

HOLY EUCHARIST
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 18, 2026 | 10:30AM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**



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.

Join us for
Godly Play
Every Sunday at 10:30

Parish Office:
parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com

Pastor Martha:
MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com

Cantor Nathan:
NLivelyGreyling@sjlcstamford.com

Finance:
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www.stjohnelca.org

884 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT



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.

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.

CONFSSION 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.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

O Morning Star

HYMN 308

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.

GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All



Lord God, heavenly King, al-might - y 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.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 49:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

ISTEN to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God."⁵And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has

become my strength— “he says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

“Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Here ends the reading.

PSALM

PSALM 40:1-12

Sung by the choir. Music by Kathryn Rose (contemporary)

¹ I waited patiently upon the Lord; *
 he stooped to me and heard my cry.
² He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out
 of the mire and clay; *
 he set my feet upon a high cliff and
 made my footing sure.
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
 a song of praise to our God; *
 many shall see, and stand in awe,
 and put their trust in the Lord.
⁴ Happy are they who trust in the Lord! *
 they do not resort to evil spirits or
 turn to false gods.
⁵ Great things are they that you have
 done, O Lord my God!
 how great your wonders and your plans
 for us! *
 there is none who can be compared
 with you.
“Oh, that I could make them known and
 tell them! *
 but they are more than I can count.
⁷ In sacrifice and offering you take no
 pleasure *

you have given me ears to hear you;
⁸ Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have
 not required, *
 and so I said, “Behold, I come.
⁹ In the roll of the book it is written
 concerning me: *
 I love to do your will, O my God;
 your law is deep in my heart.”
¹⁰ I proclaimed righteousness in the great
 congregation; *
 behold, I did not restrain my lips;
 and that, O Lord, you know.
¹¹ Your righteousness have I not hidden in
 my heart;
 I have spoken of your faithfulness and
 your deliverance; *
 I have not concealed your love and
 faithfulness from the great congregation.
¹² You are the Lord;
 do not withhold your compassion from
 me; *
 let your love and your faithfulness
 keep me safe for ever,

A reading from I Corinthians.

PAUL, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

SEQUENCE

Sing verses 1.



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2 All praise, O Lord, for An - drew, the first to wel-come you,



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er-more be blessed!
whose wit-ness to his broth - er named you Mes - si - ah true.



For you a - rose vic - to - rious that they might wear the crown
May we, with hearts kept o - pen to you through-out the year,

and share the light of glo - ry re - flect - ed from your throne.
pro - claim to friend and neigh - bor your ad - vent ev - er near.

GOSPEL

JOHN 1:29-42

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 2.

We sit.

SERMON

PASTOR MARTHA

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The only Son from heaven

HYMN 309

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 ANTHEM

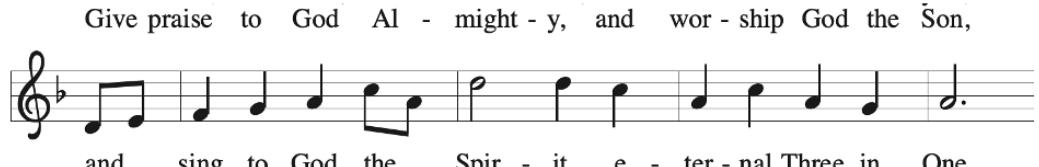
The Spirit of the Lord
STOPFORD (*contemporary*)



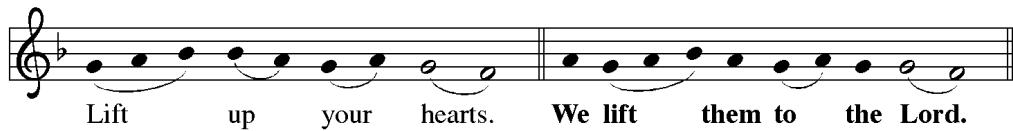
We stand.

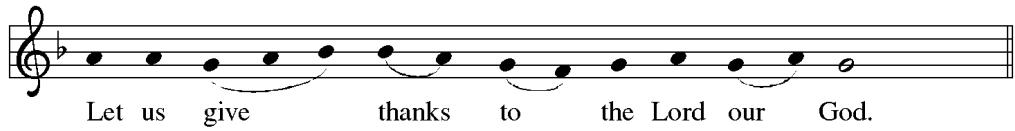
HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

KING'S LYNN



GREAT THANKSGIVING





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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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-passes 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

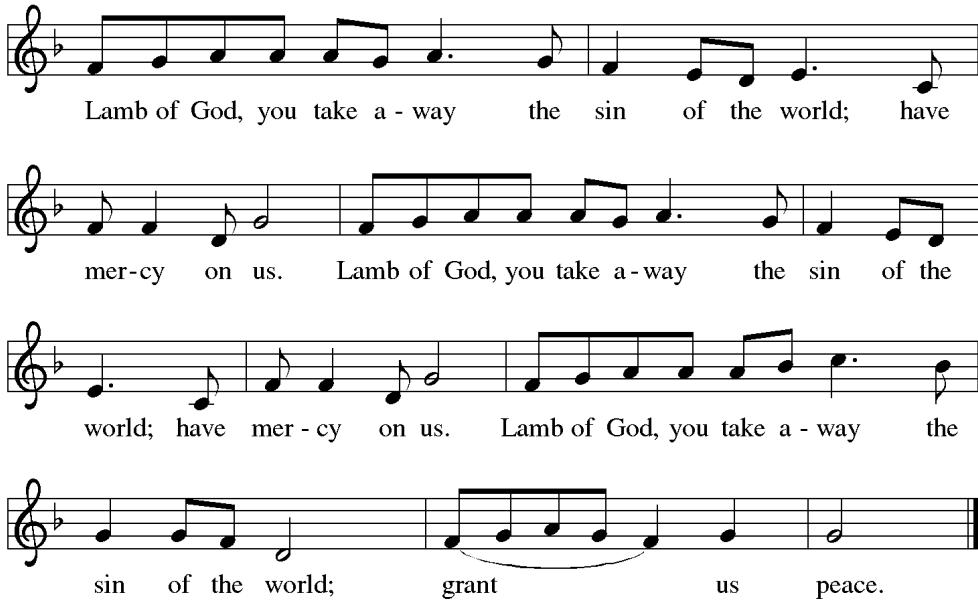
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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
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

ANTHEM

There shall a star

MENDELSSOHN

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

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, Pastor
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Peter Bartels
Reader	
Communion Assistants	
Acolytes	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Janet Segerdell
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher
Fellowship Time	Pat and J. Geils, Pastor Martha
Little Free Pantry	Peter Coffin

Please note that the **parish office will be closed** next Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We encourage everyone to take this time to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and commitment to equality and justice. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday.

Tuesday, January 20

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 21

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 25

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship



FEBRUARY

- 1** 10:30am single service worship
Annual Meeting to follow (**Agenda and material will be available by 1/25.**)
- 5** 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! Donations will benefit ELCA World Hunger
- 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

-AROUND THE PARISH-

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. She is dedicated to working with synagogues and Jewish institutions to foster deeper connections and understanding. **Eden will join us during coffee hour** to share her insights into 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.

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!

We are updating our **church photo directory**! To ensure it accurately reflects our vibrant community, we kindly ask you to contact the parish office with your updated photo, phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses. This update will help us stay connected and support each other better. Please reach out at your earliest convenience to share your information.

Upcoming Eversource Maintenance

We want to inform you that Eversource will be conducting essential maintenance work on our property to update its underground transmission system. This project is scheduled to commence in January and is expected to last approximately six months. We understand this may cause some inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding during this period. We will keep you updated with any further details as they become available. Please speak with Gary Olson, Pr Martha, or Janet Segerdell if you have any questions.

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, Joe, unspoken, Gary, Br. Ian

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

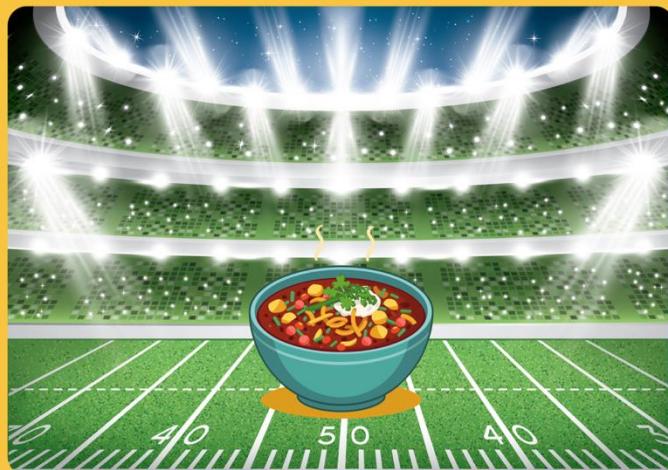
THE ANNUAL MEETING



Sunday, February 1

Immediately following
a single 10:30am worship service

SUPER BOWL OF CARING



Chili Cook-off
Sunday, February 8 at 11:30
Benefiting ELCA World Hunger

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.