

GLORIA

(Org.)

Chorus

5 *f*

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God\_ in the high - est,

9

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God,\_ glo-ry to God\_ in the high - est,

13 (Optional) *mf*

Glo-ry to God\_ in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth;

17

Lord God, \_ heav'n - ly King, \_ al - migh - ty \_ God and \_ Fa - ther, We \_

21

wor - ship you, \_ we give you thanks, \_ we praise you\_ for your glo - ry.

26 *f*  
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God\_ in the high - est,

30  
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God,\_ glo-ry to God\_ in the high - est,

34 *mf*  
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son\_\_\_\_\_ of the\_\_ Fa - ther,

38  
Lord God,\_\_ Lamb of God, you take a - way the\_\_ sin of the

41 *mp*  
world. Have mer - cy on us; You are seat - ed at\_\_ the right

45  
hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive\_\_ our prayer.\_\_\_\_\_

Chorus  
CONGREGATION

49 *f*  
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God\_ in the high - est,

53 (Optional)  
Glo - ry, glo-ry to God,\_ glo-ry to God\_ in the high - est. For

57 *mf*  
you a - lone\_\_ are the Ho - ly One,\_ You a - lone\_\_\_\_\_ are the\_\_ Lord;

61

You a - lone\_ are the Most\_ High,\_ Je - sus\_ Christ. With the

65

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

**Final Chorus**

CONGREGATION

70

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God,\_ glo-ry to God\_ in the high - est, Glo - ry,

75

glo-ry to God,\_ glo-ry to God\_ in the high - est. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread.

Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*We sit.*

**WORD**

**FIRST LESSON**

ACTS 2:14, 36-41

A reading from Acts.

**B**UT Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, <sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and be

baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL PSALM**     *Sung by the choir. Music by Kathryn Rose (contemporary).*     116: 1-3, 10-17

- 1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: \*  
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord \*  
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the Lord’S house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah!



mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

*We sit.*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

PASTOR MARTHA MCCREIGHT

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Abide, O dearest Jesus*

**HYMN 539**

## HOLY BAPTISM

*The minister and baptismal party gather at the font. The minister addresses each. Following, the congregation joins for the Thanksgiving and the Profession of Faith.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

*Following the baptism, a representative of the congregation says the Welcome.*

Through Baptism, God has made this new sister a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

**We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

*We kneel or sit for the prayers.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each intercession ends with these words:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

*We stand.*

**PEACE**

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

*We sit.*

**MEAL**

---

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**     *Rise, heart, thy Lord is risen*

CLARKE

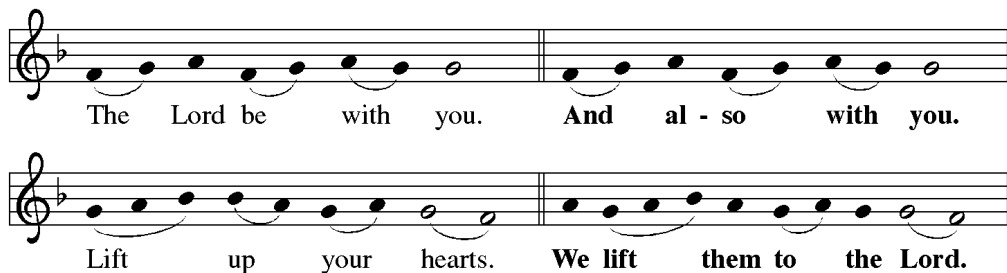
*We stand.*

**HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**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.

*Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:*

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Org.) *mp*  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly, ho - ly,

5 *cresc. poco a poco*  
ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your

8 *mf* *più f* *mf*  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the\_ high - est, ho -

11 *più f*  
san - na. ho - san - na in the\_ high - est.

14 *mp*  
Blessed is he who comes\_ in the name of the Lord,

16 *p* *mf*  
Blessed is he who comes\_ in the name of the Lord, ho -

19 *più f* *mf*  
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -

21 *più f* *rit.*  
 san - na. ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With all your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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

Our Fa - ther who art in\_\_ hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;  
Thy king - dom come; thy will be\_\_ done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.  
Give us this day our\_\_ dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pass - es as  
we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst\_\_ us. And lead us  
not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the  
king - dom, the po - wer and the glo - ry, for e - ver and e - ver.  
A - men. For e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*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

(Org.) *mp*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, Lamb of

4 *p* *poco*

God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer-cy on us, have

7 *mp* *p*

mer-cy on us, have\_ mer - cy. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

10 *p*

sin of the world, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have

13 *poco* *mp* *p*

mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have\_ mer - cy. Lamb of

16 *mp*

God, you take a-way the sin of the world, Lamb of God, you take a-way the

19 *rit.*

sin of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace,

22 **Slower** **a tempo** **poco rit.** . . . .

grant us peace.

**MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION**

MOTET

*Eden's Song*

SCHWIZER

*We stand.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
 Life-giving God, **in the mystery of Christ's resurrection,**  
**you send light to conquer darkness,**  
**water to give new life,**  
**and the bread of life to nourish your people.**  
**Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,**  
**that we may show your glory to all the world,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**  
**Amen.**

**SENDING**

---

**BLESSING**

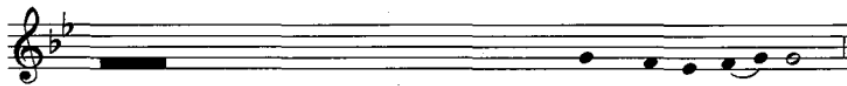
May our glorious God  
 grant you a spirit of wisdom to know  
 and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
 The God of life, Father, ✝ Son,  
 and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN AT THE PROCESSION**

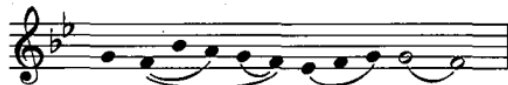
*This joyful Eastertide*

**HYMN 391**

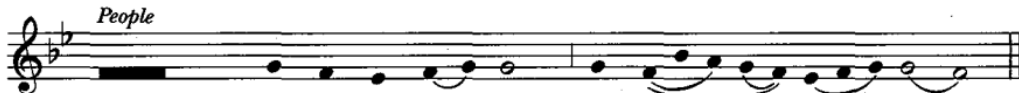
DISMISSAL



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia.



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POSTLUDE

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003253. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

St. Helen's Service, Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange;

Lord's Prayer, trad. Afrikaans, arr/translated by Marnus Lively-Greyling

---

**Worship Leaders Today**

Celebrant	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	
Communion Assistant	
Acolytes	
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	J. Geils, Janet Halpin
Coffee Hour	Janet Segerdell
Little Free Pantry	Shirley Schulz

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Monday, April 20

4:30 pm Choristers - Choir Room

### Tuesday, April 21

7:00 pm Sneak Peek Bible Study

### Wednesday, April 22

12:00 pm Weekly Eucharist in the Chapel

4:30 pm Confirmation Class

6pm Handbells – Reformation Room

7pm Choir – Choir Room

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

19 9:30am Sunday School

26 4pm Evensong for Good Shepherd Sunday  
(Live-streamed and in-person worship)

### MAY

3 9:30am Sunday School

10 10:30am Mothers' Day - Children Sing in Church  
Last Day of Sunday School

17 10:30am Confirmation Sunday and parish picnic

24 9:30am Summer Worship begins and Pentecost Sunday

31 9:30am Holy Trinity Sunday  
Baptism of Skylar Newhall

### JUNE

4-6 Synod Assembly - Worcester, MA

6 5pm Pride Eucharist (Live-streamed and in-person worship)

7 9:30 Mass on the Grass

20 Swedish Midsummer Day



---

## AROUND THE PARISH-

If you're **interested in joining St. John's**, reaching out to the church office is a great first step. The church office can provide information on membership, upcoming events, and the various ministries and programs you can get involved with. Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, find a spiritual community, or volunteer, the church office is there to support and guide you. Don't hesitate to contact them with questions or to schedule a visit to learn more about what St. John's offers.

***Our next Membership Inquiry session will be on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Sweden Room– if interested, please reach out to the St John's Office or Pastor Martha.***

---

### ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS, USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP



---

### PRAYER LIST



Beryl, Charlotte, Diane, Robert, Valerie, Gary, Br. Ian, Pr Harv Weitzel, Trish, Pam, Robert, Charlotte, Paul, Becky, Margaret, Jack, Margaret, Cat

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office. Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs at 406-565-3592.

---

# Choral EVENSONG

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | 4 PM

My Master from a Garden Rose | Eleanor Daley  
Canticles in B-flat | Stanford  
Responses | Sarah MacDonald  
Psalm 30 | Sarah MacDonald & Margaret Burk  
The Lord is my shepherd | Diane Bish



SCAN & SUPPORT  
Music @  
St John's



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

