



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 11, 2026 | 10:30am

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

The prelude signals a time of silent prayer and reflection.

PRELUDE

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

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 sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Holy Name.**

Amen.

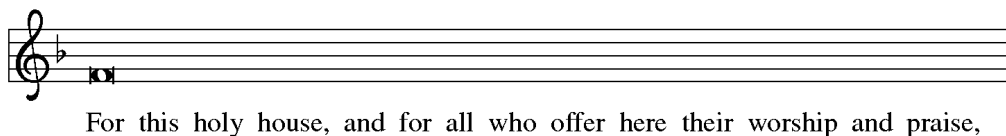
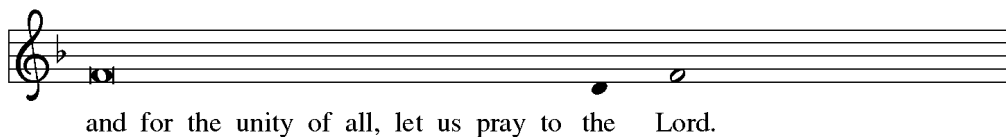
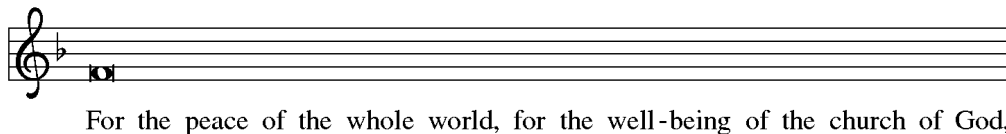
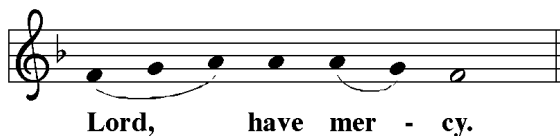
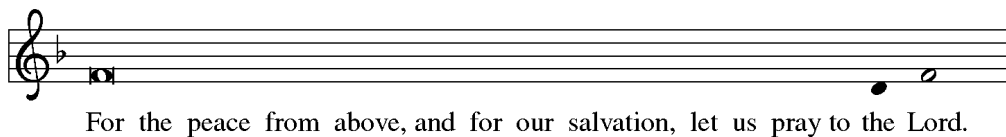
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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 AND GLORIA



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

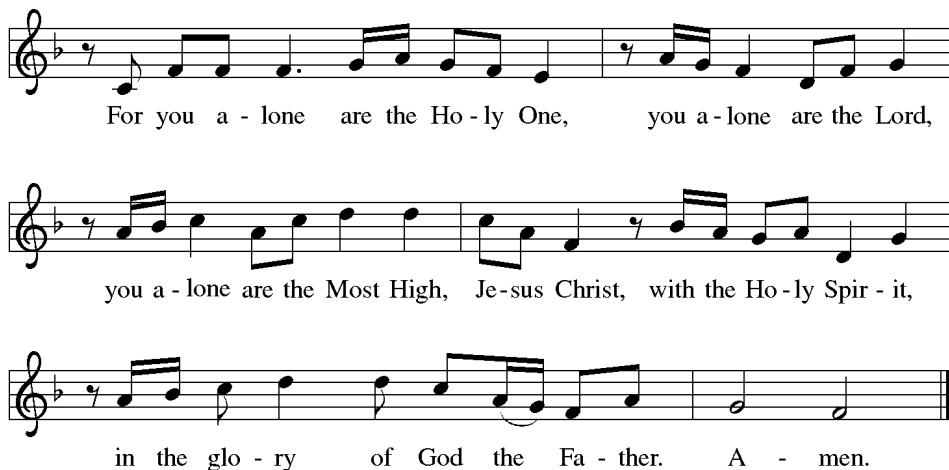
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther,

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

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 42:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

HERE is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 29

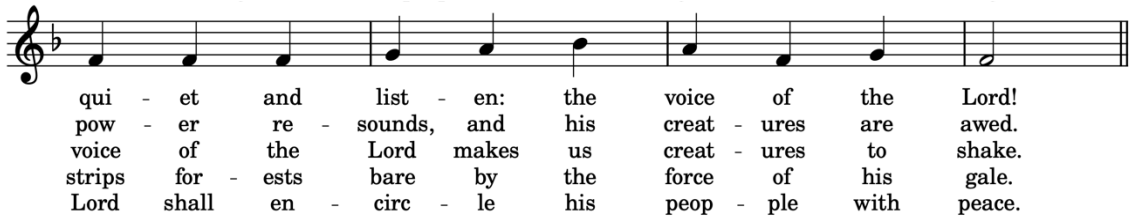
The Streets of Laredo: American cowboy melody, derived from an Irish folk melody.



Give glo - ry to God, all you heav - en - ly crea - tures; all
The voice of the Lord rolls out o - ver the wat - ers; it
The voice of the Lord now is break - ing the ced - ars; he
The voice of the Lord whips out lightn - ing - like flash - es. The
And all in his temp - le, in wor - ship, cry "Glo - ry!" The

glo - ry - and pow - er be - long to the Lord!
thun - ders and ech - oes his glo - ry a - broad.
shatt - ers the trees while Mount Le - ba - non quakes.
voice of the Lord makes the des - ert to reel.
Lord rules the flood and his reign shall ne'er cease.

So drop to your knees and re - spect what is ho - ly, be
The voice of the Lord is ma - jes - tic and migh - ty; its
God speaks: all the hills jump like ant - tel - lopes start - led the
The voice of the Lord sets the oak tree a - whirl - ing. God
The Lord gives his peop - le their strength and all bless - ing; the



EPISTLE

ACTS 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

THEN Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand and face the center aisle to welcome the Gospel.

SEQUENCE

Sing verses 1 & 2



- 1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de-scend and righ-teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun-dred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:13-17

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

THEN Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

Sing verses 3 & 4.

We sit.

SERMON

PASTOR MARTHA



We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Down Galilee's slow roadways

MERLE'S TUNE



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

APOSTLES' CREED

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 for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We sit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

As with gladness

HYMN 302

We stand.

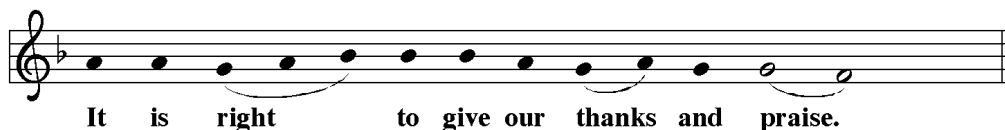
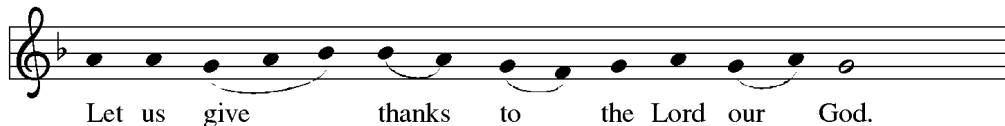
HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

MERTON

Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
With the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!



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.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

Shall we gather at the river

HYMN 423

We stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Christ, when for us

HYMN 304

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. Martha McCreight
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	
Reader	
Communion Assistants	
Acolytes	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Janet Segerdell
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher
Fellowship Time	Kathy Caraballo, Michele Taylor
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Mike Mahler

Tuesday, January 13

7:00 pm - Sneak Peek Bible Study

Wednesday, January 14

12:00 noon - Midweek Eucharist - Chapel

4:30 pm - Confirmation Class - Sweden Room

6:00 pm - Bells - Reformation Room

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Sunday, January 18

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship

9:30 am Sunday School



JANUARY 2026

11 Baptism of the Lord 5:00 pm Evensong

FEBRUARY

- 1 10:30am single service worship
Annual Meeting to follow (**Agenda and material will be available by 1/27.**)
5:00 pm Evensong for Presentation of the Lord
- 8 Super Bowl of Caring Chili Cook-Off after 10:30 worship
Bring your best chili to be judged by the congregation!
- 15 Transfiguration Sunday, burying the Alleluia by the Children
- 17 Shrove Tuesday Youth Pancake dinner
- 18 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday service in Chapel
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday at SJLC
- 22 First Sunday in Lent
- 25 11:30 am First Weekly Lenten Lunch and Bible Study
12:00 pm First Weekly Lenten Eucharist in the Nave
12:30 pm First Weekly Lenten Organ Meditation

Worship assistants, readers, communion assistants, acolytes, coffee hour hosts
If you would like to find a way to contribute your time to St. John's in one of these roles, please speak to Pr Martha or Nathan. **There's room for you to help**, and training is provided.

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.

Join us for our **First Holy Communion classes** for children in grades 1-5. Classes will begin in February, offering thorough and engaging preparation for this important sacrament. The First Communion is scheduled for Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 PM. This marks a significant milestone in your child's spiritual journey, and we are excited to be part of it. For more information or to enroll your child, please contact our office. We look forward to guiding your child through this sacred experience.

Baptisms will take place at the Easter Vigil this year on April 4 at 7 PM. This sacrament marks a new beginning and a spiritual rebirth. Those interested in being baptized, or parents wishing to have their child baptized, are encouraged to reach out to Pr. Martha for more information and to make necessary arrangements.

2026 offering envelopes are now available in the Narthex. If you prefer not to use envelopes this year, please let us know. For your convenience, online giving is also available. Thank you for your continued support in advancing St. John's Mission and ministry.

Large Print Bulletins Available!

Large print bulletins are now available for anyone who needs them. If you or someone else needs a copy, please visit the narthex and ask an usher for help. Thank you for helping us ensure everyone can fully participate in our service!

Eden Refaelovich, a vibrant young Israeli cultural ambassador, will be spending the next two years in Stamford, enriching our community with her knowledge and passion. Eden is dedicated to working with synagogues and Jewish institutions to foster deeper connections and understanding. She will join us at St. John's on January 18th during coffee hour, where Eden will share her insights on Israeli culture and its diverse society. This will be an opportunity to engage with Eden's experiences and perspectives, followed by an interactive Q&A session. Don't miss this chance to learn and connect!



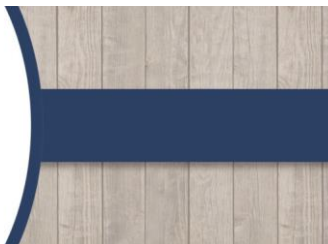
Parish Office: parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com | 203.322.0066

Pr. Martha: MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com

Nathan: NLivelyGreyling@sjlcstamford.com

Finance: finance@sjlcstamford.com

PRAYER LIST



Pastor Emeritus Dennis Albrecht, Beryl, Diane, Ron, and Valerie, Dom and family and friends of Pr Nick, Sue Sachs and family on the loss of her mother, Br. Ian Boden, OLF, for his upcoming ordination, Joe

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

CHORAL EVENSONG *FOR* BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 11 | 5pm



All are welcome!

THE ANNUAL MEETING



Sunday, February 1

Immediately following
a single 10:30am worship service



**St. John's Lutheran Church
Stamford, CT**